

Poyle Place, Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire, Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

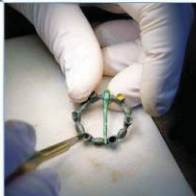
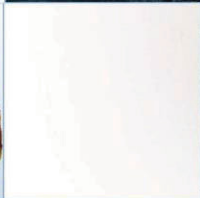
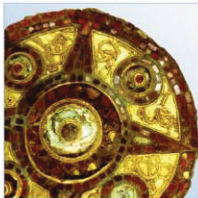
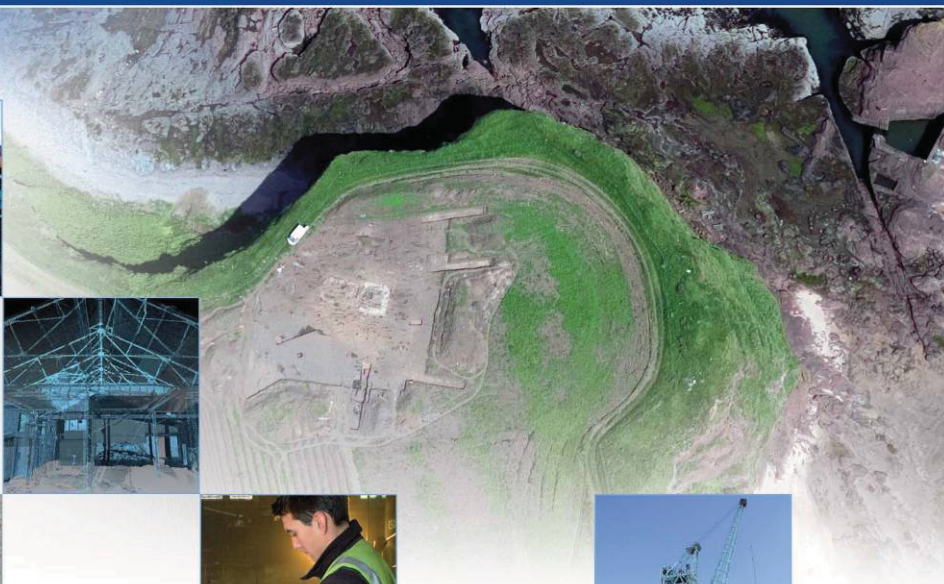
Planning Application Number: P/10755/003

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 0329 7548

Site Code: HOD12

AOC Project No: 32189

Date: July 2012



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Poyle Place, Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	HESL Ltd Building 209 Epsom Sq Eastern Business Park London Heathrow Airport Hounslow Middlesex TW6 2BJ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 0329 7548
AOC Project No:	32176
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the 1st and 20th June 2012 at the site of Poyle Place, Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire. The work was undertaken on behalf of HESL Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the potential for any in situ subsoil present on site and to assess the potential impact of the development on any surviving deposits. The watching brief was carried out on an area of the site not evaluated.

The evaluation comprised of eight test pits measuring 2.00m x 1.60m. The natural horizon was recorded in five of the test pits with a possible alluvial deposit within two test pits. Two further test pits contained reinforced concrete indicating the presence of previous structures on site. All excavation contained a sequence of made ground indicating previous landscaping of the site. No subsoil was observed on site. The watching brief also uncovered made ground below the modern surface horizon

Due to the lack of significant archaeological remains and the probable truncation of deposits on site, no further archaeological work is recommended.

The site archive will be deposited with Reading Museum and Art Gallery with a paper copy of the evaluation report will be issued to the Berkshire HER. An electronic copy of the evaluation report will also be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the findings of an archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken at the proposed development at Poyle Place, Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire (Figure 1). The two phases of investigation took place on the 1st and 20th June 2012. The evaluation comprised of the excavation of eight test pits measuring 2m x 1.60m. All works were undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists.
- 1.2 The development site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 0329 7548 and lies to the west of Heathrow Airport, on the edge of the western suburbs of Bracknell, approximately 6.5km south-west of Slough town centre. The site is roughly triangular in shape and bounded by Horton Road to the north, Wraysbury River to the east and a private road giving access to Wraysbury Reservoir to the west. The site has an area of c. 4.8ha (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The proposed development comprises the creation of a new access point and area of hardstanding, works to a coach driver welfare compound and the construction of anchor points for a marquee.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Slough Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the Council is provided by Mary Neale, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology.
- 2.2 The development comprises the construction of a coach driver welfare compound, the construction of anchor points for a marquee, the creation of a new entrance point to the site and a new area of hardstanding.
- 2.3 The works are being conducted in response to the submission of a planning application (Application No. P/10755/003). Planning permission states that a staged programme of archaeological work must be undertaken.

The recommended condition states:

Prior to the start of each phase of work, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work). Each phase will require adherence to stages A, B and C as follows-

A) No development shall commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of the significance of the archaeology and related research questions; and:

The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording

The programme for post investigation assessment

Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording

Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation

Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.

