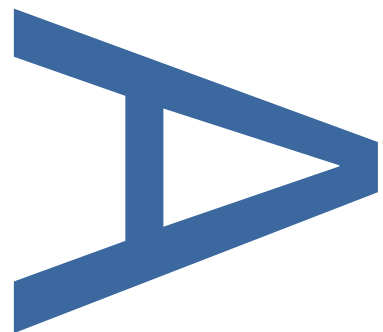
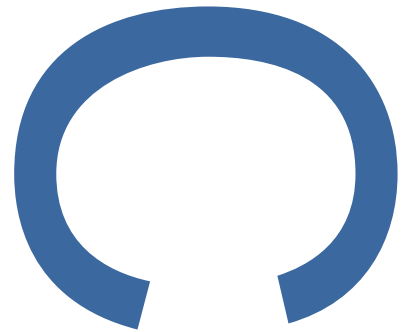


**SLOUGH ICE ARENA, MONTEM
LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE SL1
3UH
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

SITE CODE: BMSL 16

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

SEPTEMBER 2017



**SLOUGH ICE ARENA, MONTEM LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE SL1 3UH
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SITE CODE: BMSL16

CENTRAL NGR: SU 9662 8006

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: CgMs Consulting

WRITTEN BY: DEBORAH KOUSSIOUNELOS

PROJECT MANAGER: HELEN HAWKINS (MCIfA)

SEPTEMBER 2017

Rev 1: CGMS comments

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

SLOUGH ICE ARENA, MONTEM LANE, SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE SL1 3UH

**Type of project
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
Quality Control**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K4640
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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken on land at Slough Ice Arena, Montem Lane, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3UH (SU 9662 8006). The site was located directly adjacent to the Montem Mound, a Scheduled Monument of unknown date. The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring of groundworks adjacent to the mound.
- 1.2 The aims of the project were to determine the natural topography, the presence, absence, nature and extent of any prehistoric, medieval or post-medieval activity at the site, and to establish the extent of all post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 1.3 The watching brief demonstrated that the underlying solid geology consisted of a layer of Lambeth clay at a depth of 24.22m. This layer was overlain by Taplow gravels at a depth of between 24.38m and 24.22m OD.
- 1.4 Topsoil covered the entire site to a thickness of between 0.25m towards the north and 0.20m towards the south.
- 1.5 No archaeological finds or features were encountered.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief on land at Slough Ice Arena, Montem Lane, Slough, Berkshire SL1 3UH (SU 9662 8006) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on 25th May and 23rd August 2017.
- 2.2 The site measured c. 1.36ha in area, and was centred on National Grid Reference SU 9662 8006 (Figure 2). The site was bounded by mature hedges and a small stream to the west, a car park and Montem Leisure Centre to the south and east, and Bath Road and Montem Lane to the north. The Montem Mound, a Scheduled Monument comprising a roughly circular artificial mound of earth or rubble, was located along the north-eastern edge of the study site boundary.
- 2.3 A detailed assessment of the archaeological background of the site was produced by CgMs in the form of a Heritage Statement (Petric 2016).
- 2.4 After an initial archaeological evaluation in August 2016, the area to be excavated during groundworks was flagged as of interest and that its excavation should be monitored during and archaeological watching brief.
- 2.5 As outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017), the objectives of the watching brief were:
- To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
 - To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric activity, its nature and (if possible) date.
 - To establish the presence or absence of medieval activity.
 - To establish the presence or absence of post-medieval activity at the site.
 - To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site, specifically any material associated with the Montem Mound
 - To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 2.6 The site was supervised by Deborah Koussiounelos of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The site was project managed by Helen Hawkins, also of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Roland Smith, Archaeological Advisor to Slough Borough Council, monitored proceedings. The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting.
- 2.7 Following the completion of the project the site archive will be held temporarily by PCA under the unique code BMSL16, as no local museums are currently accepting archives.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 The following planning policies are relevant to development on the study site.

3.2 National Guidelines

3.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on March 27th 2012, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPS). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.2.2 Chapter 12 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal

Additionally:

141. Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

3.2.3 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will now be guided by the policy framework set by the NPPF.

