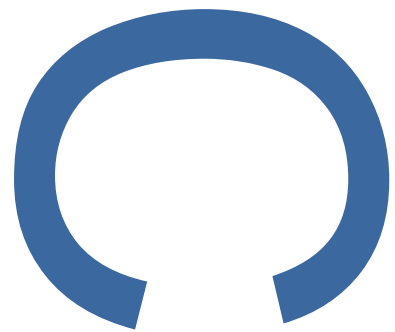


**HERON'S COURT, TERRY'S LANE,
COOKHAM, BERKSHIRE, SL6 9RR
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

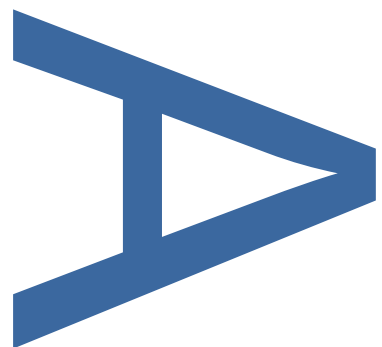


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: ROYAL
BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND
MAIDENHEAD**



SITE CODE: BHCC19

MAY 2019



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION
Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Berkshire, RBWM
Type of project

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K6084
			R13690
	Name	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	A Fairman		May 2019
Graphics Prepared by:	D Valk		May 2019
Graphics Checked by:	M Roughley	M Roughley	May 2019
Project Manager Sign-off:	A Fairman	A Fairman	May 2019

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

HERON'S COURT, TERRY'S LANE, COOKHAM, BERKSHIRE SL6 9RR: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Site Code: BHCC19

Central NGR: SU 88888 86620

Local Planning Authority: ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

Planning Reference: 19/00225/FULL

Commissioning Client: Chassay and Last Architects on behalf of Adam Breedon

Written/Researched by: Amelia Fairman
Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project Manager: Amelia Fairman (MCIFA)

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London SE4 2PD

Tel: 020 7732 3925
Fax: 020 7732 7896
E-mail: afairman@pre-construct.com
Web: www.pre-construct.com

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

May 2019

© The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

1	ABSTRACT	3
2	INTRODUCTION	4
3	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	5
4	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	9
5	ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	10
6	ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	12
7	THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	14
8	CONCLUSIONS.....	18
9	RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	19
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	20
11	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	21
	FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION	22
	FIGURE 2: DETAILED SITE LOCATION	23
	FIGURE 3: SECTIONS	24
	APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX.....	25
	APPENDIX 2: MATRIX	26
	APPENDIX 3: IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY REPORT	27
	APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS REPORT	29
	APPENDIX 5: LITHIC ASSESSMENT	30
	APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE REPORT	33
	APPENDIX 7: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM	34

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Berkshire, SL6 9RR. The area evaluated comprised two trenches positioned within the footprint of a proposed new building.
- 1.2 The site is bounded by Terry's Lane to the south, a railway line to the west, shared drive to the east and the gardens surrounding the detached property 'Paddocks' to the north. The northern and western boundaries are defined by mature trees. The site is centred at NGR SU 88888 85620 within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 1.3 A trial trench evaluation was recommended by the archaeological advisor to the RBWM. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, and specifically lies close to a Saxon inhumation cemetery within an area of archaeological importance. As such, an archaeological planning condition was attached to the planning consent for the development.
- 1.4 The excavation of evaluation Trench 1, located in the northern part of the site, recorded a number of cut features (pit and posthole) cut into natural horizons potentially dating from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition. These were overlain by subsoil and topsoil horizons.
- 1.5 The excavation of evaluation Trench 2, located in the south-eastern part of the site, recorded an east-west aligned ditch dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. This truncated an undated dump layer and was sealed directly by subsoil and topsoil.
- 1.6 The identification of features of archaeological interest suggests that further work may be required to clarify the extent/date and function of these. Any such works will be subject to a stage 2 WSI and the scope determined by the archaeological advisor to the LPA.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Berkshire, SL6 9RR between 25th and 29th April 2019. The evaluation consisted of two trenches sized 8m x 1.8m and 9m x 1.8m within the footprint of the proposed new building.
- 2.2 The central National Grid Reference for the evaluation is SU 88888 85620.
- 2.3 The site was assigned the unique site code BHCC19 by PCA.
- 2.4 The project was monitored by Matthew Saywood, Archaeological Officer for the RBWM, project managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited by Amelia Fairman and supervised by Robin Weaver, also of PCA.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 National Policy: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was adopted on 27 March 2012, revised July 2018 and February 2019, and now supersedes the Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The NPPF constitutes guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers both in drawing up plans and as a material consideration in determining applications.

3.3 Chapter 16 of the NPPF concerns the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, with the following statements being particularly relevant to the proposed development:

189. 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.

190. 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 into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal. Additionally:

199. Local planning authorities should 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.

3.4 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

3.5 The RBWM adopted local plan guides development across the borough. In time, the Local Plan will be replaced by the Borough Local Plan. The site is subject to the following policies of relevance to archaeology:

Archaeology

2.3.38 PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning" indicates that where nationally important archaeological remains and their settings are affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. This principle is reflected in Policy ARCH1 which is designed to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed and retain their value. It is considered that in the majority of cases there will be a strong presumption in favour of the physical preservation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important monuments and their settings.

Sites of Archaeological Importance and Development Proposals

POLICY ARCH2

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR PROPOSALS ADVERSELY AFFECTING SITES IN BERKSHIRE'S SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD WHERE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES MERIT IN SITU PRESERVATION UNLESS IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT:

- 1) THE PROPOSALS WILL NOT HARM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE AND ITS SETTING;
- 2) APPROPRIATE AND ACCEPTABLE PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU PRIOR TO AND/OR DURING DEVELOPMENT.