B) No development shall take place other than 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:

To ensure that any archaeological remains within the site are adequately investigated and recorded or preserved in situ in the interest of protecting the archaeological heritage of the borough.

- 2.4 The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2012). The WSI was approved by the Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology prior to the commencement of works.
- 2.5 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.

3. Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The Geological Survey of England and Wales indicates that the local geology comprises London Clay Formation overlain with Shepperton Gravel (BGS 2012).
- 3.2 The site (4.8ha) is located on a largely flat parcel of ground occupying the western bank of the Wraysbury River. The majority of the site is given over to hardstanding, although the western part of the site (1.2ha) is currently covered in rough scrub. The site lies at an approximate height of 20m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The following background information is partially paraphrased from a desk-based assessment undertaken for a development 400m north of the site in 1997 (AOC 1997).

Palaeolithic

- 4.1 Among the earliest traces of human activity in Britain are the flint tools, characteristically heavy hand-axes, found within the glacial gravels of the Thames Valley. The most productive of the terraces for traces of Lower Palaeolithic occupation (2,000,000-70,000 BC) are the Lynch Hill Gravels, which occur well to the north of Poyle in this area. Large-scale gravel extraction around West Drayton and Yiewsley has resulted in one of the greatest concentrations of discoveries of artefacts of this period in the London area. The Taplow Terrace, the southern edge of which runs to the north of the site, does contain a smaller number of Palaeolithic artefacts, but they generally show clear signs of having been rolled and redeposited; it may be that they were simply washed down from the Lynch Hill terrace by the action of the river.
- 4.2 Middle Palaeolithic discoveries have again largely been the result of gravel extraction in Yiewsley and West Drayton. In this area, as at Creffield road in Acton, material of this period tends to be situated at the base of 'brickearth', where it overlies the Lynch Hill gravel. Late Upper Palaeolithic material has been found within the alluvium in the floodplain of the River Colne where it overlies the brickearth. The most important site of this type is Three Ways Wharf in Uxbridge to the north, situated some 75m to the east of the modern course of the Colne. The Colney Street Gravels at Colnebrook, to the north-west of the site, have been dated to about the same period.

Mesolithic and Neolithic

- 4.3 There have been very few finds of Mesolithic date in the immediate vicinity of the site. The known sites at present are limited to two stray finds on the east bank of the River Colne. Further afield, the

alluvium at Three Ways Wharf in Uxbridge produced evidence for continued occupation in the early Mesolithic period. It may well be, given the dating evidence from Colnebrook, that the alluvium that has been observed along the courses of the Wraysbury and the Colne and is likely to have continued in the area of the current site, dates to a similar period.

- 4.4 In the Neolithic the evidence of significant human occupation in the vicinity of Poyle becomes clear. Much of the evidence for this period, as well as for the subsequent Bronze, Iron Age and Romano-British periods, comprises aerial photographic observations that require confirmation by fieldwork, particularly in the area of Poyle. To the east, around Heathrow, as a result of the ongoing large-scale development of the airport facilities, a series of archaeological excavations and evaluations have largely confirmed the archaeological significance of similar cropmarks. Causewayed enclosures, such as that excavated at Yeoveney Lodge, Staines, to the south, and that at Mayfield Farm, beyond Stanwell to the east, are thought to date to the Middle Neolithic period. Closer to Poyle, a double ring-ditch has been excavated at Horton, two kilometres to the west, which saw a number of successive phases of activity, dating from the Middle to Late Neolithic, and, as result of the waterlogged conditions prevailing in this low-lying area, produced well-preserved wooden bowls.
- 4.5 It now seems clear that this section of the Colne Valley, and particularly its eastern flank comprised an important ritual centre in the prehistoric period. The key feature in this 'landscape' is the Stanwell Cursus, two parallel ditches running from Stanwell to the north-north-west for some two kilometres. At its nearest point, this runs c. 1.3 kilometres to the east of Poyle Place. At approximately this point, in the area of Burrows Hill, a recent evaluation has shown it to cut through a ring-ditch. A series of aerial photographic features observed to the east, south-west and north of Poyle may incorporate elements of Neolithic occupation evidence, but it is impossible to judge without further assessment. However, the example of the Horton ring-ditch indicates that Neolithic activity did extend into these lower sections of the Colne Valley.

