



Archway Heritage

Archaeological trial trench evaluation

at

**Britwell Farm,
Oxford Road,
Chieveley:**

AH_209-BF-C_EvalTrialT-Report.rtf

for

Lindacre Homes Limited



www.archwayheritage.co.uk

Report Reference: AH_209-BF-C_EvalTrialT-Report.rtf:

Version	Date Produced	Author	Checked by
Draft v1	23/09/20	Mary Neale MCIfA	Mike Lang Hall
Final	23/09/20	Mary Neale MCIfA	Paul Halfacree
Revised			

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Figure 1. Site Location Plan

Figure 2. Trench Location Plan

1 Summary

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Archway Heritage has undertaken a trial trench evaluation for Lindacre Homes Limited, the Client, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). This field investigation was undertaken at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Newbury RG20 8RU; National Grid Reference SU 48397 76103.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is a U-shaped plot of approximately 0.21 ha that excludes Britwell Farmhouse, which consists of the gardens and farmyard surrounding the house. The trial trench evaluation was undertaken in response to a planning condition on planning permission to build four houses in order to investigate whether any archaeology would be disturbed by the development.



Figure 1. Site Location Plan



1.3 Stages of work undertaken

1.3.1 Site code 209-BF-C

Phase	Method	Date undertaken	Cross ref
Desk-based Assessment (DBA) and subsequent letter	DBA Submitted with the first planning application and letter submitted with the second application	9 th March 2020 and 25 th June 2020	AH_BF-ORd-WestBerks Final.rtf and AH-Let-194-BF-ORd-WestBerks- Final.rtf
Recommendation for field investigation	A planning condition attached to planning permission	4 th August 2020	Condition 7 of that Planning Permission (20/01491/TDC)
Method statement for field investigation (WSI)	WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation)	19 th August 2020	AH_209-BF-C_WSI.docx AH_209-BF-C_WSI.rtf
Fieldwork	Trial trench evaluation	10 th – 11 th September 2020	OASIS ID: archwayh1-401784
Report detailing results of fieldwork	Report	24 th September 2020	AH_209-BF-C_EvalTrialT-Report.rtf

1.4 Assessment of Significance

1.4.1 There was potential to locate the foundations of former outbuildings within Trial Trenches 1 and 5. However, no archaeological features or deposits were encountered and there was no evidence of changing farming practices.

2 Overview

2.1 Location of investigation

2.1.1 Five trial trenches were excavated under the direct supervision by the nominated archaeologist, Mary Neale MCIfA, as shown on Figure 2. The excavator was equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Potential archaeological features were investigated using a



trowel or mattock, as appropriate to the size of the features.

2.2 Description of trial trenches

- 2.2.1 Five trenches approximately 10m long by 1.5m wide were excavated resulting in a total area of 75msq that was investigated archaeologically. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the garden to the north of the house, Trenches 3 and 4 were located in the garden to the south of the house and Trench 5 was located in-between two out-buildings, opposite the granary (see Figure 2).
- 2.2.2 The Site lies within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The area is called Brightwalton Downs, which is downland with woodland and categorised as Landscape Character Area 2a.
- 2.2.3 In addition, the Site is located within Landscape Character Area 2, which is Chalk Dipslopes and Lowland, part of Newbury District Wide Landscape Character Assessment. This is described as gently undulating with a mosaic of landforms including arable farming, mixed woodlands and small farm settlements clustered near settlements.
- 2.2.4 Further characterisation is provided through Berkshire Landscape Character Assessment. In that assessment the Site is located within Landscape Character Area F2 Peasemore, which is Wooded Downland. It is described as a rolling and gently undulating landscape of mixed arable and pasture land with a large portion of woodland cover, which is densely populated.
- 2.2.5 At the time of the investigation, the area where Trial Trenches 1 and 2 were located, was part of the garden, which was grassed and a little overgrown. Trench 2 extended beyond the grassed area, approximately 4m west onto the hardstanding and in front of the disused outbuilding. Trenches 3 and 4 were located in a more formal part of the garden with areas of planting surrounded by mown grass. Trench 5 was positioned in the area of hardstanding between two outbuildings and opposite the granary, avoiding the entrance and parking areas in front of the outbuildings currently in use.
- 2.2.6 The site is located within an area of chalk bedrock and a thin band of superficial deposits, which is a mix of clay, silt, sand and gravel (Geology of Britain Viewer). The Soil is largely clay, with occasional chalk seams and silty deposits. The topography is gently undulating; the Site is located at the edge of the 140m contour line, gradually rising up to 145m to the north, northeast and northwest, and gradually falling away to the south to meet the 135m



contour line.

2.3 Previous archaeological work

- 2.3.1 A Desk-based Assessment¹ (DBA), dated 9th March 2020, was submitted with the first planning application (20/00845/FUL and 20/01491/TDC), which was withdrawn on the 15th June 2020. The DBA has been uploaded on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website under the reference OASIS ID: archwayh1-400922.
- 2.3.2 A letter, dated 25th June 2020, was submitted explaining minor changes and the change in the location of the house in Plot B with the second application (20/01491/TDC). Permission was granted on the 4th August 2020 and an archaeology condition was attached. Condition 7 of that Planning Permission (20/01491/TDC) requires the approval of a WSI prior to works beginning on the Site, which identifies two stages of work. Stage I is an initial trial trench evaluation investigation and, if archaeological finds or features of significance are identified by that initial investigation, then Stage II works would be required, which is likely to be an open area excavation. Stage 1 requires 'the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works'. The Written Scheme of Investigation² (WSI) set out the methodology by which this evaluation trenching was to be undertaken.
- 2.3.3 In response to Condition 7, a WSI was submitted under the reference 20/01985/COND1. It is dated 19th August 2020.

2.4 Circumstances of the project

- 2.4.1 This fieldwork was undertaken because of archaeological interest associated with Britwell Farm, which is a historic farmstead on the crossroads of two old routes. The DBA identified archaeological potential for the foundations of out-buildings, likely to be of Post-medieval date. In addition, potential for evidence of changing farming practices on the Site was identified within the DBA. The level of this potential was recognised as medium and the significance of that heritage, should it be found to survive on Site, would be of medium importance.