POLICY ARCH3

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR PROPOSALS WHICH APPEAR LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS OF UNKNOWN IMPORTANCE AND AREAS OF HIGH POTENTIAL UNLESS ADEQUATE EVALUATION ENABLING THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON MATTERS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST IS CARRIED OUT BY THE DEVELOPER PRIOR TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION.

POLICY ARCH4

WHERE EVALUATION OF A SITE DEMONSTRATES THE PRESENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WHICH DO NOT MERIT PERMANENT IN SITU PRESERVATION, PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT UNLESS PROVISION IS MADE FOR AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION EXCAVATION, RECORDING AND OFF SITE PRESERVATION / PUBLICATION / DISPLAY OF SUCH REMAINS PRIOR TO DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT.

2.3.39 PPG16 indicates that appropriate management is essential to ensure that archaeological remains survive in good condition and are not damaged or destroyed. The council, along with other key bodies such as English Heritage, encourage the positive management of important ancient monuments. In most cases it is essential to develop a management plan and to carry out regular maintenance to prevent decay and deterioration. Responsibility for this lies with landowners. However, a number of key bodies can provide expert advice and, in cases, financial assistance in relation to the appropriate management of scheduled ancient monuments.

- 2.3.40 *There are many other sites of archaeological importance which are not scheduled ancient monuments or otherwise statutorily protected. As they have no specific protection, PPG16 advises that they therefore require safeguarding through local plan proposals. These latter types of archaeological site are numerous and vary in terms of size, period and typology. Full details are held on the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The information held on the SMR will be used as a basis for assessing the importance of any remains and the likely archaeological implications of any development proposal.*
- 2.3.41 *PPG16 has reinforced the importance of the role of planning in managing the conflict between development and archaeology to ensure that the archaeological heritage is preserved and properly managed.*
- 2.3.42 *The presumption in favour of preservation may also apply to many sites which may be of regional or county importance. Development proposals will be very carefully assessed to determine that no harm will be caused and that appropriate arrangements are made to protect these remains. Where planning applications affect unscheduled sites the Council's archaeological consultant will be consulted. The Borough Council will expect applications to include detailed information on matters of archaeological interest along with detailed proposals for the appropriate preservation, protection and management of the archaeological remains.*
- 2.3.44 *Where planning applications affect unscheduled sites the Council's archaeological consultant will be consulted. Developers are advised to ascertain from the Council's archaeological consultant at an early stage whether archaeological sites are known or are likely to be present on the site. In cases of sites or monuments of unknown potential, the Borough Council will expect appropriate evaluation and for applications to include information on the character and extent of archaeological remains within the site and what steps will be taken to mitigate the effects of any proposals. Planning permission may be granted subject to conditions requiring further evaluation and, where appropriate, that the feature of interest will be preserved in situ or be recorded to an adequate standard. Where a site is regarded as being worthy of permanent protection permission will be refused if the proposal is likely to cause material harm to features of archaeological interest.*
- 2.3.45 *Archaeological remains should be seen as finite and non-renewable resources, containing irreplaceable information about our past and should not be disturbed unless the appropriate consents have been granted. In order to ensure that the archaeological significance of areas that do not presently enjoy statutory protection is not prejudiced, the policies indicate that in certain instances an evaluation procedure and/or investigations will be required as part of any development proposals. The scale of archaeological investigation required will vary from site to site and will be determined with advice from the Council's archaeological consultant and English Heritage. In some instances a full-scale excavation and post-excavation operation may be required, whilst in others a brief photographic or measured survey may suffice, depending upon the type and scale of the proposed development. In some cases, a planning obligation will be sought to ensure that the appropriate level of investigation, excavation, recording and preservation is undertaken. Where features are not to remain in situ, appropriate arrangements will be sought for the off site preservation, publication and/or display of remains.*

3.6 Site Specific Background

3.7 The archaeological adviser to the RBWM recommended that the site be subject to an archaeological trial trench evaluation within the footprint of the proposed development area.

3.8 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, and specifically lies close to a Saxon inhumation cemetery within an area of archaeological importance. As such, an archaeological planning condition was attached to the planning consent (Ref. 19/00225/FUL) for the development. The following condition was proposed:

- A) *No development shall take place/commence (other than demolition to ground floor slab level) until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*
1. *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
 2. *The programme for post investigation assessment*
 3. *Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
 4. *Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
 5. *Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
 6. *Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*
- B) *The Development shall take place in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).*
- C) *The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

Reason: The site lies within an area of archaeological potential; specifically it lies close to a Saxon inhumation cemetery within an area of archaeological importance. A programme of works is required to mitigate the impact of development and to record any surviving remains so as to advance our understanding of their significance in accordance with Paragraph 141 of the NPPF and local plan policy.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 Geology

4.2 The British Geological Map (bgs.ac.uk) indicates that the site is located on an outcrop of Lynch Hill Gravel Member comprising sand and gravel deposits from the quaternary period. The underlying bedrock is the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations. The Taplow Gravel Member is projected to lie to the immediate east of the subject site, which may suggest that the boundary between two gravel deposits passes within the site boundary (anticipated to follow a rough north-east south-west alignment).

4.3 Topography

4.4 The river Thames passes just over 530m to the northeast of the site. The smaller channel known as Strand Water also passes to the east of the site at a distance of c.240m.

5 ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Introduction

5.2 The background below is taken from the planning records online (Windsor and Maidenhead Planning Portal). Scheduled Monument information is taken from the Government's Magic site (<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>).

