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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY  
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



**WOKINGHAM HOUSING LTD**

**LAND AT GROVELANDS AVENUE, WINNERSH, WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**OCTOBER 2015**

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Wokingham Housing Ltd  
Grovelands Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire  
Archaeological Evaluation Report  
October 2015

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## **SUMMARY**

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Wokingham Housing Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land at Grovelands Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire (Centred on SU 7887 7101). This work was required to investigate the potential archaeological resource and the likely impact upon it of the construction of a proposed new residential development (Wokingham Borough Council Ref: 142689, Condition 17).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in a single phase over two days from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and involved the excavation of four trenches. All trenches were devoid of any archaeological features. A modern brick culvert and a disused water pipe were observed in two trenches.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thank Darren Toes of Wokingham Housing Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all his assistance throughout the work. Thanks also to Ellie Learey, Archaeology Officer, Berkshire County Council and Blaise Vyner, Blaise Vyner Consultancy for all their assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Maxwell Plant Hire and their staff for their help during this project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Mike McElligott assisted by Sean Johnson. The report was written by Mike McElligott and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey.

The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post excavation Manager for WAA. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for WAA.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Circumstances of the Project**

1.1.1 In October 2015, WAA was invited by Wokingham Houses Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Grovelands Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire (Centred on SU 7887 7101; Figure 1), in advance of the construction of a proposed new residential development. Following consultation with Blaise Vyner, Blaise Vyner Consultancy and Ellie Learey, Archaeology Officer, Berkshire County Council, a programme of archaeological investigation was commissioned. The purpose was to further elucidate and evaluate the potential archaeological resource and the likely impact upon it of proposed construction works.

1.1.2 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

2.1.1 Upon request from Wokingham Housing Ltd, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) were commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation. This was submitted to Ellie Learey, Archaeology Officer, Berkshire County Council, for approval prior to the evaluation taking place. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology subsequently was commissioned to undertake this work by Wokingham Housing Ltd.

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and in accordance with the WAA Excavation Manual (2012).

### 2.2 The Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four trenches within the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity.

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance
- determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from plough damage or from any other agricultural/industrial practices or later building activities
- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development
- determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development



- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

2.2.3 Topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all possible features were investigated.

2.2.4 The four evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.2.5 No finds were encountered during the course of this project.

### 2.3 **The Archive**

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited at Berkshire Records Office at Reading, where viewing will be available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA15 GAW-A, CP 11491/15.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Berkshire County Council, support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project. The unique OASIS identification number for this archive comprises wardella2-227589.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Location and Geological Context**

3.1.1 The proposed new residential development work is located on the eastern side of Winnersh, to the northwest of Wokingham, Berkshire. The site was situated to the west of Junction 10 of the M4 and A329(M) and was centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SU 7887 7101. The area of investigation measured approximately 0.2ha and occupied by a mixture of hedges, trees and shrubs with areas of concrete and tarmac.

3.1.2 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) deposited during the Paleogene Period (34 – 56 million years ago). The superficial deposits consist of River Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel) that formed during the Quaternary Period (up to 3 million years ago) (BGS 2015).

#### **3.2 Historic and Archaeological Background**

3.2.1 Although no cultural heritage assets are known within the site boundary, the area of investigation lies within a known archaeological landscape, with evidence for Bronze Age funerary activity discovered in the 1960s to the northwest of the site. A Neolithic arrowhead, burnt flint, medieval pottery and post-medieval pottery have also been recovered from a site adjacent to Winnersh Primary School (pers com Blaise Vyner).

#### **3.3 Previous Archaeological Work**

3.3.1 Two evaluations have been undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services at Woodward Close (Bray 2013), to the south of the proposed development area and at Wharfedale Road (Porter, Bray, Dawson 2014) to the northwest. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed at either site.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2015 and comprised the excavation of four trenches (Figure 2). The topsoil was stripped by a JCB 3CX with a toothless bucket to the level of the natural substrate. The areas under investigation were subsequently cleaned by hand and potential archaeological features were investigated. Trenches 1 and 4 measured 21m in length while Trenches 2 and 3 measured 9.3m and 11m in length respectively. All trenches were 1.60m wide. The summaries of the trenches are included in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Results

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located in the northern end of the proposed development area and was aligned east-west (Plates 1 & 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m, revealing a compact light yellowish brown flint gravel natural (**101**) below c.0.20m of a mid to dark brown gravel (**107**), c.0.07m of a black silty sand (**106**) and c.0.16m of a demolition layer that contained moderate modern brick and rubbish (**105**). Above layer (**105**) was c.0.12m of a light brown gravel (**104**), c.0.06m of a loose black sandy clay (**103**), c.0.10m of a mid brown sand (**102**) and c.0.16m of a loose mid grey brown clay silt topsoil (**100**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features. A square shaped modern posthole was observed in the western side of the trench.