3.3 The NPPF also states that:

214. For 12 months from the day of publication, decision-takers may continue to give full weight to relevant policies adopted since 2004 even if there is a limited degree of conflict with this Framework.
215. In other cases and following this 12-month period, due weight should be given to relevant policies in existing plans according to their degree of consistency with this framework (the closer the policies in the plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 3.4 The provisions set out in the new guidelines superseded the policy framework set out in previous government guidance namely Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) 'Planning for the Historic Environment'. Planning Policy Statement 5 had itself replaced Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, PPG 16, which was issued in November 1990 by the Department of the Environment.
- 3.5 Although the replacement of PPG 16 with PPS 5 gave new guidance the Unitary Development Plans of most local authorities still contain sections dealing with archaeology that are based on the provisions set out in PPG 16. The key points in PPG16 can be summarised as follows:
- 3.6 Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite and non-renewable resource, and in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly and thoughtlessly destroyed. They can contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They are part of our sense of national identity and are valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism.
- 3.7 Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by a proposed development there should be a presumption in their physical preservation.
- 3.8 If physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of 'preservation by record' may be an acceptable alternative. From an archaeological point of view, this should be as a second best option. Agreements should also provide for subsequent publication of the results of any excavation programme.
- 3.9 The key to informed and reasonable planning decisions is for consideration to be given early, before formal planning applications are made, to the question of whether archaeological remains are known to exist on a site where development is planned and the implications for the development proposal.
- 3.10 Planning authorities, when they propose to allow development which is damaging to archaeological remains, must ensure that the developer has satisfactorily provided for excavation and recording, either through voluntary agreement with archaeologists or, in the absence of agreement, by imposing an appropriate condition on the planning permission.

3.11 LOCAL GUIDANCE: BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REGULATIONS

- 3.11.1 The Slough Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2006-2026 contains policies relating to the Natural, built and historic environment (http://www.slough.gov.uk/downloads/Adopted_Core_Strategy_16-12-08.pdf)

7.166 There are a limited number of Conservation Areas, Listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens and scheduled Ancient Monuments spread throughout the Borough, which reflect Slough's history. It is important that these are protected in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 15 - Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15) which states that historic assets

should be preserved and enhanced not merely for their own sake but for the sake of a place's cultural heritage and identity.

7.167 There are also some archaeological remains which offer evidence of ancient cultures and these should also be protected in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning (PPG16).

7.168 The Spatial Strategy has taken account of the distribution of these features in the Borough by concentrating development in the town centre, and other selected key areas, which do not have much historical or environmental interest and so can accommodate the scale of redevelopment proposed without causing any significant harm to the natural, built and historic environment.

7.169 The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment (Doc.47) also show that the policies and proposals within the Core Strategy will not in themselves have a significant impact on Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Any major development that could have an impact upon one of these nearby sites of European importance for nature conservation will be required to carry out an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitat Regulations.

7.170 Slough is not a particularly historic town and so much of its cultural heritage and identity comes from its major periods of expansion during the 20th century. This means that, although they are not of national significance and therefore not eligible for statutory protection, local designations are particularly important in the Slough context. These include Locally Listed Buildings, the Residential Areas of Exceptional Character and the Old Town Area of Special Character, all of which need to be preserved and enhanced wherever possible in order to help to improve Slough's image and deliver the Spatial Vision.

3.12 As the site was located in an area of known archaeological potential, the site was subject to an archaeological planning condition. Archaeological trial trenching was carried out by PCA, and as the trial trenching was inconclusive, a watching brief was requested during groundworks adjacent to the mound.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The following geological and topographical background is taken from the Heritage Statement (Petric 2016) and WSI (Hawkins 2017).
- 4.2 The British Geological Survey (2016) indicates the bedrock geology on the study site to be Lambeth Group clay, silt and sand with superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel Formation comprising sand and gravel.
- 4.3 The site is located at a level of c. 25.40m (OD) and the area is relatively flat. A small stream is situated to the west of the development area, flowing in a north to south direction, and the River Thames is located c. 1 km to the south. The Montem Mound is located to the east of the site and forms a small hill, although this is a manmade structure.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The following archaeological and historical background is taken from the Historic Statement (Petric 2016).

5.1.1 The site is located in an area where little archaeological investigation has taken place. There are a number of spot finds from the area, and the site is located on a gravel terrace, which can be a focus for prehistoric settlement activity. Large settlement sites south of Slough in the middle Thames Valley, such as that at Eton Rowing Lake have found intense settlement activity of the Bronze Age and Saxon period.