2.5 Constraints / limitations on the work

- 2.5.1 The constraints identified were limited space within the Site, the need to avoid existing services and the need to retain outbuildings that would remain in use during the construction of the houses in Plots A and B. On this basis, Ms Sarah Orr, Senior Archaeologist (Planning and Management Advice) at West Berkshire Archaeology Service,

¹ Report reference - AH_BF-ORd-WestBerks Final.rtf

² WSI reference - AH_209-BF-C_WSI.rtf and site code 209-BF-C



advised that a minimum of 4 trial trenches were to be excavated should any difficulties arise in excavating 7 trenches.

- 2.5.2 Due to their location at the entrance, Trial Trenches 6 and 7 were not excavated, in order to avoid access difficulties and potentially health and safety issues. The other 5 trial trenches were excavated.

3 Aims and objectives

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 Any archaeological knowledge gained from the Trial Trenching exercise would be a public benefit. The aim of the evaluation trenching exercise is to identify and, where archaeological remains are present, to gather data from the recording of archaeological deposits and report on the results, having adhered to the monitoring requirements of West Berkshire Archaeology Service.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 These aims will be achieved through the following specific objectives. The objectives are:
- to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on Site, to assess their nature and significance;
 - to determine the date, attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence, to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples and to determine the potential for palaeo-environmental, geo-archaeological and economic evidence where appropriate;
 - to assess the associations and implications of remains encountered with reference to the known history of the building and, where appropriate, with reference to the local Prehistoric and historic landscape;
 - to interpret the implications of the findings with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity, where possible; and
 - to assess whether the historic buildings in the areas investigated contain any information about Post-medieval and modern changes to land use and agricultural systems.



4 Methodology

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The Site Supervisor, Mary Neale, kept in contact with Ms Orr during fieldwork to discuss findings and aid decision making. The 5 trial trenches were excavated by a bladed bucket fitted to a mini-digger operating under close archaeological supervision (see Figure 2). All topsoil or recent overburden and subsoil was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive, level spits. In each case, this was the top of the natural geology. Spoil heaps were examined for additional finds.
- 4.1.2 Once excavated, each trial trench was cleaned and a record of the stratigraphy was made through written records. The surface of a selection of potential archaeological features were trowelled, photographed and half-sectioned using either a trowel or mattock as appropriate to the size of the feature. A representative sample of brown earthy deposits with no - 10% charcoal inclusions were sampled. A photograph was taken to record the section. However, measured sections or rough sections, were not considered necessary due to the lack of archaeological deposits. A detailed record was made of each trial trench (see Appendix 13). This decision was made in consultation with the Council's Senior Archaeologist, Ms Orr.

4.2 On-site Recording

- 4.2.1 The trenches were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on Archway Heritage's pro forma context sheets, which are compatible with industry standard recording systems.

4.3 Photographic Record

- 4.3.1 The photographic record comprised a series of high-resolution digital images. A total of 46 digital photographs were taken, 11 were selected for the archive. The photographic record included the direction from which the photographer was facing when taking the photograph and a brief description.

4.4 Finds

- 4.4.1 Photographs were taken of the finds from one root bole, for completeness of the record. However, no artefacts were retained due to the lack of archaeological interest of those finds.



5.2 Trial Trench 1 Findings

- 5.2.1 Trial Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Three different geological deposits were present, consisting of: a seam of solid chalk; orange brown sandy-clay at the northwestern end; and grey brown silty-clay at the southeastern end. Clumps of roots and discrete dark patches were investigated, which were found to be root boles. An area of redeposited natural had plastic embedded within it.

5.3 Trial Trench 2 Findings

- 5.3.1 Trial Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The top of the natural was disturbed resulting in a trench that was deeper than Trial Trench 1. Two service pipes were cut diagonally across the trench, with dark grey brown fill. Both service trenches were demarcated with lumps of concrete near the southern edge of the Trial Trench. One was visible in the section of the trench.

5.4 Trial Trench 3 Findings

- 5.4.1 Trial Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or deposits. There was a lot of root activity at the western end. The natural geology changed towards the western end of the trench, from firm chalk rich ground to softer siltier and less mottled natural at the eastern end of the trench.

Interpretation

- 5.4.2 Inspections were made to check for any sign of a similarly located change in geology within the parallel trench, Trial Trench 4, to assess whether a similar change was discernible – it was not. The change in geological deposits was not a linear feature of redeposited natural.

5.5 Trial Trench 4 Findings

- 5.5.1 Trial Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Discrete dark patches were sampled as previously described.



Interpretation

- 5.5.2 These dark patches were interpreted as root boles. One contained an assemblage of: bone from a single animal (not a pet); one piece of clay tile; 4 - 5 sweet wrappers; several pieces of clear glass, the base of which had a numbered manufacturer's stamp; and one piece of charcoal.

5.6 Trial Trench 5 Findings

- 5.6.1 Trial Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The ground slopes steeply towards the boundary fence, which explains the difference of the depth at either end of this Trial Trench.

6 Archive

6.1 Indexed and internally consistent archive

- 6.1.1 An indexed and internally consistent archive will be prepared and retained in accordance with Archway Heritage's Digital Management Plan and Digital Archives Policy.

6.2 Copies of the report

- 6.2.1 Copies of the report, in PDF format, will be supplied to Lindacre Homes Limited and West Berkshire Historic Environment Record Service.

6.3 Publically accessible digital archive

- 6.3.1 An OASIS record will also be completed and a copy of the report, in PDF format, will be submitted once West Berkshire Historic Environment Record Service has confirmed the report meets their requirements. The report will become a public document after a period not exceeding six months.