Bronze Age and Iron Age

- 4.6 Ring-ditches, the precise purpose of which remains unclear but which are often associated with human burial, are as characteristic of the Early Bronze Age as the Neolithic period, and it may well be that a number of the cropmarks of this type observed to the east, around Stanwell and Bedfont, date to this period. It is noticeable, however, that this type of cropmark is not so prevalent around Poyle as in these areas. There has also been widespread evidence of Middle and Late Bronze Age activity to the east as the result of recent work. The nature of this activity seems increasingly to reflect agricultural and domestic activity as opposed to the ritual monuments of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Thus at Stanwell, excavations have revealed the remains of Late Bronze Age huts and fields, while Caesar's Camp, at the north-eastern corner of Heathrow Airport, Iron Age in its main period of occupation, may have been established as a settlement in the Late Bronze Age.
- 4.7 A similar picture of fairly intensive prehistoric rural activity is indicated for the Iron Age, as investigated most completely at Caesar's Camp, where eleven hut-circles were found inside a banked enclosure, which also contained a square post-built structure interpreted as a temple. A number of other sites have produced traces of Iron Age farming in the form of field and property boundaries, including Perry Oaks Sludge Lagoons, just over a kilometre to the east of the site, and at Longford, on the north side of Heathrow's Runway 1. Once again, while it seems likely, on the basis of these and other excavations carried on the eastern side of the Colne Valley, that the cropmarks observed in the immediate vicinity of Poyle include traces of later Bronze Age and Iron Age activity; this remains to be proved by fieldwork.

Romano-British

- 4.8 There were no significant Roman settlements in the area of Poyle during the Roman period. The nearest were at Staines and Brentford, the points at which the road connecting the Roman towns of London and Silchester crossed the Thames. It has been suggested that Uxbridge road may be Roman in origin and that a road ran up the Colne Valley, but such proposals remain speculative and, perhaps, unlikely given the low-lying and often wet terrain. Nevertheless, excavations on the east side of the Colne Valley have indicated that the Iron Age rural economy described above continued in similar vein the Romano-British period. Such occupation, typically with enclosed farmsteads and field systems with ditched boundaries, has been observed to the north of Heathrow, with field systems dating to the second and fourth centuries, and at the Perry Oaks Sludge Works, where Roman-period ditches, enclosures and trackways have been identified during archaeological evaluation work. While no Roman discoveries are recorded in the immediate vicinity of Poyle, the undated cropmarks to the south and north may well include remains of this period. It is quite possible that there were Roman period mills on the watercourses in this section of the Colne Valley.

Early Medieval

- 4.9 The Colne Valley has formed a major political division as far as records go, until recently marking the western edge of Middlesex. It seems likely that it formed the western boundary of the territory of the Middle Saxons in the 5th-6th centuries. There was a Saxon estate at Harmondsworth to the north-east, while nearby Saxon settlements in existence by the time of the Norman Conquest include Stanwell, Harlington, Cranford and Bedfont. Poyle is not mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086), at which time it probably comprised one of two subsidiary estates held by knights from Stanwell Manor.
- 4.10 Until late in the 19th century Poyle remained barely more than the manor house and a mill on the Colne Brook. By the time of the Domesday Book there were already a number of mills within Stanwell and it is quite possible that Poyle mill may have already existed at this date. The area around the site probably remained either uncultivated or in use as pasture at this date.

Medieval

- 4.11 Poyle is first mentioned as an independent estate in the early 13th century. In this early period the manor passed through the hands of number of different owners, resulting in various boundary changes. By the 15th century the estate comprised a house with two hundred acres of arable land, and forty acres of pasture and meadow, although its focus was probably the mill. There is little indication of any significant settlement at Poyle beyond this throughout the medieval period and the site of Poyle Place presumably remained open.

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 4.12 In the 17th and 18th centuries Poyle Manor was reunited with Stanwell Manor, only reverting to independence in the 18th century, by which time it had lost its manorial status, being known from then on as Poyle Farm. Towards the end of the century, it was in the possession of the Bullock family, who continued to lease the house and run the mill after selling the estate to Edmund Hill, a wealthy local landowner and proprietor of a number of gunpowder mills. The present Poyle House (now known as Poyle Lodge), on the north side of the Colne Brook to the west of the former position of Poyle Mill, comprises a two-storey brick house dating back to at least 1700.
- 4.13 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 shows the site of Poyle Place as an open field with a band of trees aligned east-west towards its southern periphery. A smaller parcel of land adjoins its north-eastern corner, to the immediate west of Lintell's Bridge. By 1914, the Ordnance Survey indicates that the field has been further sub-divided with an orchard and linear structure present

towards the north-eastern corner of the site. A number of warehouse-like structures occupy the adjoining parcel of land. This arrangement is maintained until the late 1960s when Wraysbury Reservoir infringes on the western edge of the site. Mapping of the mid-1980s depicts the site in a form similar to its current state.

- 4.14 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken at the site of Poyle Place. A negative evaluation was undertaken in 2006 by Oxford Archaeology to the immediate north of the site in advance of construction of the Poyle Travel Lodge, Horton Road (ADS 2012).

5. Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the investigation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the Local Planning Authority Archaeological Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work.
- 5.2 The specific aim of the test pit evaluation is to:
- 5.3 Establish the depth of the subsoil across the area that will be impacted by the creation of new hardstanding in order to inform a further stage of mitigation work

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The evaluation consisted of archaeological test pitting (archaeological evaluation) followed by a watching brief during the formation of a new access road (Figure 2). The evaluation involved the machine excavation of eight test pits, excavated under archaeological supervision.
- 6.2 The trenches were located as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011), except for TP1 which was relocated northeast of its original position due to the presence of airport containers and TPs 3 and 7 which were moved due to the presence of concrete within the pit.
- 6.3 All machining was carried out using a JCB 3CX with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of the archaeological Project Officer.
- 6.4 The accession code HOD12 was agreed with the Reading Museum and Art Gallery for the project, and was used for all fieldwork.
- 6.5 All evaluation trenches were accurately located to the National Grid and their levels calculated using differential GPS.
- 6.6 All recording was in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Museum of London's *Archaeological Field Manual* (MoL 3rd edition 1994).
- 6.7 All of the work was carried out in line with:

- IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2008a)
- IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008b)
- IfA Code of Conduct (IfA 2010)

- 6.8 A continuous unique numbering system was employed. For the single trench, a block of numbers in a continuous sequence was allocated. In this report the archaeological fills and layers are represented in curved brackets i.e. (), whilst the cut numbers are represented in square brackets i.e. [].
- 6.9 Written descriptions, comprising both factual data and interpretative elements, were recorded on standardised sheets.
- 6.10 The evaluation was conducted by Catherine Edwards, Project Officer under the overall management of Paul Mason, Project Manager. The site was monitored by Mary Neale, of Berkshire Archaeology.

7. Results – Evaluation

Test Pit 1

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
100	0.09m	20.40m – 20.31m	Modern rubble.
101	0.37m	20.31m – 19.94m	Loose rubble, brick, concrete and stone. Made ground.
102	0.21m	19.94m – 19.73m	Dark grey gritty sandy clay with brick and plastic. Made ground.
103	0.34m	19.73m – 19.39m	Dark grey black reburied tarmac and gravel clay. Made ground.
104	0.12m+	19.39m – 19.27m	Grey gravel with frequent brick. Made ground.

- 7.1 Test Pit 1 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the southwestern corner of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).
- 7.2 The lowest deposit in Test Pit 1 was (104), a grey gravel with frequent inclusions of brick interpreted as made ground. Overlying (104), was (103), a 0.34m thick layer of dark grey black re-buried tarmac and gravel clay. This deposit had a strong hydrocarbon odour. Above (103), was a 0.21m thick dark grey gritty sandy clay with inclusions of brick and plastic, (102). Another made ground deposit was recorded overlying (102), this was recorded as (101), a 0.37m thick layer of loose rubble, brick, concrete and stone. Overlying the trench was a 0.09m thick layer of loose modern rubble.
- 7.3 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 1.



Plate 1 – Test Pit 1

Test Pit 2

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
200	0.36m	19.84m – 19.48m	Brown silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, plastic and ceramic pipe fragments. Made ground.
201	0.73m	19.48m – 18.75m	Dense building rubble. Made ground
202	0.34m	18.75m – 18.41m	Dark grey blue sandy gravel clay. Possible alluvial deposit.
203	NFE	18.41m+	Dense sandy gravel. Natural.

- 7.4 Test Pit 2 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the southern western area of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).
- 7.5 The lowest deposit in Test Pit 2 was (203), a dense sandy gravel interpreted as the natural horizon. Overlying the natural was (202), a 0.34m thick layer of dark grey blue sandy gravel clay interpreted as a possible alluvial deposit.
- 7.6 Overlying (202), was (201), a 0.73m thick layer of dense building rubble interpreted as a layer of imported made ground. The test pit was overlaid by (200), a 0.63m thick layer of loose brown silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, plastic and ceramic pipe fragments.
- 7.7 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 2.



Plate 2 – Test Pit 2

Test Pit 3

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
300	0.45m	19.71m – 19.26m	Loose brown silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, plastic and ceramic pipe fragments. Made ground.
301	NFE	19.26m+	Concrete

- 7.8 Test Pit 3 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the southern central area of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).
- 7.9 The excavation of Test Pit 3 was limited due to the presence of a reinforced concrete slab (301), within the base of the trench. An alternative trench location also contained concrete and it was agreed with the archaeological advisor that the test pit would be abandoned.



Plate 3 – Test Pit 3

- 7.10 Overlying the concrete was (300), a 0.45m thick layer of loose brown silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, plastic and ceramic pipe fragments.

7.11 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 3.

Test Pit 4

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
400	0.06m	20.11 – 20.05m	Type 1 and loose brown silt. Made ground and modern surface.
401	0.60m	20.05m – 19.45m	Pale light grey sandy gravel and dark grey sand with inclusions of concrete, brick and glass. Made ground
402	0.32m	19.45m – 19.13m	Dark grey brown sandy silty clay with inclusions of rare brick and tile. Made ground
403	0.10m	19.13m – 19.03m	Mid to light brown silty clay with gravel. Natural horizon.
404	NFE	19.03m+	Dense gravel. Natural horizon.

7.12 Test Pit 4 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the southern area of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).

7.13 The lowest deposit in Test Pit 4 was (404), a dense sandy gravel interpreted as the natural deposit. Overlying this was (403), a 0.10m thick layer of mid to light brown silty clay with gravel interpreted as a secondary natural horizon.