4.2.2 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located in the northeast corner of the proposed development area, aligned north-south, with its northern end joined to the southern side of Trench 1 (Plates 3 & 4). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m, revealing a loose light yellow sand/flint gravel natural (**201**) below c.0.30m of a mid to dark mid gravel (**205**), c.0.16m of a mid grey silty sand that contained frequent stone (**204**), c.0.15m of a demolition layer that contained moderate modern brick and rubbish (**203**), c.0.12m of a light brown gravel that contained frequent small stone and flint (**202**) and c.0.10m of a loose mid grey brown sandy clay topsoil (**200**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

4.2.3 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located in the southern end of the proposed development area, crossing Trench 4 near its centre in a north-south alignment (Plate 5). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64m, revealing a

loose light yellow/orange/brown sand gravel natural (**302**) below c.0.14m of a compact mid brown gravel/sandy clay (**305**) that contained frequent stone and flint, c.0.20m of a demolition layer (**304**) that contained CBM, modern pottery and rubbish, c.0.05m of a dark brown silty clay (**303**), c.0.05m of a light pink/red stone rubble bedding layer (**301**) and c.0.05m of a loose mid brown sandy clay topsoil (**300**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features but in the northern half of the trench, there was an east-west aligned modern brick culvert. This was abutted by a concrete layer and was sealed by layer (**303**) that extended across the centre of the field.

4.2.4 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was located in the southern end of the field and was aligned east-west (Plates 6 & 7). North-south aligned trench 3 crossed the trench near its centre. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m, revealing a compact light yellow brown gravel natural (**401**) below c.0.14m of a light brown gravel (**404**) that contained moderate stone and c.0.22m of a compact mid grey gravel layer (**403**) that contained frequent stone and flint. The next layer (**402**) was c.0.15m of a demolition layer that contained moderate brick and occasional thin lenses of black sandy clay and coal with an upper layer of c.0.18m of a loose mid grey brown sandy clay topsoil (**400**). A disused water pipe that was aligned roughly north-south was observed next to the western end of the trench. The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Evaluation results**

5.1.1 During the archaeological evaluation at the land at Grovelands Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, four trenches were excavated across the site totaling 99.68m<sup>2</sup>, 4.984% of the 0.2h proposed development area. The aim was to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains.

5.1.2 All four trenches were devoid of archaeological features. A modern brick culvert and manhole was observed in Trench 3 and a modern disused water pipe was observed in Trench 4.

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<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

Length: 21m

Width: 1.60m

Maximum Depth: 1m

Minimum Depth: 0.84m

Orientation: E-W

OS Co-ordinates: (E) 478863 (N) 171027

(E) 478884 (N) 171026

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Maximum Thickness/Depth
(100)	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown clay silt	0.16m
(101)	Natural Substrate	Compact light yellowish gravel ballast	N/A
(102)	Deposit	Mid brown sand	0.10m
(103)	Deposit	Loose black sandy clay	0.06m
(104)	Deposit	Loose light brown gravel	0.12m
(105)	Deposit	Demolition layer = (203)	0.16m
(106)	Deposit	Loose black silty sand	0.07m
(107)	Deposit	Loose mid /dark brown gravel ballast = (205)	0.20m
(108)	-	VOID	-
(109)	Deposit	Loose black silty clay	0.05m
[110]	Cut	Modern posthole cut	0.05m

### Trench 2

Length: 9.30m

Width: 1.60m

Maximum Depth: 1m

Minimum Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: N-S

OS Co-ordinates: (E) 478883 (N) 171025

(E) 478883 (N) 171016

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Maximum Thickness/Depth
(200)	Topsoil	Loose mid grey sandy clay	0.10m
(201)	Natural Substrate	Loose light yellow sand/gravel ballast	N/A
(202)	Deposit	Loose light brown gravel	0.12m
(203)	Deposit	Demolition layer = (105)	0.15m
(204)	Deposit	Mid grey silty sand	0.16m
(205)	Deposit	Mid /dark brown gravel ballast = (107)	0.30m

### Trench 3

Length: 11m

Width: 1.60m

Maximum Depth: 0.64m

Minimum Depth: 0.10m

Orientation: N-S

OS Co-ordinates: (E) 478868 (N) 171009

(E) 478867 (N) 170998

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Maximum Thickness/Depth
(300)	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy clay	0.05m
(301)	Deposit	Light pink/red stone bedding layer	0.05m
(302)	Natural Substrate	Firm mid yellow brown clay	N/A
(303)	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay	0.05m