7 Project team

7.1 Thanks to the following contributors

- 7.1.1 Mr Paul Halfacree, who is the Project Manager for Lindacre Homes Limited.
- 7.1.2 Mr Stephen Smith, is the Project Architect, who provided the trench layout plan.
- 7.1.3 Siteline, are Geomatic Surveyors, who provided the topographical survey.
- 7.1.4 Ms Sarah Orr, Senior Archaeologist (Planning and Management Advice) at West Berkshire



Historic Environment Record Service, provided feedback on the WSI and monitored the field work.

7.1.5 Ms Mary Neale worked as the Site Supervisor and Project Manager for Archway Heritage and is the author of this report.

7.1.6 Mr Mike Lang Hall, Senior Heritage Consultant and Quality Assurance Advisor, who provided advice and support throughout the project.

8 Bibliography

Documents

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Online publication –

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf

Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE). Online publication - <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/HEAG024-MoRPHE-Managers-Guide.pdf/>



Appendix 9: General terms

For the avoidance of confusion, the terms used in this report follow the definitions given below:

Alluvial Deposit	Soil deposited by running water
AMS	Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, an absolute dating technique that measures the amount of carbon-14 in an organic object
B.P.	Before Present is defined as the year 1950, used instead of B.C.
CBM	Ceramic building material
Context	The position and associations of an artefact, ecofact, feature or archaeological find in space and time, assisting with determining chronology and interpreting function and significance
Dendro-chronology	The dating of wood by counting tree rings and comparing against a sample record, to provide an approximate age of the feature or structure to which it belongs
Ecofact	Archaeological finds not manufactured by humans including bones and vegetal remains that inform past diet or environments
Feature	Any non-portable physical structure or element that was made or altered by humans including a wall, post hole, pit or floor
<i>in situ</i>	Anything in its natural or original position or place, also referred to as 'primary context'
LOE	Limit of excavation
Natural	Undisturbed natural geology
NGR	National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid
OD	Ordnance datum
Organic	Material derived from or relating to living organisms
Radiocarbon dating	A dating technique used to determine the age of organic materials less than 50,000 years old
Relative dating	A system of dating archaeological remains and strata in relation to each other
Romano-British	Refers to the fusion of cultures, dating between AD 43 and <i>circa</i> AD 410
Secondary context	Context of archaeological material that has been wholly or partially altered by transformation processes after its original deposit
Stratigraphy	The study of layers (strata) of sediments, soils and material culture



Appendix 10: Archaeological periods

Prehistoric	The periods from the Ice Ages to Roman occupation in AD 43
Palaeolithic	800,000 years ago - 10,000 BC.
Mesolithic	<i>Circa</i> 10,000 BC – 4,000 BC.
Neolithic	<i>Circa</i> 4000 BC - 2300 BC.
Bronze Age	<i>Circa</i> 2300 BC-700 BC.
Iron Age	<i>Circa</i> 700 BC - AD43
Roman	<i>Circa</i> AD 450
Early Medieval and Saxon	<i>Circa</i> AD450-1066
Medieval	<i>Circa</i> AD 1550
Post-medieval	<i>Circa</i> AD 1550 to 1900



Appendix 11: OASIS record

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archwayh1-401784

Project details

Project name Evaluation trenching at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation trenching investigation has been undertaken on land at the Site in order to record and report any archaeology findings in accordance with condition 7 of the planning permission granted (20/00845/FUL and 20/01491/TDC).

Project dates Start: 26-05-2020 End: 26-09-2020

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes archwayh1-400922 - OASIS form ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type FARM Post Medieval

Significant Finds N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"



Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WEST BERKSHIRE BEEDON Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Newbury
Postcode	RG20 8RU
Study area	0.21 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 4829 7616 51.481819 -1.3044502 51 28 54 N 001 18 16 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 138m Max: 139m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archway Heritage
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage consultant advised but client commissioned individual investigations



Archway Heritage

Archaeological trial trench evaluation
at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley

Project
director/manager Mary Neale

Project supervisor Mary Neale

Type of
sponsor/funding
body Developer

Name of
sponsor/funding
body Lindacre Homes Limited

Entered by Mary Neale (mary@archwayheritage.co.uk)

Entered on 18 August 2020



Appendix 12: Plates

Plates Index

- Plate 1. Trial Trench 1: facing north-northwest
- Plate 1a. Pre-excavation photograph of a root bole
- Plate 1a. Post-excavation photograph of a root bole
- Plate 1b. Pre-excavation photograph of a root bole
- Plate 1b. Post-excavation photograph of a root bole
- Plate 2. Trial Trench 2: facing northwest
- Plate 3. Trial Trench 3: facing southeast
- Plate 4. Trial Trench 4: facing southeast
- Plate 4a. Pre-excavation photograph of a root bole
- Plate 4b. Post-excavation photograph of a root bole
- Plate 5. Trial Trench 5: facing southeast



Plate 1. Trial Trench 1: facing north-northwest



Plate 1a. Pre-excitation photograph of
a root bole



Plate 1a. Post-excitation photograph of
a root bole



Plate 1b. Pre-excitation photograph of
a root bole



Plate 1b. Post-excitation photograph of
a root bole



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Plate 2. Trial Trench 2: facing northwest



Plate 3. Trial Trench 3: facing southeast



Plate 4. Trial Trench 4: facing southeast



Plate 4a. Pre-excavation photograph of a root
bole



Plate 4b. Post-excavation photograph of a root
bole



Plate 5. Trial Trench 5: facing southeast



Appendix 13: Trial Trench summary tables

Summary of results from Trial Trench 1

Table 1: Summary of results from Trial Trench 1

Trial Trench 1	Plate 1
Ground Level (m OD): 138.85m	Level of Natural (m OD): 138.31m – 138.20m
Average depth at eastern end: 0.50m	Average depth at western end: 0.34m
Length: 10m	Width: 1.5m

Deposits	Context No.	Average Depth (m)
Topsoil – dark brown sandy clay, freq. small stones	(101)	0.21-35m
Subsoil - crumbly mottled dark brown sandy clay, freq. small stones	(102)	0.13-15m
Varied natural - friable dark grey-brown clay-sand, small stones	(103)	