5.2 Prehistoric

5.2.1 A number of finds of Palaeolithic date are recorded from Salt Hill and may have been recovered from the gravel pits marked here on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. These include ten handaxes, five flakes and one roughout. There are no finds recorded in the HER for the Mesolithic period.

5.2.2 The only evidence for activity in the Neolithic period was the recovery of a flint scraper from Salt Hill. There is no evidence for the Bronze and Iron Ages.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 The Tuns Lane area of Salthill had an earthwork which local tradition suggested was a Roman fort. Artefacts from the area include 1st century pottery and Roman coins suggesting an early Roman settlement, but with no evidence (other than an early date) to suggest a fort. A coin of Maximianus was found at Upton Park (now Herschel Park).

5.4 The Montem Mound

5.4.1 The Montem Mound is a Scheduled Monument located directly to the east of the site. The monument includes the remains of a substantial mound situated alongside Montem Lane, on the edge of a valley terrace overlooking a small stream. The mound is noted as 'tumulus' on 19th century maps, and may have origins as a Bronze Age burial mound. Though the original form of the mound is somewhat obscured by later modification, it has the appearance of a small motte, possibly constructed to control a fording point. It is roughly circular in shape with a diameter of 28m and remains up to 6m high around the best preserved north-western half. The south-eastern part of the mound is less well preserved, having the appearance of being unfinished. In this area it rises as a series of three low scarps to a total height of 3.7m. The flat summit of the mound has dimensions of 7m north to south by 4m east to west. The site has historical associations with Eton College as the focus of the Montem celebration, which was observed triennially between the years 1561 and 1846. This ceremony, peculiar to Eton, is reported to date from the foundation of the college. It consisted of a procession of scholars, dressed either in military or fancy costume, to a small mound at Salt Hill, on the south side of the Bath road. Here they extracted money for salt from those present and from passersby. The festival was abolished in 1846 by Dr Hawtrey. Further earthworks are marked to the south of the mound on 19th and 20th century maps, to the south of the current leisure centre.

5.4.2 The history and the development of the Montem Mound is largely unknown. It has been suggested that the mound originates from the Bronze Age and was later reused and remodelled as a motte castle in the medieval period. Medieval mounds were usually surrounded by a ditch and had a tower of stone or wood on the summit. Motte castles were introduced into Britain by the Normans. They acted as garrison forts, as strongholds and occupied strategic positions.

5.4.3 A number of finds are identified as having come from the mound. Twelve sherds of pottery were found at the base of the mound in erosion gullies. Two were found at the top of an erosion gully, and one was in a black layer near the top in the side of an erosion gully. Although identified as Saxon, one or two sherds may be Late Bronze Age. A lithic flake was found at the top of Montem Mound during an earthwork survey by members of the East Berkshire Archaeological Survey in 1985.

5.5 Saxon and Medieval

- 5.5.1 There are a number of records relating to the early medieval and medieval periods in the HER. These include a small late Saxon/Viking hunting spear which was found in a trench during alterations to the Crown Hotel in the 1930s. Two watermills are also recorded in Slough in the Domesday Book, one attached to Farnham Manor and one in the Manor of Stoches. These mills are still visible on 18th and 19th century maps.
- 5.5.2 The first mention of Slough in medieval records was in 1196, when it was spelt 'Slo'. Records of 1437 and 1443 name it as 'Le Slowe' and 'Le Slough'. The name may be based on a slough of black mire once present in the town centre.
- 5.5.3 During an archaeological evaluation at Slough Trading Estate, Whitby Road, Slough a number of early medieval features were revealed comprising two pits, a posthole, a gully and a possible hearth. All the features were revealed in the same trench and were sealed by a buried subsoil which accounted for their survival
- 5.5.4 A special brick kiln was set up in Slough in 1442 by order of Henry VI to supply the bricks to build Eton College. Brickmaking continued as a major local industry through to the 19th and 20th century, utilising the area's abundant supply of brickearth