(304)	Deposit	Demolition layer	0.20m
(305)	Deposit	Mid brown gravel sandy clay	0.14m

#### Trench 4

Length: 21m

Width: 1.60m

Maximum Depth: 0.95m

Minimum Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: E-W

OS Co-ordinates: (E) 478858 (N) 171004

(E) 478879 (N) 171003

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Maximum Thickness/Depth
(400)	Topsoil	Loose mid grey brown sandy clay	0.18m
(401)	Natural Substrate	Compact light yellowish brown gravel ballast	N/A
(402)	Deposit	Compact mid grey rubble	0.15m
(403)	Deposit	Compact mid grey gravel	0.22m
(404)	Deposit	Light brown gravel	0.14m



## APPENDIX 2: PLATES



*Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east*



*Plate 2: Trench 1, looking northwest*



*Plate 3: Trench 2, looking north*



*Plate 4: Trench 2, looking southeast*



*Plate 5: Trench 3, looking northwest*

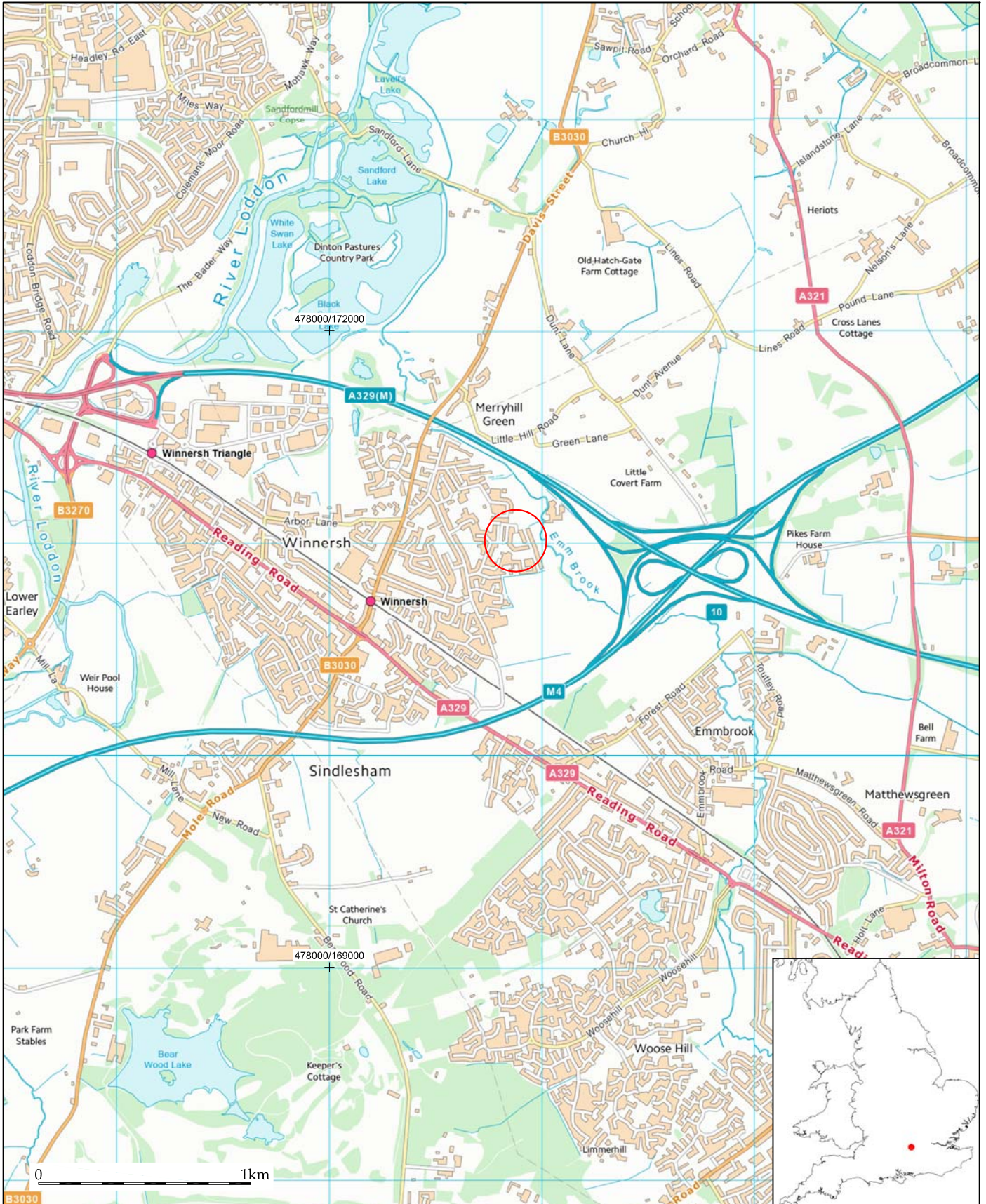