Summary of results from Trial Trench 2

Table 2: Summary of results from Trial Trench 2

Trial Trench 2	Plate 2
Ground Level (m OD): 138.64m	Level of Natural (m OD): 138.09m
Average depth at eastern end: 0.50m	Average depth at western end: 0.60m
Length: 10m	Width: 1.5m

Deposits	Context No.	Average Depth (m)
Made ground – compacted small stone/shingle and soil	(201)	0.10-15m
Topsoil – light brown sandy-clay	(202)	0. 10-15m
Made ground - loose mixture of stone, brick and soil and a seam of aerated concrete block priority brand thermalite	(203)	0.35-45m
Natural – orange brown sandy-clay with freq. chalk patches	(204)	



Summary of results from Trial Trench 3

Table 3: Summary of results from Trial Trench 3

Trial Trench	3	Plate	3
Ground Level (m OD):	138.03m	Level of Natural (m OD):	137.66m
Average depth at eastern end -	0.35m	Average depth at western end -	0.37m
Length:	10.10m	Width:	1.5m
Deposit		Context No.	Average Depth (m)
Topsoil – dark grey sandy clay with small stones		(301)	0.16-17m
Subsoil – mottled light orange-brown clay-sand with small stones		(302)	0.18-19m
Natural – firm mottled orange brown silty clay, freq. pebbles		(303)	

Summary of results from Trial Trench 4

Table 4: Summary of results from Trial Trench 4

Trial Trench	4	Plate	4
Ground Level (m OD):	137.83m	Level of Natural (m OD):	137.57m
Average depth at eastern end -	0.26m	Average depth at western end -	0.34m
Length:	10.2m	Width:	1.5m
Deposit		Context No.	Average Depth (m)
topsoil – dark brown sandy clay with small stones		(401)	0.14-16m
subsoil – mottled light orange-brown sandy-clay		(402)	0.16m
Natural – light mottled orange-brown with infreq. small stone inclusions		(403)	



Summary of results from Trial Trench 5

Table 5: Summary of results from Trial Trench 5

Trial Trench 5

Ground Level (m OD): 138.50m – 139.00m.
Average depth at eastern end: 0.66m - 0.45m
Length: 9.80m

Plate 5

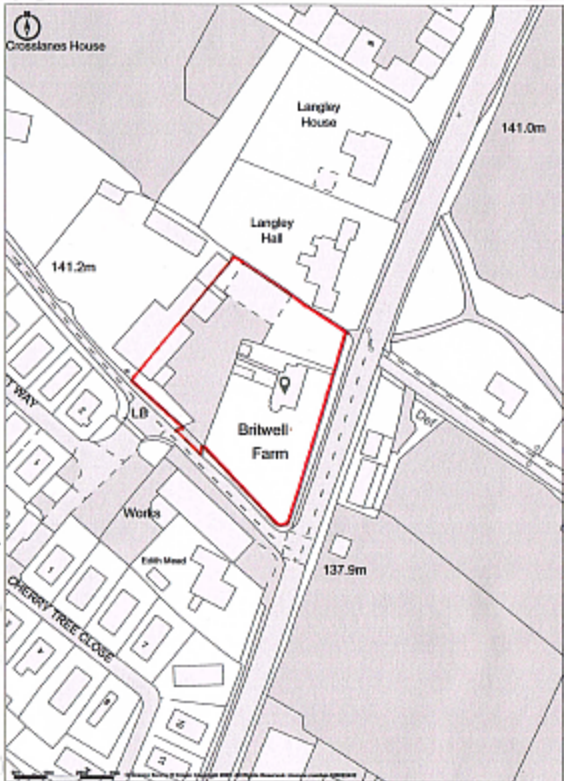
Level of Natural (m OD): 138.05m - 138.72m
Average depth at western end: 0.40m - 0.28m
Width: 1.5m

Deposit

Made ground - loose mixture of shale and soil
Made ground - brick, small stones and soil
Natural

Context

No.	Average Depth (m)	
	W End	E End
(501)	0.05m	0.10m
(502)	0.23-35m	0.35-56m
(503)		



1:1250

Location Map

PROJECT Development at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Berkshire RG20 8RU