5.6 Post-Medieval

- 5.6.1 During the medieval and early post-medieval periods Slough was a small village often classed as part of Chalvey or Upton.
- 5.6.2 Slough's development as a town began with the utilisation of the Bath Road as a major coaching route to the west from 1500 onwards. This led to a number of coaching inns and houses of supply opening in Slough, particularly in the 17th and 18th centuries. Agriculture and brickmaking continued to be the mainstays of the local economy throughout this period.
- 5.6.3 Rocque's Map of 1761 shows the site to be an area of vacant land, with the Chalvey stream to the west, a mill depicted to the east and the east-west aligned road from London to Bath to the north. Jeffrey's Map of 1768 and an 1811 Ordnance Survey Drawing paint a similar picture.
- 5.6.4 The Great Western Railway arrived in Slough in 1840. Its arrival marked the development of Slough into a substantial town, and led to the decline of the coaching trade; the last coach through Slough ran in 1850.
- 5.6.5 The first Ordnance Survey map of 1876 shows the site lay in open ground, to the east of a small stream. The Montem Mound is marked as 'Mound, Supposed Barrow'. Springs are shown to the south of the site, possibly associated with Queen Anne's well shown in the HER as located immediately to the west of the site. The HER states that Queen Anne had the well dug. There is no record of the well before the 18th century, but there may have been an earlier dedication to some saint.
- 5.6.6 The 1899 Ordnance Survey Map shows further expansion of Slough. Dwellings were built within the study site boundary along the public road along the north-eastern study site boundary. What is probably a glass-house was constructed within the central part of the study site. The Mound is shown as 'supposed Tumulus'. The 1925 Ordnance Survey Map and the 1932 Ordnance Survey Map show further expansion of buildings within the boundaries of the site. Small dwellings are also depicted on the eastern and western end of the Mound.
- 5.6.7 The 1945 Aerial Photograph shows a glass-house in the centre of the study site and the 1954 Aerial Photograph shows further urban development of the area. The 1956 Ordnance Survey Map no longer shows buildings in the central area of the study site, but the area along Montem Lane in the northern end of the site was subject to further development.
- 5.6.8 The 1961 Ordnance Survey Map shows little change to the study site and so does the 1973 Landmark Map. A photograph taken in 1974 shows a building still present on the study site. By 1997 the Ice Arena with associated parking was built in the central area of the site

and the buildings along Montem Lane have been demolished. The 2003 and 2013 Google Image suggest the same picture of the study site.

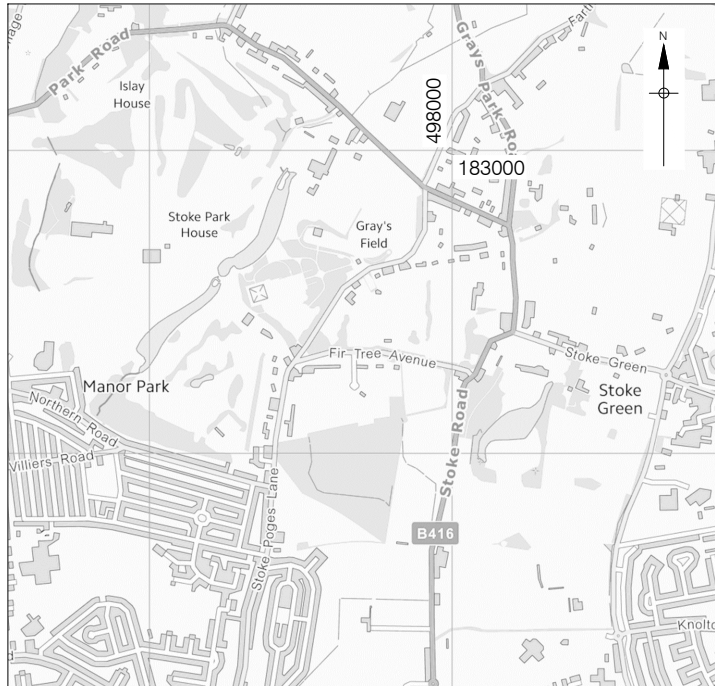
6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hawkins 2017), and following guidelines issued by English Heritage (EH) the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and PCA's Fieldwork Operations Manual (EH 2008, 2009; IFA 2014; Taylor 2009).
- 6.2 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of a trench measuring approximately 3.20m north-south by 3.20m east-west and 2m deep by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Machining continued in 100mm spits until the top of the archaeological sequence or natural geology was reached. The trench was labelled Trench 3 as Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated during the evaluation (Harris 2016).
- 6.3 The trench was located and levels were obtained by PCA staff through the site surveyor.
- 6.4 All archaeological interventions were hand cleaned before being hand-planned at a scale of 1:20 (Figure 2), with sections being drawn at 1:10 (Figure 3). The deposits that they contained were recorded on pro forma context sheets and a full digital photographic record was compiled.
- 6.5 The completed site archive, comprising written and photographic records, will be held temporarily by PCA under the unique code BMSL16, as no local museums are currently accepting archives.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