7.14 Overlying (403), was a sequence of two made ground deposits recorded as (402) and (401). The lower deposit (402) was a 0.32m thick layer of dark grey brown sandy silty clay with rare inclusions of brick and tile interpreted as a cleaner made ground. This deposit was overlaid by (401), a 0.60m thick layer of pale light grey sandy gravel and dark grey sand with inclusions of concrete, brick and glass.



Plate 4 – Test Pit 4

7.15 The final deposit recorded overlying the test pit was overlaid by (400), a 0.06m thick layer of loose brown silt and loose Type 1.

7.16 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 4.

Test Pit 5

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
500	0.14m	19.57m – 19.43m	Dark grey black Type 1 and tarmac. Modern surface.
501	0.41m	19.43m – 19.02m	Mid brown sandy silt clay with inclusions of gravel, brick and concrete. Made ground.
502	0.16m	19.02m – 18.86m	Dark brown sandy silt clay with inclusions of gravel and concrete. Made ground.
503	NFE	18.86m+	Light grey dense sandy gravel. Natural horizon.

- 7.17 Test Pit 5 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the eastern limit of the site, (Figures 2 and 4).
- 7.18 The lowest deposit in Test Pit 5 was (503), a dense sandy gravel interpreted as the natural horizon. Overlying the natural was a sequence of two made ground deposits (502) and (501). The lowest deposit (502) was a 0.16m thick layer of dark brown silty clay with inclusions of gravel and concrete whilst deposit (501) was 0.41m thick and composed of mid brown sandy silt clay with inclusions of gravel, brick and concrete.



Plate 5 – Test Pit 5

- 7.19 The uppermost was overlaid by (500), a 0.14m thick layer of tarmac and loose Type 1.
- 7.20 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 5.

Test Pit 6

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
600	0.13m	19.47m – 19.34m	Mid brown clay silt with inclusions of concrete, ceramics and brick. Disturbed topsoil.
601	0.27m	19.34m – 19.07m	Mid brown to mid grey clay silt with inclusions of concrete, brick and metal. Made ground.
602	NFE	19.07m+	Reinforced concrete footing.

- 7.21 Test Pit 6 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the central area of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).
- 7.22 The excavation of Test Pit 6 was limited due to the presence of a reinforced concrete footing (602), within the base of the trench. An alternative trench location also contained concrete and it was agreed with the archaeological advisor that the test pit would be abandoned.



Plate 6 – Test Pit 6

- 7.23 Overlying the concrete was (601), a 0.27m thick layer of mid brown to mid grey clay silt with inclusions of concrete, brick and metal. Overlying the trench was (600), a 0.13m layer of mid brown clay silt with inclusions of concrete, ceramics and brick interpreted as disturbed topsoil.
- 7.24 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 6.

Test Pit 7

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
700	0.15m	19.34m – 19.19m	Mid brown silty clay with natural stone inclusions. Disturbed topsoil.
701	0.33m	19.19m – 18.86m	Mid grey sandy clay with brick and pebbles. Made ground.
702	0.41m	18.86m – 18.45m	Mid grey silty clay. Alluvial deposit.
703	NFE	18.45m+	Light grey sandy grey. Natural horizon.

- 7.25 Test Pit 7 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the northern area of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).

- 7.26 The lowest deposit in Test Pit 7 was (703), a dense grey sandy gravel interpreted as the natural horizon. Overlying the natural was (702), a 0.41m thick layer of mid grey silty clay interpreted as a possible alluvial deposit.



Plate 7 – Test Pit 7

- 7.27 Overlying (702), was (701), a 0.33m thick layer of mid grey sandy clay with inclusions of brick and pebbles interpreted as made ground.
- 7.28 Overlying the trench was (700), a 0.15m layer of mid brown silt clay with inclusions of natural stone interpreted as disturbed topsoil.
- 7.29 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 7.

Test Pit 8

Table of the stratigraphic sequence

Context No	Depth	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description/Interpretation
800	0.12m	19.49m – 19.37m	Dark brown silt with occasional stone. Topsoil.
801	0.36m	19.37m – 19.01m	Dark grey brown clay silt with inclusions of stone, brick, tile and gravel. Made ground.
802	0.16m	19.01m – 18.85m	Brown orange silty clay with gravel. Disturbed brickearth.
803	NFE	18.85m	Light grey gravel and sand. Natural horizon.

- 7.30 Test Pit 8 measured 2m x 1.60m and was located within the northern area of the site, (Figures 2 and 3).
- 7.31 The lowest deposit in Test Pit 8 was (803), a dense grey sandy gravel interpreted as the natural horizon. Overlying the natural was (802), a 0.16m thick layer of brown orange silty clay with gravel inclusions interpreted as disturbed brickearth.