5.3 The site is located in an area where little archaeological investigation has taken place, but nonetheless is deemed to be of archaeological significance. Although little information exists about the area, this should not be taken to imply a lack of potential. The plot proposed for development appears to have lain within undeveloped fields until the early 20th century when a structure, potentially the extant house, appears c.1923. The lack of prior development may therefore suggest the potential for an undisturbed archaeological sequence to exist in much of the site.

5.4 Prehistoric

5.5 A nationally important round barrow cemetery is documented on Cock Marsh to the north of the site. This comprises four bowl barrows which survive as earthworks dating from the Bronze Age. The cemetery was excavated during the late 19th century and covers an area of 160m north-south by 90m east-west. Despite a number of impacts upon the site, including ploughing and a drainage ditch, the cemetery survives well and is considered to have considerable archaeological potential (Monument number 12072).

5.6 An archaeological watching brief during construction of extensions to the rear of what is now The White Oak recorded numerous archaeological remains and finds. These included sherds of rare Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery.

5.7 Roman

5.8 Although limited material of Roman date has been recorded from the immediate area, it is thought that the Roman Road known as Camlet Way crossed the Thames at Sashes Island (now cut by Cookham Lock) en route from St. Albans to Silchester. This is located c.990m to the east of the subject site.

5.9 Saxon and Medieval

5.10 A Saxon inhumation cemetery is recorded 150m to the north of Herons Court. A collection of weapons was recovered and included a sword, two spearheads, a dagger or knife and two shield bosses. The Victoria County History of Berkshire (Ditchfield, 1923) notes that they were found during the construction of a railway from Maidenhead to Wycomb at a place called Noah's Ark. The latter was located about half a mile north of the railway station and six human skeletons were found nearby on a bed of gravel 9ft below ground level. It was also recorded that the skeletons were potentially not contemporary with the weapons. The remains were therefore considered to represent a cemetery of unknown extent.

5.11 The archaeological watching brief described above (see para. 2.4.2) recorded pits and a ditch containing early to middle 6th/7th century AD pottery and a pit containing Saxo-Norman pottery.

5.12 Cookham is mentioned in the Domesday as 'Cocheham' which may denote the location of a hill or refer to 'cook village' or a village noted for its cooks. The Holy Trinity church is thought to date from the mid 12th century with various alterations throughout the following centuries.

5.13 Post-Medieval

5.14 During the post-medieval periods Cookham Village and Cookham Dean remained little developed. The introduction of the railways in the 19th century prompted the development of a settlement at Cookham Rise. The latter is located c.475m south of the subject site. It is however likely that the subject site remained at the periphery of any development associated with Cookham Rise.

5.15 The subject site is illustrated throughout the later 19th and early 20th centuries as lying within undeveloped fields. A substantial chalk pit is illustrated to the south of the site, potentially infilled by the early 20th century. The first indication of development within the site boundary is documented on the Ordnance Survey map of 1926 and appears to depict the extant house.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The evaluation was undertaken according to an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Amelia Fairman of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Fairman 2019). The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, form, extent, date character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 6.2 The archaeological investigation consisted of the two evaluation trenches. These measured 8m x 1.8m (Trench 2) and 9m x 1.8m (Trench 1). Both trenches were positioned centrally within the footprint of the proposed building within the southern and western limits respectively. These were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m below ground level.
- 6.3 Trench 2 required a slight re-positioning due to an extant water main.
- 6.4 Both trenches were positioned within grassed areas. The trench locations were established within the demarcated ground plan of the proposed building. The ground was then reduced carefully using a small 360° mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision in spits of no more than 0.10m thickness, using a toothless ditching-type bucket.
- 6.5 Once the archaeological, or natural, horizon was reached it was cleared by hand. Representative sections were cleaned and drawn, and the bases of the trench cleaned in order to define cut features that had impacted the natural geology. Where these were identified localised excavation took place in an attempt to characterise the features and recover dating evidence. Cut features were half sectioned using hand tools and excavated archaeologically.
- 6.6 The fieldwork was carried out according to the relevant methodologies, as follows:
- Historic England (GLAAS), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, 2015;
 - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (2014);
 - The Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (1999);
 - The Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Approved Practices for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1999);
 - The Institute of Archaeologists *Standard and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001);
 - The *Treasure Act* (1996);
 - The *Burial Act* (1857).

- 6.7 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is a Registered Organisation (number 23) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Practice'.
- 6.8 All recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere in the Berkshire area; that is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now published by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological and geological strata and features excavated and exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. All plans and sections of archaeological deposits were recorded on polyester based drawing film, the plans being at scale 1:20 and the section at 1:10. The OD heights of all principle strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- 6.9 A photographic record of the investigations was made using only digital format.
- 6.10 Levels were calculated for all features using a GPS.
- 6.11 The archaeological works were monitored by Matthew Saywood, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, working on behalf of the RBWM.
- 6.12 The complete site archive including site records, photographs and finds will be deposited with Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (on a temporary basis) under the site code BHCC19.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural Sands and Gravels

7.2 Natural gravels were identified as layers [102] and [202] in trenches 1 and 2 respectively from elevations of 43.87m OD and 43.27m OD. The drop in elevation reflects the site topography with a slope downwards slope from north to south.

7.3 Phase 2: LIA/Early Roman Transition

7.4 Pit [105] was identified at the eastern end of Trench 1. The circular cut extended with near vertical sides to a concave base. The pit extended to 1.78m in diameter by 0.55m depth from 43.81m OD. The fill [104] comprised a compact gravelly silt containing a single fragment of pottery dated between 50 and 400 AD (see Appendix 3).