*Plate 6: Trench 4, looking east*



*Plate 7: Trench 4, looking northwest*

## APPENDIX 3: FIGURES






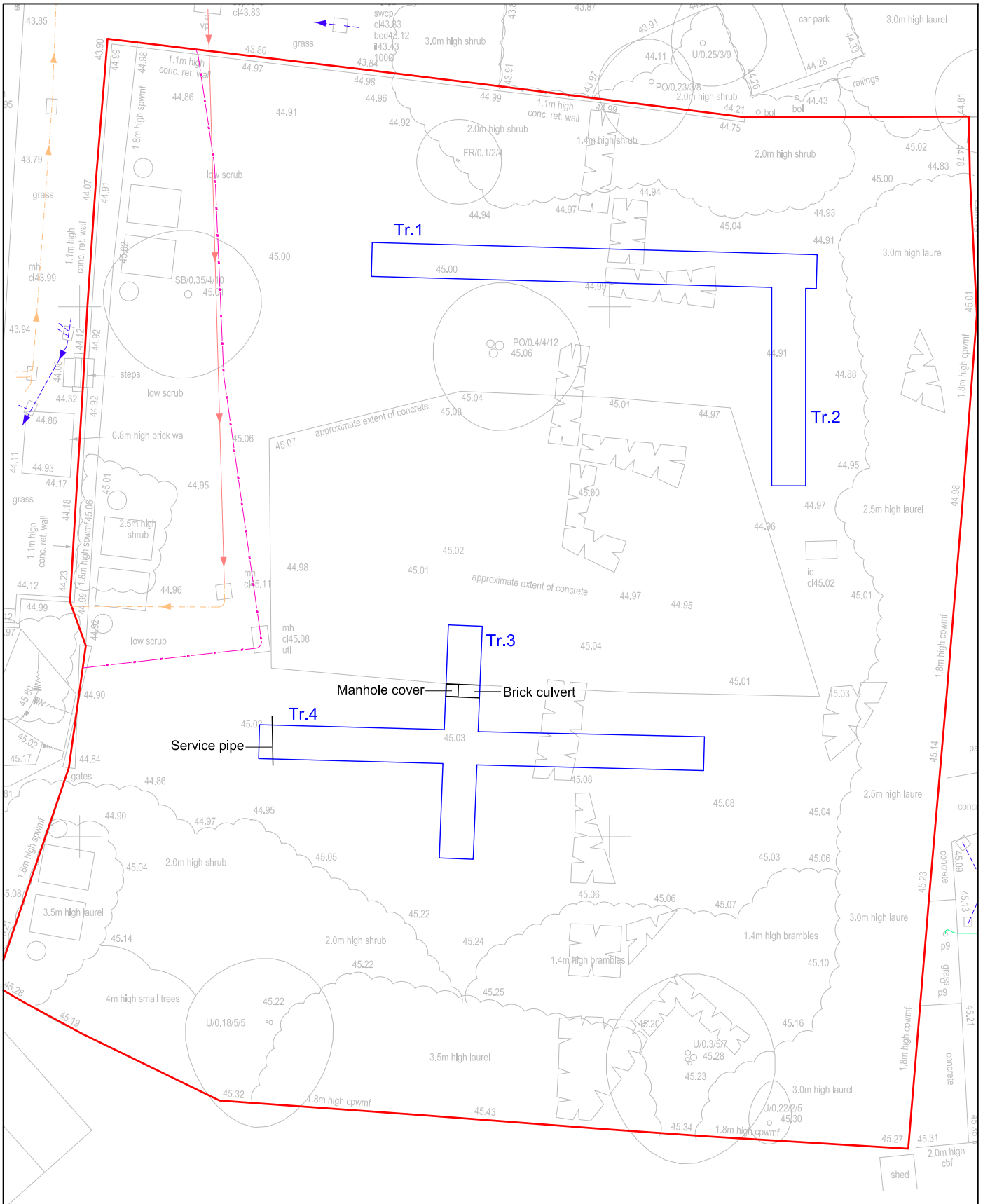
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Grovelands Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11491</p> <p>CLIENT: Wokingham Housing Ltd</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: October 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.







 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Grovelands Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:250 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11491</p> <p>CLIENT: Wokingham Housing Ltd</p> <p>DRAWN BY: MME/AB</p> <p>DATE: October 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site boundary</p> <p> Evaluation trenches</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches, showing service locations.

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