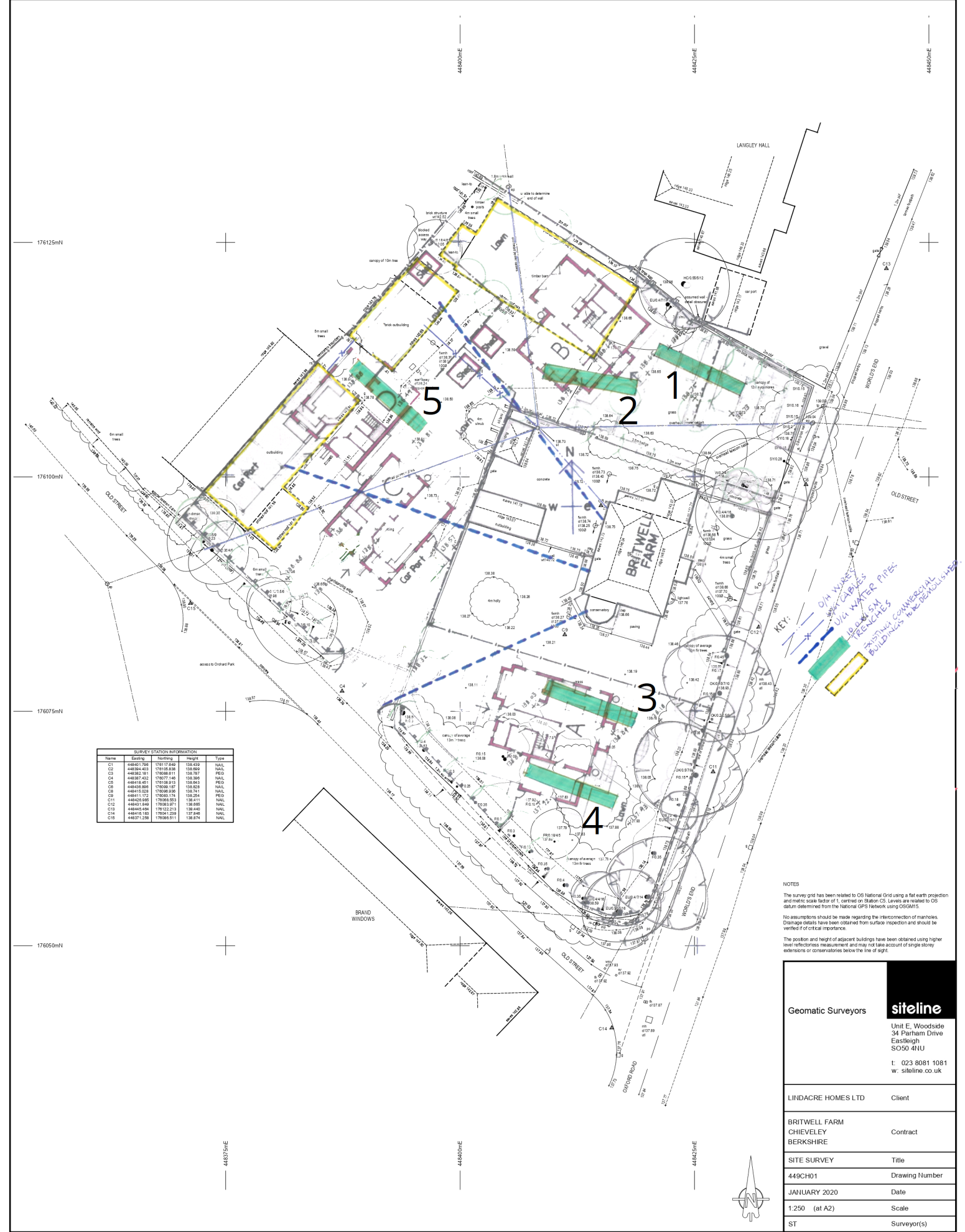
DRAWING Location Map & Block Plan

A3 SCALE As Shown **DATE** February 2020

DRG.NO. 1119 / 01 **REV.**

STEPHEN P SMITH DA (Manc), Dip Arch (Hons)

2 St. John's Cottages, Ennesgate Lane, Silversdale, Camforth, Lancs. LA5 6UN



SURVEY STATION INFORMATION				
Name	Easting	Northing	Height	Type
C1	448403.706	176117.650	138.430	NAIL
C2	448394.403	176116.838	138.800	NAIL
C3	448392.381	176088.611	138.787	PEGS
C4	448387.432	176077.140	138.305	NAIL
C5	448418.951	176108.613	138.862	PEGS
C6	448428.880	176068.187	138.828	NAIL
C8	448410.028	176066.936	138.741	NAIL
C9	448411.172	176051.151	138.564	PEGS
C11	448426.885	176038.953	139.111	NAIL
C12	448421.680	176031.271	139.095	NAIL
C13	448440.494	176122.213	139.440	NAIL
C14	448416.182	176041.239	137.860	NAIL
C15	448371.298	176068.011	138.874	NAIL

NOTES

The survey grid has been related to OS National Grid using a flat earth projection and metric scale factor of 1, centred on Station C2. Levels are related to OS datum determined from the National GPS Network using COSMOS.

No assumptions should be made regarding the interconnection of manholes. Drainage details have been obtained from surface inspection and should be verified if of critical importance.

The position and height of adjacent buildings have been obtained using higher level reflectorless measurement and may not take account of single-storey extensions or conservatories below the line of sight.

Geomatic Surveyors 	
Unit E, Woodside 34 Farham Drive Eastleigh SO50 4NU t: 023 8081 1081 w: siteline.co.uk	
LINDACRE HOMES LTD	Client
BRITWELL FARM CHIEVELEY BERKSHIRE	Contract
SITE SURVEY	Title
449CH01	Drawing Number
JANUARY 2020	Date
1:250 (at A2)	Scale
ST	Surveyor(s)



Archway Heritage

**Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation
(WSI)**

at

**Britwell Farm,
Oxford Road,
Chieveley:**

AH_209-BF-C_WSI.rtf

for

Lindacre Homes Limited



Archway Heritage

Written Scheme of Investigation
Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley

Report Reference: AH_209-BF-C_WSI.docx



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Version	Date Produced	Author	Checked
Draft v1	17/08/20	Mary Neale MCIfA	Mike Lang Hall
Final	19/08/20	Mary Neale MCIfA	Paul Halfacree

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Figure 1: Trench location plan based on Drawing 119/01 Rev C



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

1.1.1 This document sets out details of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation trenching investigation on land at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Newbury RG20 8RU; National Grid Reference SU 48397 76103 in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation trenching investigation issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). No brief has been issued and this document is based upon a response and discussions held between Ms Mary Neale, Senior Heritage Consultant at Archway Heritage and Ms Sarah Orr, Senior Archaeologist (Planning and Management Advice) at West Berkshire Archaeology Service.

1.2 STANDARDS

1.2.1 The document has been written by Mary Neale. Mary is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice will be adhered to throughout the course of the project.

1.2.2 The evaluation trenching will be undertaken as per an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), in accordance with good professional practice. This WSI conforms to the principles of NPPF (2019) and with the specification set out in MoRPHE (Historic England 2015).

2. PLANNING DETAILS

2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 In accordance with the NPPF (2019), Ms Sarah Orr, has advised that an archaeological evaluation trenching investigation be undertaken on land at the Site in order to record and report any archaeology findings in accordance with condition 7 of the planning permission granted (20/00845/FUL and 20/01491/TDC). The 'Site' is located at the crossroads between Oxford Road and Old Street within the settlement of World's End, which is north of Chieveley and Newbury (see Drawing 119/01 Rev C). It is approximately 0.21 ha in extent, which excludes the existing house, and is approximately 138 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

2.2 PLANNING PERMISSION

2.2.1 Planning Permission has been granted for residential Development of four dwellings at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Newbury RG20 8RU, which is the 'Site' (see Drawing 119/01 Rev C). Condition 7 of that Planning Permission (20/01491/TDC) requires the approval of a WSI prior to works beginning on the Site, which identifies two stages of work. Stage I is an initial trial trench evaluation



investigation and, if archaeological finds or features of significance are identified by that initial investigation, then Stage II works will be required, which is likely to be an open area excavation. Stage 1 requires 'the programme and methodology of site evaluation and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works'. This WSI sets out the methodology by which this evaluation trenching is to be undertaken.