Plate 1: Pit [105], 2m scale, view to south

7.5 To the west of pit [105] was circular posthole [107] which extended to a diameter of 0.60m by 0.20m depth. The feature had been backfilled with sandy silt [106] containing gravel inclusions, but no cultural material.



Plate 2: Posthole [107], 0.60m scale, view to south

- 7.6 Sealing pit [105] and concentrated in the eastern part of the trench was sandy silt layer [103]. This extended to a thickness of 0.20m, was identified in section and tentatively interpreted as a dump layer. It is possible that this represents a shallow cut feature which truncated the eastern limits of pit [105].
- 7.7 The earliest horizon identified in Trench 2 comprised dump layer [203]. The layer extended to a thickness of 0.10m directly overlying natural geology. The layer comprised a mottled deposit of silty sand with flint and gravels. The latter was truncated by ditch [205].
- 7.8 Ditch [205] followed a roughly east-west alignment, extending beyond the eastern and western limits of excavation with a recorded width of 2.50m by 0.50m depth. The ditch exhibited steep sides to a concave base and had been backfilled with sandy gravel [204]. The fill contained occasional inclusions of pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone, and flint. The pottery was largely dated to the Late Iron Age, with some Roman material (50-400 AD; see Appendix 3). The ceramic building material was also dated to the Roman period (see Appendix 4), while the single piece of struck flint is indicative of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity (see Appendix 5). The flint represents a single platform blade core, with chips indicative of transportation and having moved to some extent following discard. A piece of burnt flint was recovered from the same deposit and was potentially representative of a core shaping flake. A few fragments of animal bone were also recovered from [204]. These were attributed to cattle (see Appendix 6), one fragment of which exhibited a chop mark.



Plate 3: Ditch [205], 1m scale, view to south



Plate 4: Sectioned ditch [205], 2 x 1m scale, view to south

7.9 Phase 3: Modern

7.10 Both trenches were sealed by extensive deposits of subsoil and topsoil. In trench 1 these were identified as layers [100] and [101] with the combined thickness of up to 0.45m. In trench two these were identified as layers [200] and [201] with the combined thickness of up to 0.70m.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The archaeological investigations found evidence of Late Iron Age to Early Roman cut features comprising an east-west aligned ditch, pit and posthole. Material recovered (burnt and struck flint) also suggests a background prehistoric presence within the wider area. All features were identified directly over/truncating natural geology and were overlain by sub soil and topsoil.
- 8.2 The pottery recovered was considered significant due to its contribution to our understanding of the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition.
- 8.3 The results of the evaluation indicate minimal truncation of archaeological horizons (within the areas of trenching) and suggest use/occupation of the immediate area during the Late Iron Ages to early Roman periods.
- 8.4 The date range of the material recovered is interesting and noteworthy due to the limited understanding of this transitional period. As such, further work may help elucidate the nature and function of these features further.

9 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

9.1 Original Research Questions

The archaeological evaluation addressed the following objectives (Fairman 2019):

- 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 extent of all past post-depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

9.2 Research Questions: Evaluation Results

9.3 The natural topography of the site appears to exhibit a slight southward declination with geology consistent with the Lynch Hill Gravel member being identified between 43.27m OD and 43.87m OD from south to north respectively.

9.4 Indications of prehistoric activity were encountered in the form of residual material (struck and burnt flint) and cut features. The latter contained both Late Iron Age and Roman material which indicated these to date from a transitional period. The cut features indicated some degree of occupation/settlement and included a potential refuse pit, posthole, and east-west aligned ditch. The latter was only partially revealed, and it is therefore unclear whether the ditch represents a feature primarily utilised as drainage, or to demarcate a boundary.

9.5 No evidence was found for medieval or post-medieval remains.

9.6 Minimal evidence for post-depositional impacts was observed on the archaeological features and horizons. The trenches were both overlain by layers of sub-soil and topsoil with minimal truncation. A number of services were identified which are likely to have impacted any surviving archaeology, however these impacts are likely to be extremely localised.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Jill Facer of Chassay and Last Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of Adam Breeden and Matthew Saywood, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology for monitoring the archaeological work on behalf of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 10.2 The author would also like to thank Robin Weaver for supervising the evaluation, Ferdinando Lentini for assisting with the fieldwork; Eniko Hudak for the Iron-Age and Roman pottery report; Amparo Valcarcel for the CBM report; Ella Egberts for the Flint report; Kevin Rielly for the animal bone report and Diane Valk for the illustrations.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ditchfield, P, H and Page, W (eds.), 1923, 'Parishes: Cookham', In: *A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 3*, pp124-133