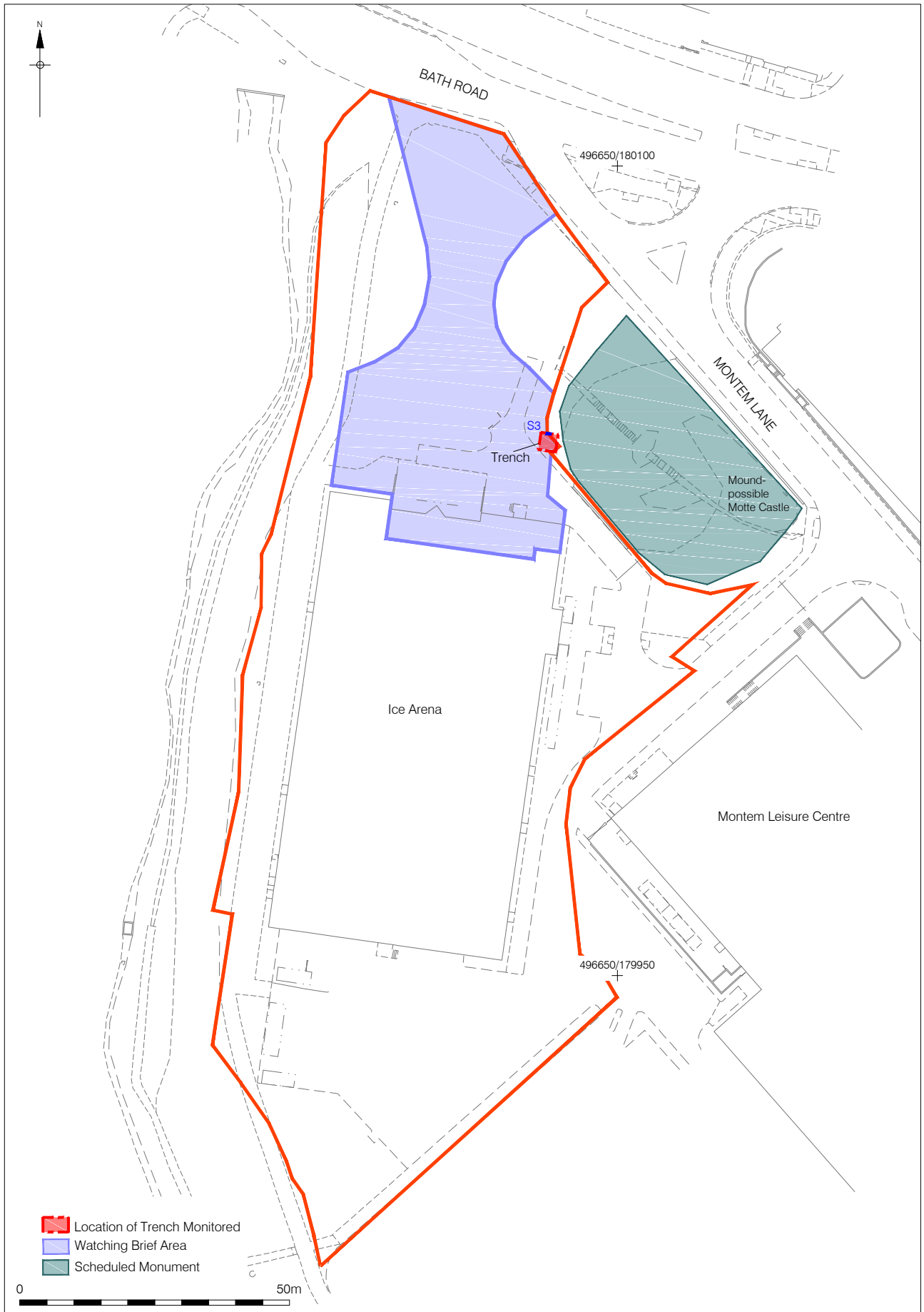
7.1 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.1.1 The earliest deposit uncovered was a red and pale blue grey clay mottled layer [17] (Plates 1 and 2) located at a height of 24.22m OD. The maximum thickness of the layer as seen was 0.90m within the trench, and it continued below the limit of excavation (Figure 3).
- 7.1.2 Overlying the clay was Taplow Gravel [16]. The height at which this layer was found was 24.38m OD, and it was found to be approximately 0.12m thick (Figure 3).
- 7.1.3 Both layers correspond to layers [10] and [15], which were observed in Trenches 1 and 2 of the evaluation, respectively, during the archaeological evaluation in August 2016 (Harris 2016).
- 7.1.4 The natural layers were overlain by a layer of topsoil [+] which was 0.30m thick. The lack of any subsoil suggested that the site had been horizontally truncated prior to the watching brief taking place.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 25/08/17 CF