2.3 GEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.3.1 The site is located within an area of chalk bedrock and a thin band of superficial deposits, which is a mix of clay, silt, sand and gravel (Geology of Britain Viewer). There are notations on the 1882 Ordnance Survey maps for clay, chalk and a brick and tile works at Beeton Hill and occasional chalk and gravel pits in the wider area.
- 2.3.2 A Desk-based Assessment (DBA) was produced to assess the archaeological potential on the Site, as far as possible within the constraints of pre-recorded evidence. The existence of undiscovered Prehistoric and Roman activities along Old Street and Oxford Road would be anticipated because both routes lead to the Ridge Way, which was an important route. However, localised disturbance in the area of previous and current footprints would impact on any finds or features unless deep and substantial. Therefore, the level of potential is unknown.
- 2.3.3 Evidence suggests that the Site was part of an open field system during Medieval times, though early enclosure may have resulted in some field boundaries. Based on this, the potential for Medieval evidence is low; however, new Medieval discoveries cannot be discounted, given the existence of Long Lane.
- 2.3.4 The location of a farmhouse to the southwest of the existing as shown on John Rocque's map may simply be due to the fact that the map was schematically drawn. However, Ordnance Survey map regression suggests that there is potential for the survival of foundations of earlier out buildings, as shown on Figure 8 of the DBA (Archway Heritage 2020). Depending on the level of retention of those building foundations, there may be an opportunity to respond to the last research priority listed in the HECZ.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION TRENCHING

3.1 AIMS

- 3.1.1 By undertaking evaluation trenching any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and will add to the knowledge of development of land use within this area and thus provide a public benefit. The aim of the evaluation trenching is to identify and, where archaeological remains are present, to gather data from the recording of archaeological deposits and report on the results, having adhered to the monitoring requirements of West Berkshire Archaeology Service.



3.2 OBJECTIVES

3.2.1 These aims will be achieved through the following specific objectives:

- to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on Site, to assess their nature and significance;
- to determine the date, attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence, to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples and to determine the potential for palaeo-environmental, geo-archaeological and economic evidence where appropriate;
- to assess the associations and implications of remains encountered with reference to the known history of the building and, where appropriate, with reference to the local Prehistoric and historic landscape;
- to interpret the implications of the findings with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity, where possible; and
- to assess whether the historic buildings in the zone contain any information about Post-medieval and modern changes to land use and agricultural systems.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

4.1.1 The trench locations may need to be moved once a CAT scan has been completed (see Figure 1) and trenching is calculated on the basis of 7 trenches that are 10m long by 1.5m wide, which is 5% of the Site. However, a minimum of 4 has been agreed with Ms Orr should any difficulties arise in excavating 7 trenches. An allowance needs be made for additional trenching to clarify the character or extent of particular features. An additional 6m of trench is proposed for this contingency trenching allowance.

4.1.2 The evaluation trenching will consist of direct supervision by the nominated archaeologist by the mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket, during the excavation of the trenches – no other mechanical excavation should be undertaken until the archaeological resource has been assessed. The archaeologist must have the authority to halt any earth moving activity if necessary to define and record areas of archaeological interest. When determining the depth to which machine excavation can be carried out, the excavation of a sondage at one end of the first trench, where archaeological deposits are noted as absent, is agreeable. All topsoil or recent overburden should be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive, level spits. This method will be discussed and agreed with the driver of the excavating machine. Machining of



archaeological deposits can on occasion be justified in agreement with Ms Orr.

- 4.1.3 The first significant archaeological horizon may be cleaned using the machine, but must be subsequently cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological features. Archaeological mitigation will be required where archaeological deposits are encountered that cannot, under the current permission, be preserved *in-situ*. In the event that highly significant remains are discovered, work will cease, the deposits protected and this area of the Site secured or, if that is not practical, be excavated and recorded as soon as possible. The Site Supervisor will notify West Berkshire Archaeology Service in order that an assessment of the remains and suitable provision for their recording or preservation may be agreed as part of Stage II works, in consultation with Lindacre Homes Limited.
- 4.1.4 Where features can be mitigated and need to be recorded to gain an understanding and report on the findings as part of Stage I works, sections will be cleaned in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. To record the results of the evaluation trenching a full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all archaeological deposits encountered in accordance with sections 6 - 8 of this WSI.
- 4.1.5 All archaeological deposits and features that would be impacted by the groundworks will be subjected to appropriate levels of investigation with the intention of producing a representative cross-section of the deposits suitable for Stage 1 as set out in Condition 7 of the planning permission. Decisions about the significance of archaeological deposits will be made in consultation with West Berkshire Archaeology Service. The sampling strategy will consist of:
- 20% sample through all linear features at intervals, including investigation of all intersections and terminals;
 - 50% sample of all non-linear features; and
 - all spoil heaps will be examined for finds.
- 4.1.6 Human remains will be protected *in-situ* and reported to the appropriate authorities. If removal is necessary, this process will comply with Ministry of Justice regulations and current archaeological best-practice.
- 4.1.7 Where agreed with Ms Orr as part of Stage 1 works, an appropriate scale of sampling of well-preserved contexts will be subjected to environmental sampling in accordance with the Centre for Archaeology Guidelines Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recording to post-excavation (Historic England 2011). Decisions regarding which contexts are suitable for environmental sampling will be made on Site, in consultation with West Berkshire Archaeology Service and, if appropriate, the Historic England Science Advisor.
- 4.1.8 All artefactual and ecofactual remains will be collected, bagged and labelled.