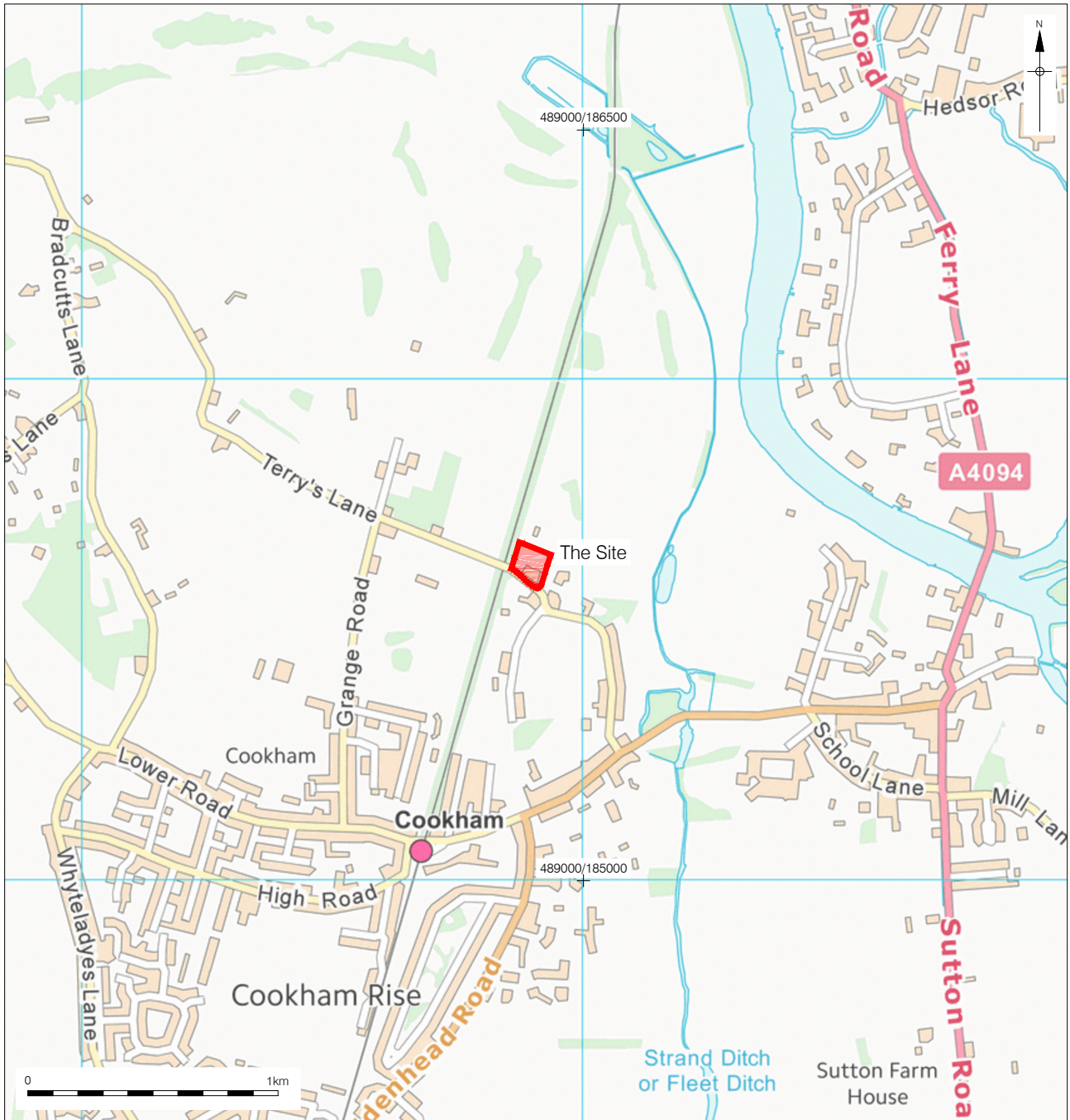
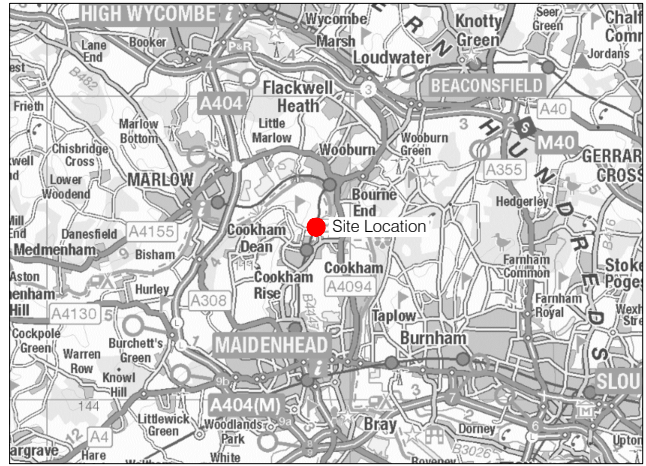
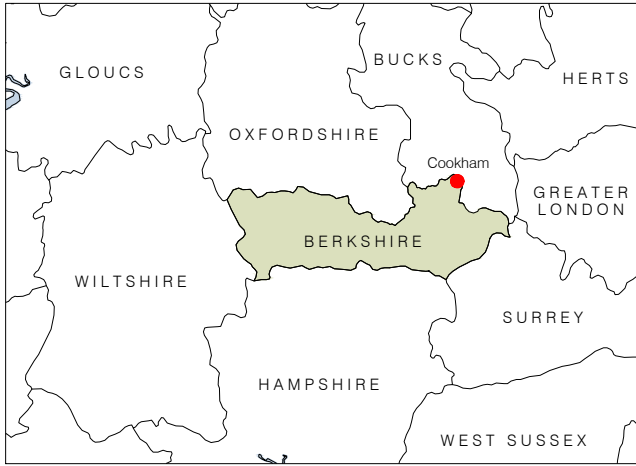
Fairman, A, 2019, *Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham, SL6 9RR: WSI for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd: unpublished

Planning Portal:

<http://publicaccess.rbwm.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PLUFIYNIMQM00>

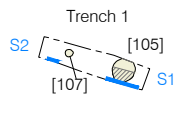
for Ref: 19/00225/FULL

Taylor, J with Brown, G 2009, *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