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 and 1:25,000 at A4



Survey by the Greenhatch Group (July 2016)
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017
 25/08/17 CF

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:1,000 at A4

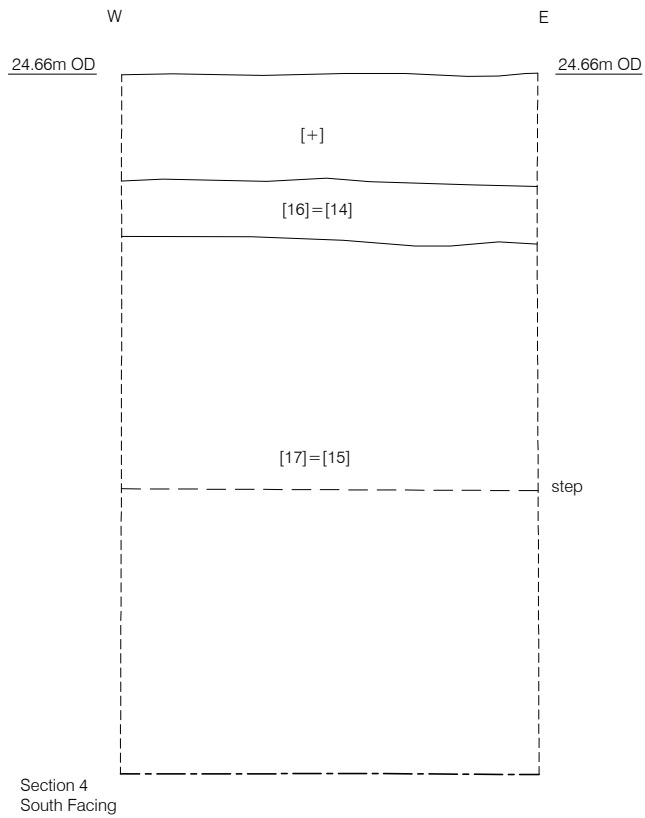




Plate 1: General view of Trench 3, showing natural layers [16] and [17], facing east.