Artefacts will be subject to preliminary study at the Site in order to help date archaeological features and contexts.

4.1.9 The project team will adhere to the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996.

5. PROJECT TEAM

5.1 SITE SUPERVISOR

5.1.1 The Site Supervisor, Mary Neale, will be present in person at the Site, as appropriate, and may be assisted by additional staff, as required. The project will be directed by Mary Neale MCIfA who has experience of performing, monitoring and managing field work projects of different periods throughout Britain and Ireland.

5.2 SPECIALISTS

5.2.1 Specialists to be approached, as appropriate to the findings on Site, are Dr. Clare Randall BA BSc MSc PhD (faunal remains and human bone), Dr. Jane Timby BA PhD FSA MCIfA (pottery) and Dr. Lynne Bevan BA MPhil PhD MCIfA (small finds, glass and metalwork). Should specialist input be required, the additional outlay will be agreed between the specialist and the client.

6. SURVEY CONTROL

6.1.1 Current horizontal and vertical survey details will be used where no archaeological deposits are identified. Where archaeological deposits are identified appropriate horizontal and vertical control survey of the Site will be arranged - horizontal survey control is by means of a coordinate grid, using metric measurements, relative to the National Grid. Vertical survey control will be tied to the Ordnance Survey datum.

7. RECORDING

7.1 DRAWINGS

7.1.1 All archaeological deposits will be planned, with a notation of the spot height, at an appropriate measured scale and cross-referenced to a locational plan recorded at an appropriate scale.

7.1.2 All sections will be recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale, usually 1:20. The height of a datum on the drawing will be calculated and recorded. The locations of cross sections will be recorded on the site plans. Cut features will be recorded in profile and planned at an appropriate scale and their location accurately identified.

7.1.3 All drawn records will be clearly marked with a unique site number, and will be



individually identified. The scale of the plan will be recorded. All drawings will be drawn on dimensionally stable media. All plans will be drawn relative to the site grid and at least two grid references marked on each plan.

7.2 WRITTEN DESCRIPTIONS

7.2.1 Each archaeological context will be recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context will be recorded. Pro forma record sheets will be used throughout. An index will be kept of all record types.

7.3 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

7.3.1 A digital photographic record of excavated features will be compiled. Each excavation context will be recorded photographically prior to removal. All photographs will feature an appropriately sized scale.

7.4 MONITORING

7.4.1 The Site Supervisor will contact West Berkshire Archaeology Service when on Site. An appropriate level of monitoring will be undertaken by West Berkshire Archaeology Service.

7.5 HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.5.1 The evaluation trenching investigation will be undertaken with regard to all relevant Health and Safety Legislation. The Archaeological fieldwork risk assessment and safety statement has been agreed with the client as part of this method statement. Hand washing and welfare facilities will be provided on site by Lindacre Homes Limited for the archaeologist and other site workers.

7.6 INSURANCE

7.6.1 Archway Heritage carries appropriate levels of Professional Indemnity Insurance. Copies of the certificates are available on request.

7.7 TIMETABLING

7.7.1 West Berkshire Archaeology Service will be given a minimum of 7 days notice of commencement of works.

8. POST-EXCAVATION AND ARCHIVING

8.1 PREPARING THE ARCHIVE

8.1.1 An indexed and internally consistent archive will be prepared in accordance with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015) and a digital management plan is in place that is adopted from and closely follows the Archaeological Resources in Cultural Heritage:



a European Standard. Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the finds and the site archive with West Berkshire Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork and deposition will take place within 12 months from the completion of site work, where appropriate. West Berkshire Museum have been notified.

- 8.1.2 Copies of the report, in digital format (PDF), will be supplied to Lindacre Homes Limited and West Berkshire Historic Environment Record. An additional copy will be deposited with the archive, if appropriate. The report will become a public document after a period not exceeding six months.
- 8.1.3 An OASIS / ADS record will also be completed and a PDF report submitted on completion of the project. Should the evidence retrieved warrant deposition of detailed drawings, photographs and other digital material, this will be agreed with Ms Orr and Lindacre Homes Limited and additional third party fees will be agreed with Lindacre Homes Limited. The ADS-easy system is likely to be suitable, which would cost £200 - £300.

8.2 POST-EXCAVATION WORK

- 8.2.1 A report will be prepared once site works are completed. This will include a full written description and interpretation of the results, including specialist reports, if appropriate. The report will contain a front sheet in compliance with OASIS requirements. All recording, cleaning and conservation of finds will comply with ClfA Guidelines.
- 8.2.2 The report will be illustrated with drawings to an appropriate scale showing plans and sections of archaeological deposits. The report will be produced within two weeks of completion of fieldwork unless delayed by circumstances beyond the control of Archway Heritage. If delays are significant (12 months or more) then an interim report will be provided.

9. REFERENCES

Archway Heritage 2020. Desk based Assessment to assess the effects of the Proposed Development at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Newbury RG20 8RU for Lindacre Homes Limited, which can be viewed online - <http://planning.westberks.gov.uk/rpp/index.asp?caseref=20/01491/TDC>

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation trenching. Online publication - https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfAS%26GFieldevaluation_2.pdf

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2019. *National Planning Policy Framework*. s.l.:s.n

Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE). Online publication - <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/HEAG024-MoRPHE-Managers-Guide.pdf/>



APPENDICES:

GLOSSARY 1	GENERAL TERMS
GLOSSARY 2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERIODS

Glossary 1: General terms

For the avoidance of confusion, the terms used in this report follow the definitions given below:

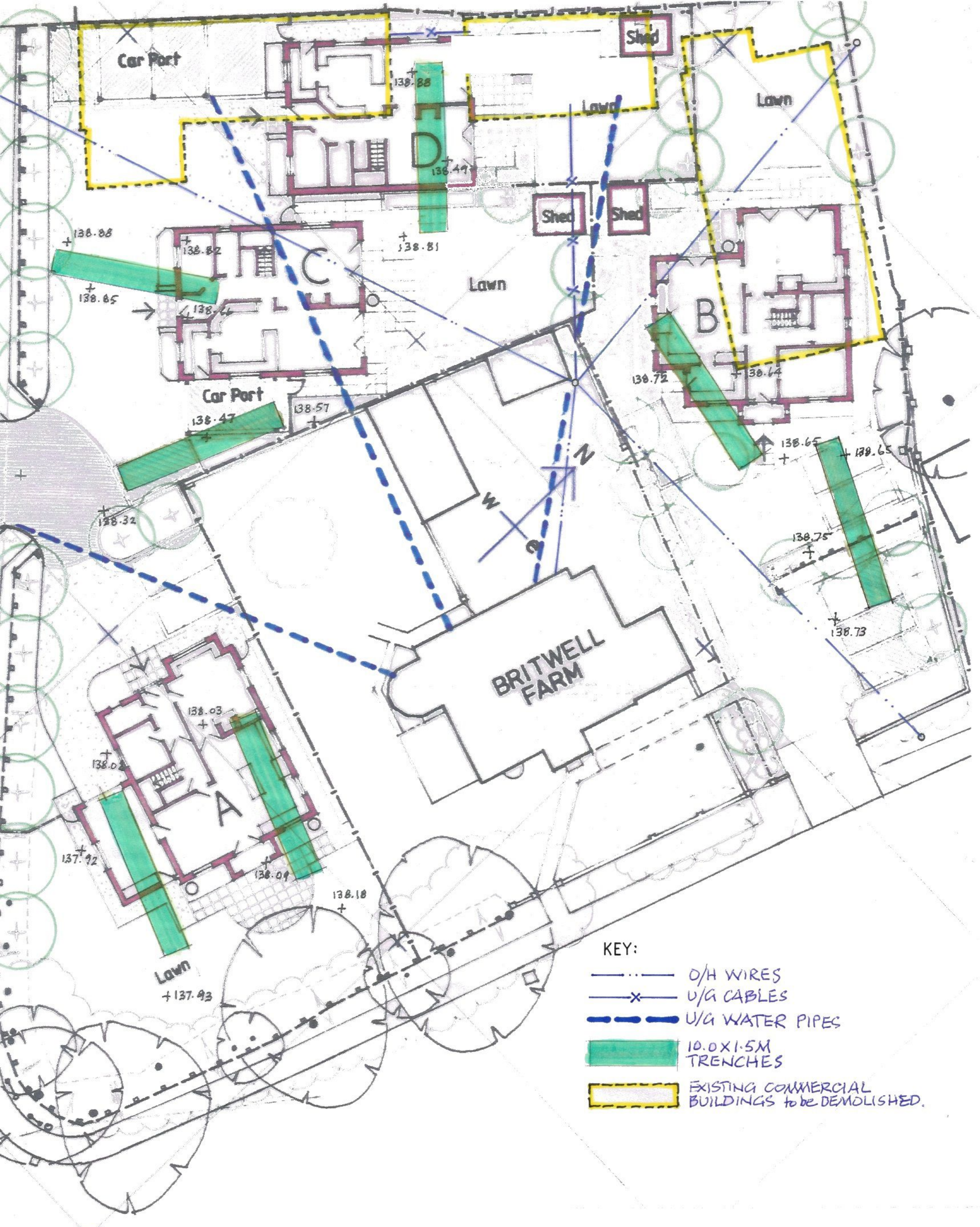
Alluvial Deposit	Soil deposited by running water
AMS	Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, an absolute dating technique that measures the amount of carbon-14 in an organic object
B.P.	Before Present is defined as the year 1950, used instead of B.C.
CBM	Ceramic building material
Context	The position and associations of an artefact, ecofact, feature or archaeological find in space and time, assisting with determining chronology and interpreting function and significance
Dendro-chronology	The dating of wood by counting tree rings and comparing against a sample record, to provide an approximate age of the feature or structure to which it belongs
Ecofact	Archaeological finds not manufactured by humans including bones and vegetal remains that inform past diet or environments
Feature	Any non-portable physical structure or element that was made or altered by humans including a wall, post hole, pit or floor
<i>in situ</i>	Anything in its natural or original position or place, also referred to as 'primary context'
LOE	Limit of excavation
Natural	Undisturbed natural geology
NGR	National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid
OD	Ordnance datum
Organic	Material derived from or relating to living organisms
Radiocarbon dating	A dating technique used to determine the age of organic materials less than 50,000 years old
Relative dating	A system of dating archaeological remains and strata in relation to each other
Romano-British	Refers to the fusion of cultures, dating between AD 43 and <i>circa</i> AD 410
Secondary context	Context of archaeological material that has been wholly or partially altered by transformation processes after its original deposit








Stratigraphy The study of layers (strata) of sediments, soils and material culture

Glossary 2: Archaeological periods

Prehistoric	The periods from the Ice Ages to Roman occupation in AD 43
Palaeolithic	800,000 years ago - 10,000 BC.
Mesolithic	<i>Circa</i> 10,000 BC – 4,000 BC.
Neolithic	<i>Circa</i> 4000 BC - 2300 BC.
Bronze Age	<i>Circa</i> 2300 BC-700 BC.
Iron Age	<i>Circa</i> 700 BC - AD43
Roman	<i>Circa</i> AD 450
Early Medieval and Saxon	<i>Circa</i> AD450-1066
Medieval	<i>Circa</i> AD 1550
Post-medieval	<i>Circa</i> AD 1550 to 1900



KEY:

-  O/H WIRES
-  U/G CABLES
-  U/G WATER PIPES
-  10.0 X 1.5M TRENCHES
-  EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED.

PROJECT Development at Britwell Farm, Oxford Road, Chieveley, Berkshire RG20 8RU
 DRAWING **TRENCHES**
 A3 SCALE 1:200 DATE August 2020
 DRG.NO. 1119/TR1 REV. **A**
 STEPHEN P SMITH DA (Manc), Dip Arch (Hons)
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