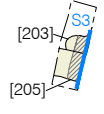




488900/185685
+



Trench 2



Hérons Court

TERRY'S LANE

488900/185560
+



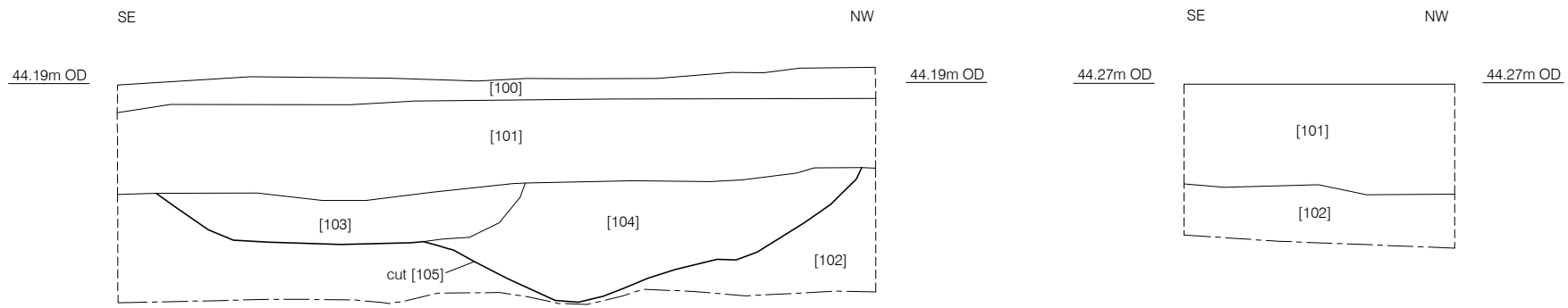
-  Archaeological Feature
-  Excavated Slot