Plate 8 – Test Pit 8

- 7.32 Overlying (802), was (801), a 0.16m thick layer of dark grey brown clay silt with inclusions of stone, brick, tile and gravel interpreted as made ground.
- 7.33 Overlying the trench was (800), a 0.15m layer of mid brown silt clay with inclusions of natural stone interpreted as disturbed topsoil.
- 7.34 No significant finds or archaeological remains were recorded in Test Pit 8.

8 Results – Watching Brief

- 8.1 A watching brief was conducted on site during the construction of a new access road located within the eastern boundary of the site. The excavation was limited in depth to 0.30m below ground level. The excavation uncovered a 0.20m+ thick layer of dark brown silty clay with inclusions of brick, concrete and stone, (901), overlaid by (900), a 0.10m thick layer of brown silt and type 1 interpreted as the modern surface horizon.



Plate 9 – Watching brief

9 Finds

- 9.1 No finds were recovered during the site investigations.

10 Discussion

- 10.1 The archaeological evaluation established the presence of natural deposits on site overlaid by modern made ground deposits. The presence of deep made ground on site and the lack of *in situ* subsoil suggest that the site has been previously landscaped.
- 10.2 The excavation for marquee anchor points in the northeastern part of the site was not undertaken as the original design was replaced with raised blocks lying directly over the existing ground surface.

- 10.3 No archaeological remains were recorded in any of the test pits.

11 Recommendations

- 11.1 Due to the lack of significant archaeological remains on site, it is recommended that no further work is required. The final decision rests with Mary Neale, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology.

12 Publication

- 12.1 A paper copy of the evaluation report will be issued to Mary Neale of Berkshire Archaeology and to the Berkshire HER on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time. A third digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the Berkshire HER.
- 12.2 An OASIS form has also been completed, (Appendix B) and an electronic copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

13 Archive deposition

- 13.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, and digital photographs, will be deposited with Reading Museum.

14 Bibliography

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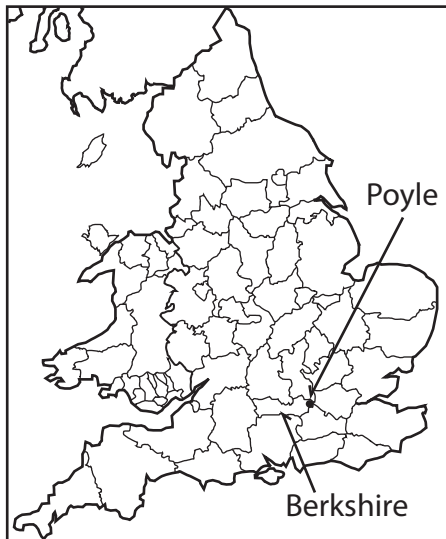
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION REPORT



Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales

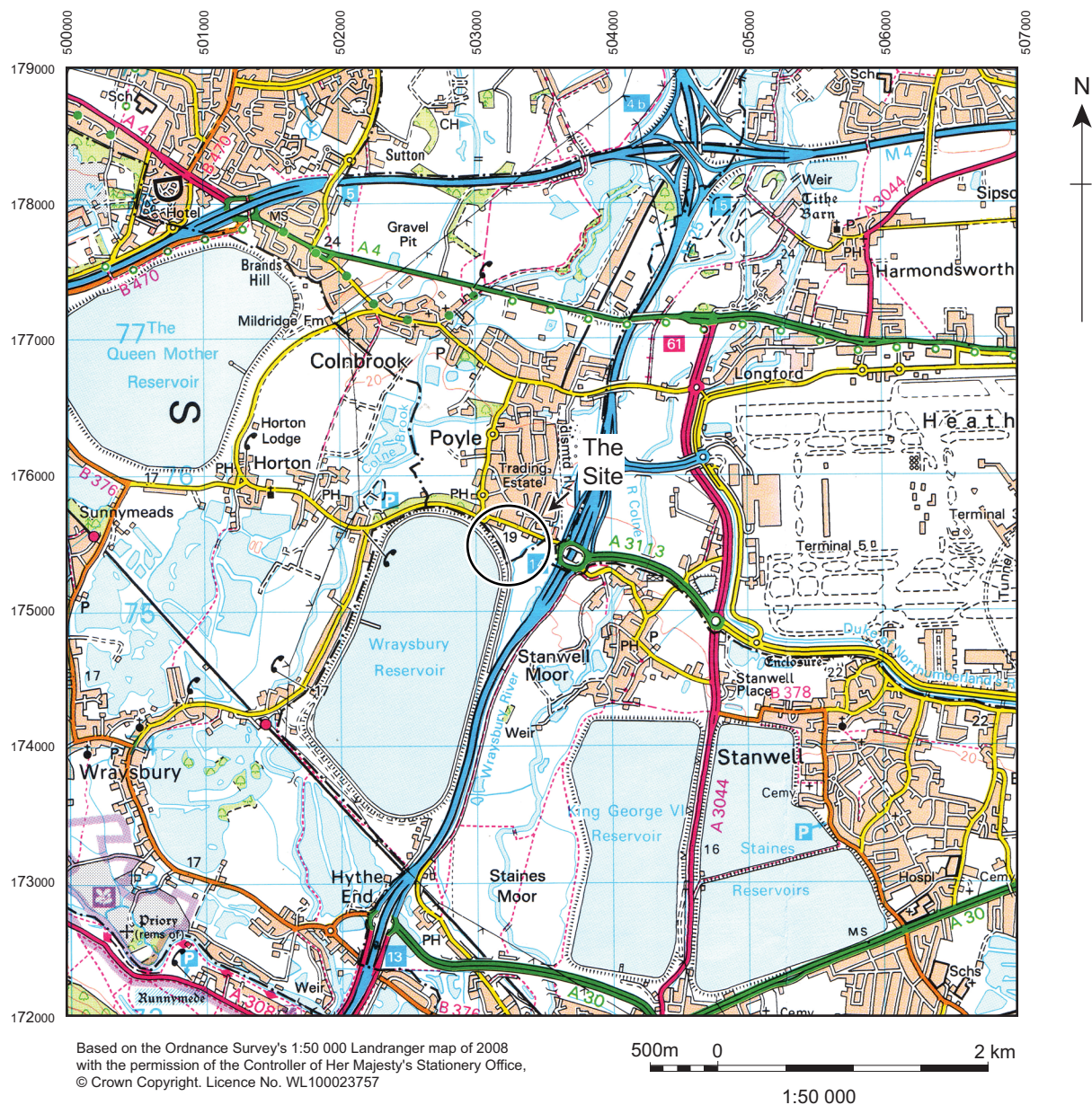


Figure 1: Site Location

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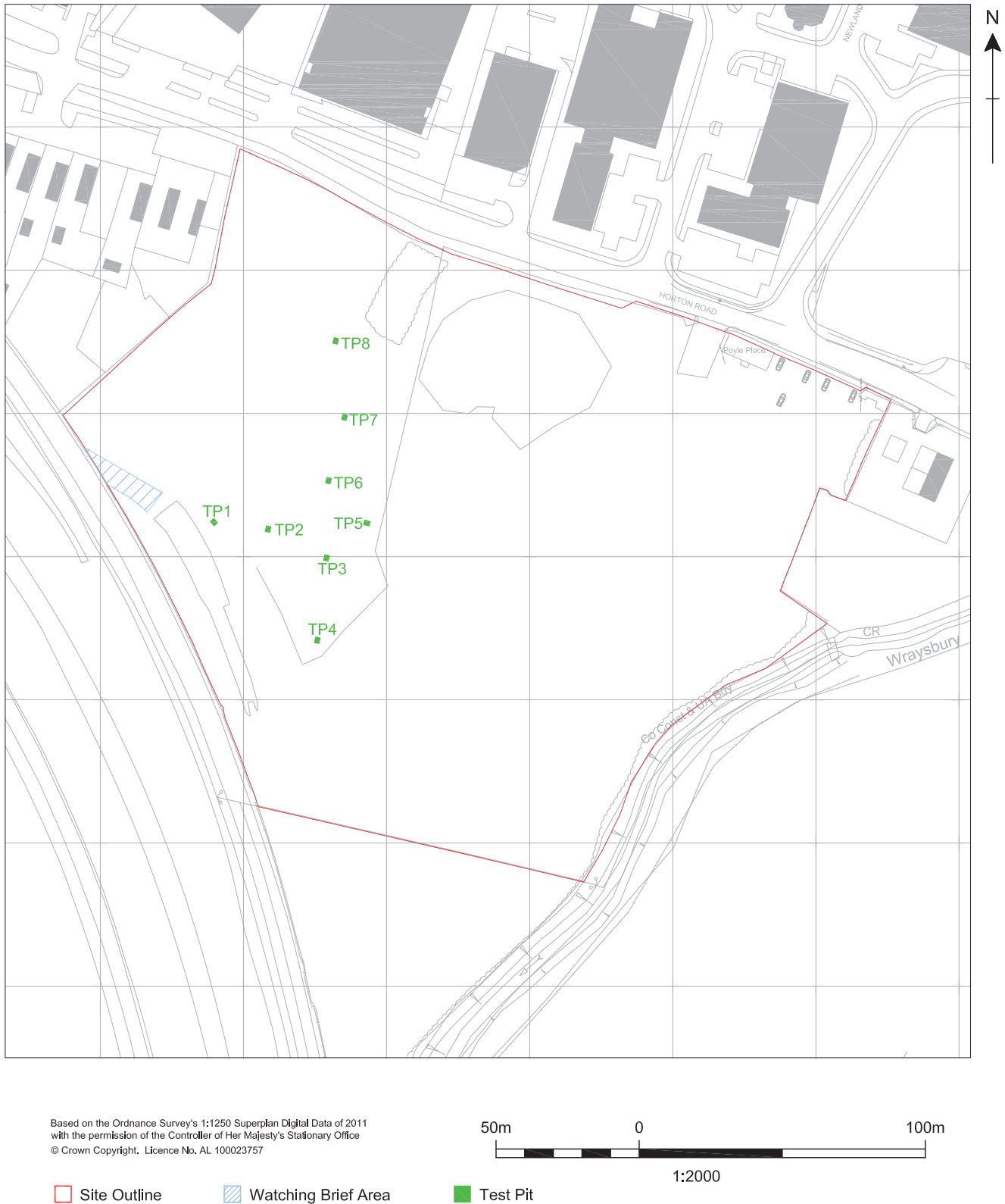