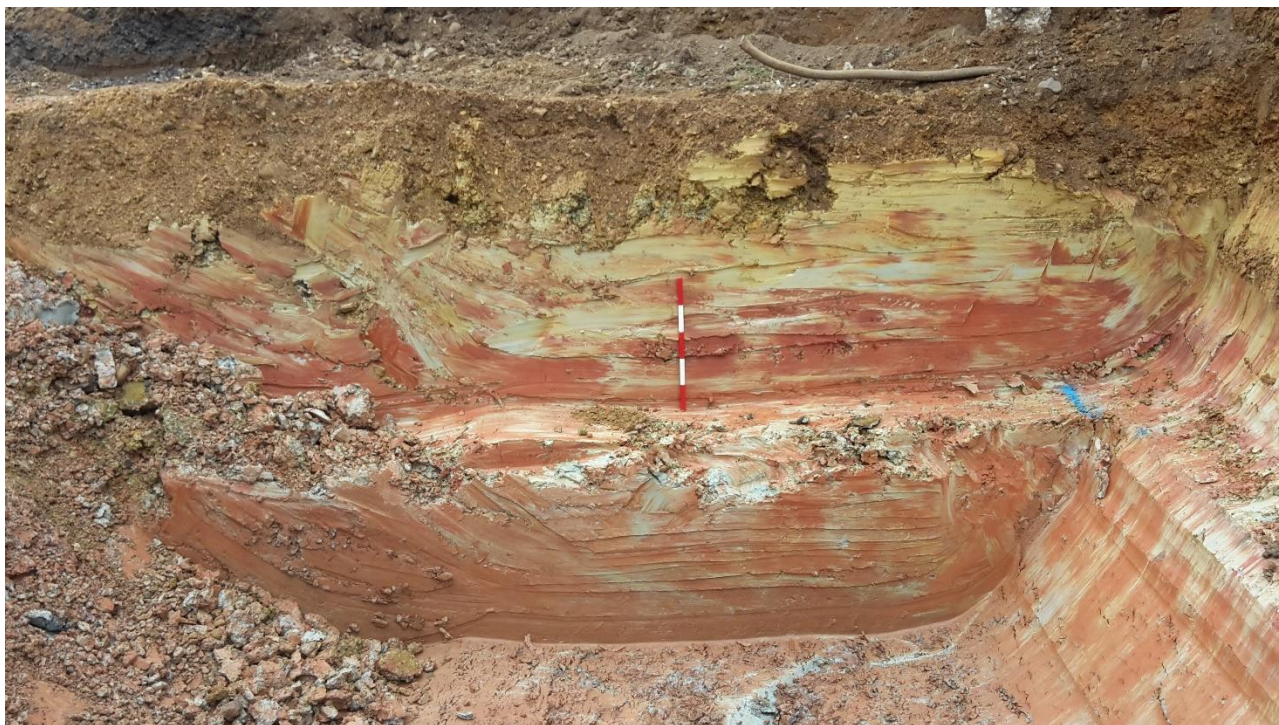


Plate 2: Section 4, showing natural layers [16] and [17].

8 INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The results of this evaluation have enabled the research questions that were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation to be addressed:
- 8.2 To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survives.
- 8.2.1 The evaluation determined that the natural topography of the site survived to a height of of 24.38m OD, in the form of natural Taplow Gravel over Lambeth Group clay.
- 8.3 To establish the presence or absence of prehistoric, medieval or post-medieval activity, its nature and (if possible) date
- 8.3.1 No prehistoric or medieval deposits were found during this excavation.
- 8.4 To establish the nature, date and survival of activity relating to any archaeological periods at the site, specifically any material associated with the Montem Mound.
- 8.4.1 No archaeological deposits were discovered, and no activity relating to the Montem Mound was found.
- 8.5 To establish the extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.
- 8.5.1 The lack of a subsoil beneath the topsoil suggested that the site had been subject to horizontal truncation in the fairly recent past.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Manca Petric of CgMs for commissioning the work and Roland Smith, Archaeological Advisor to Slough Borough Council for monitoring the site.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Helen Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology for her project management and editing and Charlotte Faiers for CAD illustrations.

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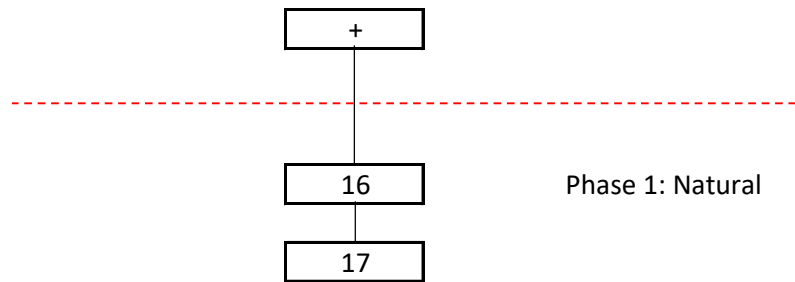
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Context Type	Trench	Context_Description	Same As	Highest level (m OD)	Lowest Level (m OD)
16	Layer	3	Greyish brown silty clay, occ gravels	10, 14	24.38	24.22
17	Layer	3	Red mottled, pale blue grey silty clay	11,15	24.22	24.20

APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: preconst1-294046

Project details

Project name	Slough Ice Arena, Montem Lane
Short description of the project	Watching brief monitored the excavation of a 3.20m x 3.20m x 2m trench in the vicinity of Montem Lane. No archaeology features were found; only natural layers of clay.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2017 End: 23-08-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	preconst1-260771 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	MONTEM MOUND Saxon?

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE SLOUGH SLOUGH Slough Ice Arena, Montem Lane
Postcode	SL1 3UH
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 9662 8006 51.510709454694 -0.607545401047 51 30 38 N 000 36 27 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.32m Max: 24.38m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator CgMs Consultants Ltd

Project design Helen Hawkins
originator

Project Helen Hawkins
director/manager

Project supervisor Deborah Koussiounelos

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive recipient PCA

Digital Media available "GIS"

Paper Archive recipient PCA

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report"

Entered by Archive (archive@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 24 August 2017

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