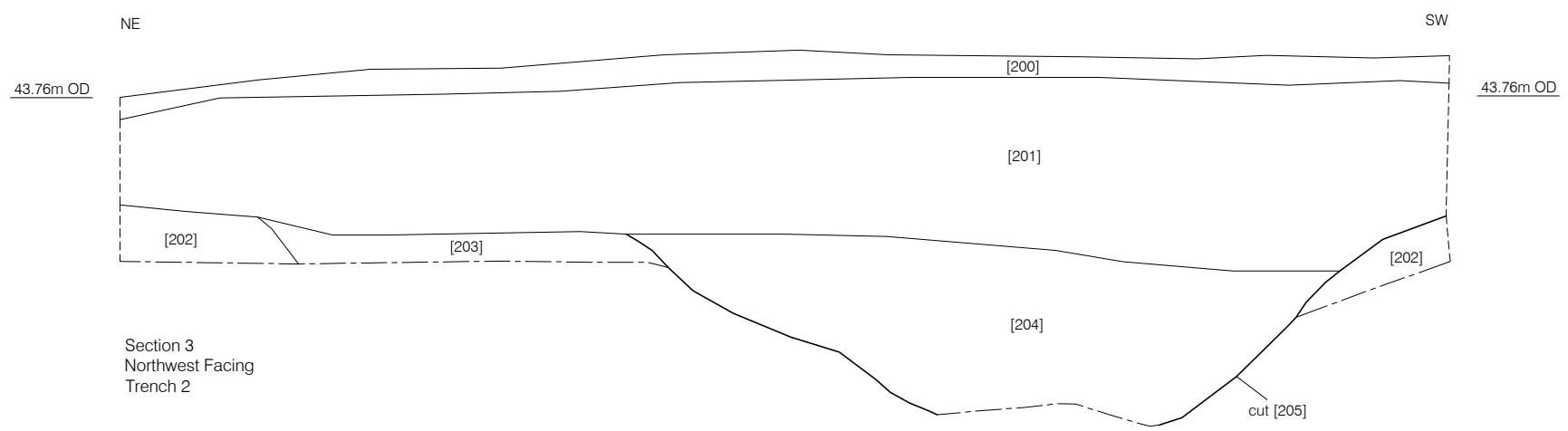


Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:625 at A4



Section 1
Northeast Facing
Trench 1

Section 2
Northeast Facing
Trench 1



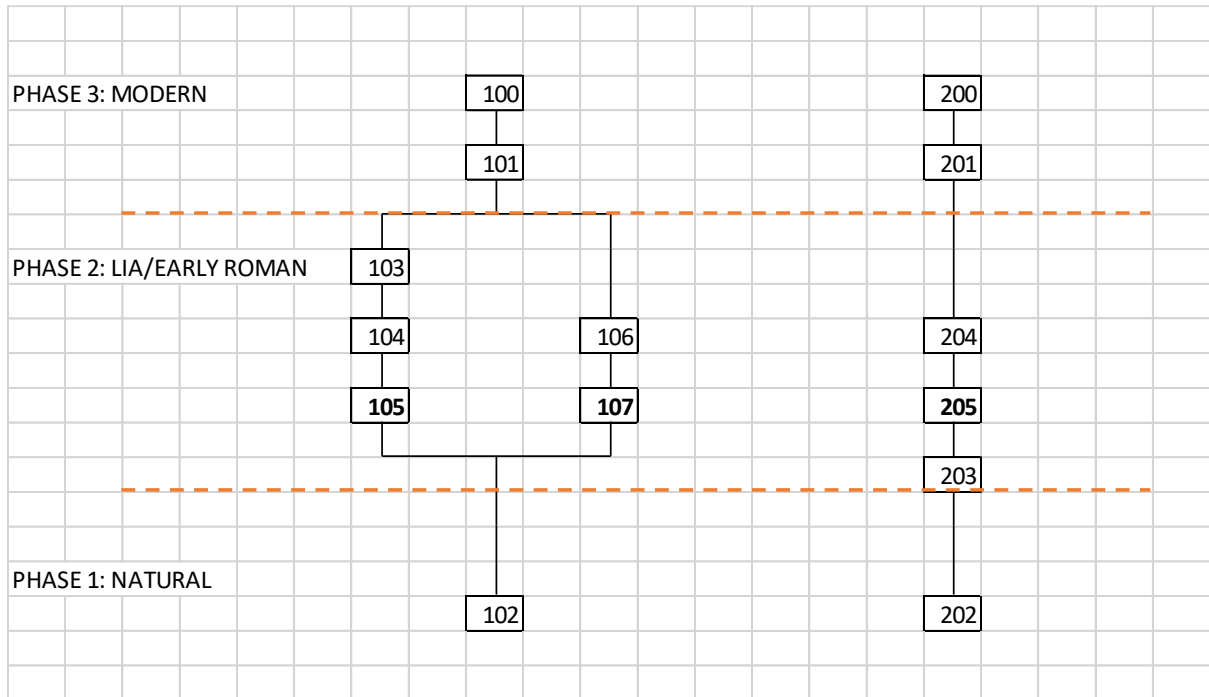
Section 3
Northwest Facing
Trench 2



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context Number	Trench	Context Type	Context Description	Date	Phase
BHCC19	100	1	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	3
BHCC19	101	1	Layer	Subsoil	Modern	3
BHCC19	102	1	Layer	Gravel	Natural	1
BHCC19	103	1	Layer	Dump Layer	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	104	1	Fill	Fill of [105]	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	105	1	Cut	Pit	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	106	1	Fill	Fill of [107]	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	107	1	Cut	Posthole	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	200	2	Layer	Topsoil	Modern	3
BHCC19	201	2	Layer	Subsoil	Modern	3
BHCC19	202	2	Layer	Gravel	Natural	1
BHCC19	203	2	Layer	Dump Layer	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	204	2	Fill	Fill of [205]	LIA/Roman	2
BHCC19	205	2	Cut	Ditch	LIA/Roman	2

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY REPORT

Eniko Hudak

The evaluation at Heron's Court, Cookham (BHCC19) produced a small assemblage of Iron Age and Roman pottery totaling 47 sherds weighing 0.791 kg. The pottery was subjected to rapid assessment including spot dating the results of which are shown in Table 1 below. The assemblage was recovered from two individually numbered contexts from Trenches 1 and 2. The condition of the assemblage is very good consisting mainly of large freshly broken fragments.

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Date
104	1	6	AD50-400
204	46	785	Largely LIA material, but includes 1x BB1 (AD250-400), 1x SAM (AD50-250), and 1x GROG (AD50-400+)
TOTAL	47	791	

Table 1 – Quantification and distribution of the pottery on site

Trench 1 yielded a single sherd of unsourced oxidized fine ware, which could not be dated more closely than the Roman period (AD50-400+).

Apart from three fragments, the pottery from Trench 2 is Late Iron Age in date comprising large fresh fragments of at least four handmade jars, one with bead rim, two with internally thickened bead rims, and one with an upright rim. All are in sand and flint tempered fabrics with varying levels of flint. One of the body sherds bears a drilled post-firing hole and a joining sherd may have two additional holes in line with the first.

The only Roman fragments from Trench 2 include the base sherd of a Terra Sigillata dish/bowl in rather abraded condition and with a potential post-firing hole; a small fragment of an unsourced grog-tempered vessel with a raised cordon; and finally a rim sherd of a Black-Burnished Ware 1 flanged bowl, which is normally dated to after AD250.

The assemblage is of significance due to the chronology of the pottery: the condition and amount of Late Iron Age material present together with Roman. The forms of the Iron Age pottery compare well to Thompson's types B1-2, C1-1, and C1-4 of 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery of the south-east (1982), which are all dated within the range of the 1st century AD, both pre- and post-Conquest. Further work on site has the potential to reveal more evidence which could contribute to our limited understanding of the Late Iron Age to Roman transitional period.

Should the site go forward to excavation it is recommended to send all Iron Age pottery from both phases of work to a prehistoric pottery specialist for further examination and recording. The Roman pottery should also be recorded in more detail according to guidelines by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (MPRG 2016) together with the excavation material.

MPRG (2016) *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*, Medieval Pottery Research Group on behalf of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery, and the Medieval Pottery Research Group, Historic England.

Thompson, I. (1982) *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*, BAR British Series 108, accessed online <https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/16/000.htm> on 09/05/2019.

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS REPORT

Amparo Valcarcel

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
204	BHC1	Roman sandy <i>imbrex</i> , <i>tegula</i> , tile and brick	8	50	400	50	400	50-400	No mortar

Review

A small quantity of material was collected (8 fragments, 594 g) consisting mainly in small pieces of fragmentary and abraded Roman material made of local fabric BHC1, a very course sandy fabric with silty inclusions. These are made probably by local fabrics from Reading or Bracklesham Beds. The material consists in an *imbrex*, *tegula*, brick and tile mixed with some chipped fragments. All the material was collected from contexts [204] in Trench 2.

Recommendations

The value of this small assemblage lies simply in dating the sequence. The Roman material provides further proof of Roman activity along this area. The *tegula* and *imbrex* should be kept. No further work is recommended.

APPENDIX 5: LITHIC ASSESSMENT

Ella Egberts

Introduction and methodology

Archaeological excavations at the above-mentioned site resulted in the recovery of one struck flint and one conchoidally fractured burnt flint. Further descriptive details are presented in the catalogue (see table 1). This report presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses have been conducted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here.

The assemblage

Raw material

A total of one struck flint and one conchoidally fractured burnt flint fragment were recovered from the site. The struck flint is a blade core made on fine-grained, translucent grey flint. The cortex is a thin nodular surface. The conchoidally fractured flint is decoloured and fire-crazed, indicating it was heavily burnt. The fine-grained nature of this flint and a small patch of thin nodular cortex suggests this flint is of a similar nature as that used for the blade core. The fine-grained, translucent grey flint may have been obtained from Pleistocene river terrace deposits (Winter Hill Gravel, Lynch Hill Gravel Member, Taplow Gravel Member, Shepperton Gravel Member) or directly from the chalk bedrock (Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation) which outcrops along the Thames floodplain close to the site (BGS 2019).

Condition

The worked flint is in chipped condition. This indicates that it was not in-situ and had moved to some extent after having been discarded.

Description

The struck flint is a small (17.9 g), single platform blade core, worked frontally and backed by a flaked/shaped and partly cortical surface. The core is well worked and well made. Technologically and typologically this core is typical for Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flintworking. The conchoidally fractured burnt flint may have been worked but shows few diagnostic features and its fragmented and burnt condition obscures further clues. However, its irregular shape and thickness could indicate it may have been a (core shaping) flake.

Significance

The worked flints from Cookham indicates human activity during Mesolithic/Early Neolithic. The recovery of finds of this age range from this location fits well with the evidence of Mesolithic activity within the Thames and Middle Kennet and their tributaries (Chisham 2006). However, the concentration of Mesolithic sites as seen in west Berkshire seems less well-defined than in the rest of the county. This may be due to a higher archaeological visibility in the Kennet valley through quarrying activities and other development pressures rather than strategic research (Chisham 2006). The case of this site demonstrates that development driven excavations may indeed reveal more Mesolithic activity as elsewhere in the county. This fits well with other known Mesolithic sites in the east of Berkshire, such as Jennings Yard, Windsor (Hawkes and Heaton 1993) and Park farm, Binfield (Roberts 1995), though these sites are found on raised ground further away from the river (Chisham 2006). The recovery of Mesolithic material from Cookham therefore contributes to our understanding of the distribution of Mesolithic activity in this area.

Potential

The struck flint assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it does demonstrate prehistoric activity at the site which further fieldwork could potentially elucidate. From the point of view of the lithic material, any further fieldwork should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future work, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted. Should further work be considered, the assemblage reported here should be re-documented in conjunction with any additional flintwork following the completion of the archaeological programmes.

Bibliography

- BGS 2019. British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>? (accessed 08-05-2019)
- Chisham, C., 2006 The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Berkshire. Thames and Solent Research Framework. Wessex archaeology.
- Hawkes, J.W. and Heaton, M.J. (1993) Jennings Yard, Windsor- A Closed-Shaft Garderobe and Associated Medieval Structures. Wessex Archaeology Report no. 3
- Roberts, M.R. (1995) Excavations at Park Farm, Binfield, Berkshire 1990: An Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement and Two Mesolithic Flint Scatters In: Barnes, I., Boismier, W.A., Cleal, R.M.J., Fitzpatrick, A.P., and Roberts, M.R. (eds) *Early Settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman Occupation in the Thames and Kennet Valleys*. Salisbury: Wessex Archaeology Report No. 6

Context	Trench	Form	Type	Condition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight	Description	Suggested date range
204	2	Core	Blade core	Chipped	42	27	14	17.9	Small single platform blade core with at least five fine, parallel negative blade scars. It is worked from the front and backed by a flaked/shaped and cortical surface.	Mesolithic-Early Neolithic
204		Fragment	Conchoidally fractured	Burnt				16.4	Irregularly shaped piece of heavily burnt flint, fire-crazed and discoloured. Parts of the surface are flake scars, and as one side seems to be a ventral face this piece could be fragment of an irregular and thick flake (proximal end missing), possibly a shaping flake.	

Table 1: Flint Catalogue for BHCC19

APPENDIX 6: ANIMAL BONE REPORT

Kevin Rielly

Just 2 bones from (204) Tr.2, a cattle left tibia (distal half of the shaft) and a cattle right scapula, a fragment of the posterior blade adjacent to the proximal end. They're in relatively good condition, though the tibia is laminating, and the scapula is poorly preserved on the lateral side while the medial surface shows mild root etching. The scapula has a chop mark (clearly made with a metal instrument) demonstrating an acute cut through the blade (1/4shaft), possibly from a medial/proximal direction (maybe related to jointing). They signify neither large nor small cattle, the sort that could be found across the ages.

APPENDIX 7: OASIS DATA ENTRY FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-351144

Project details

Project name	Heron's Court, Cookham
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Berkshire. Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new building. A series of cut features including a ditch, pit and posthole were identified potentially dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2019 End: 29-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BHCC19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Area of Archaeological Potential
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD COOKHAM Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham
Postcode	SL6 9RR
Site coordinates	SU 88888 86620 51.570955977809 -0.717287884372 51 34 15 N 000 43 02 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43.27m Max: 43.87m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Matthew Saywood
Project design originator	Amelia Fairman
Project director/manager	Amelia Fairman
Project supervisor	Robin Weaver
Type of sponsor/funding body	Self-builder
Name of sponsor/funding body	Adam Breeden

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	BHCC19
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	BHCC19
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	BHCC19
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, Cookham, Berkshire, SL6 9RR: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairman, A
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	London

Entered by	Amelia Fairman (afairman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	14 May 2019

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
t: 01223 845 522

e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

THE ROPE WORKS, BROADWOOD VIEW
CHESTER-LE-STREET
DURHAM DH3 3AF
t: 0191 377 1111

e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
t: 020 7732 3925

e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG
t: 01636 370 410

e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP
T: 01603 863 108

e: norwich@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN
t: 01926 485 490

e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX
t: 01962 849 549

e: winchester@pre-construct.com