Figure 2: Detailed Site / Test Pit and Watching Brief Location Plan

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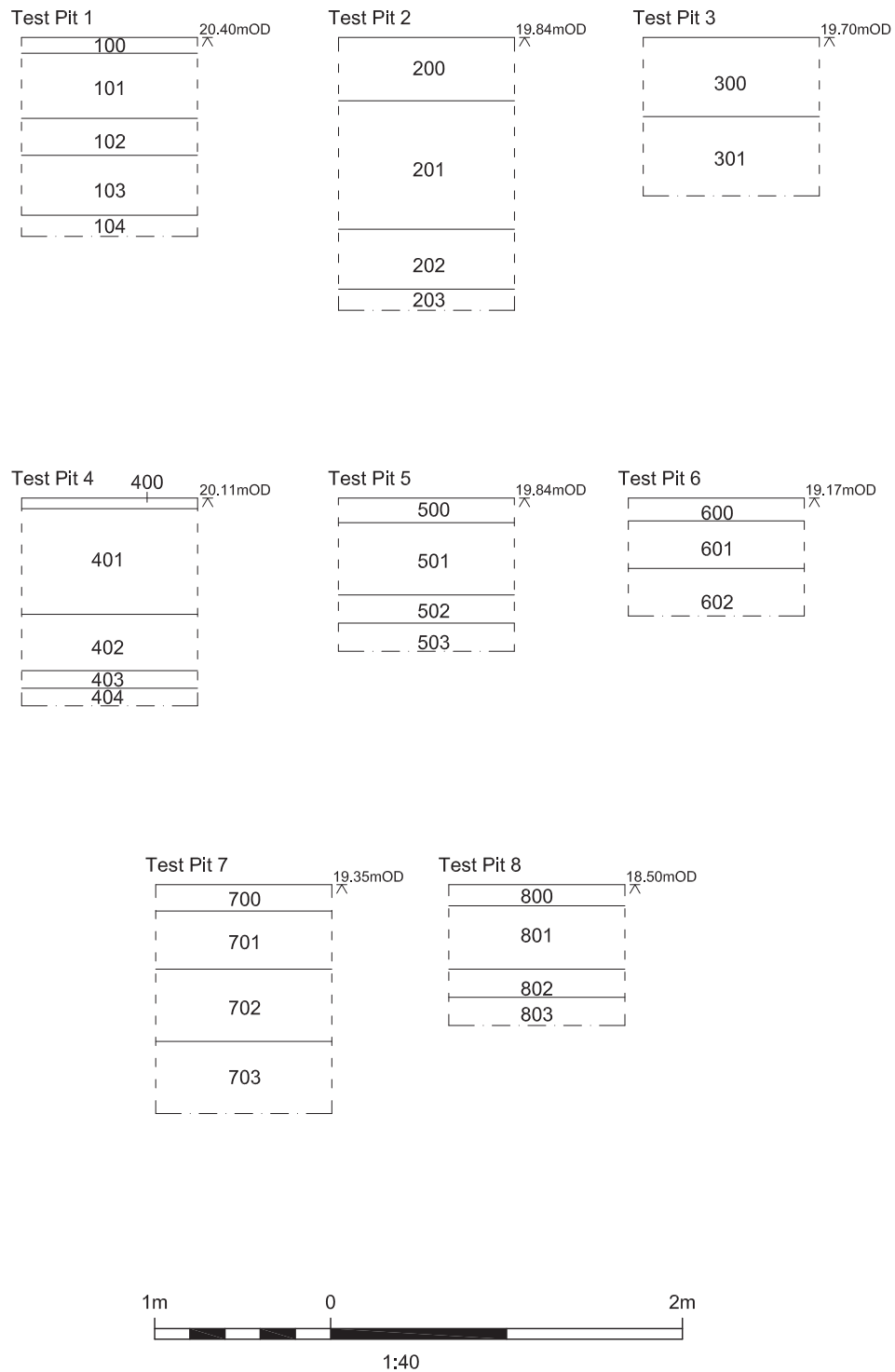


Figure 3: Test Pit Sample Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
100	Modern rubble.			0.09m
101	Loose rubble, brick, concrete and stone. Made ground.			0.37m
102	Dark grey gritty sandy clay with brick and plastic. Made ground.			0.21m
103	Dark grey black reburied tarmac and gravel clay. Made ground.			0.34m
104	Grey gravel with freq brick. Made ground.			0.12m+
200	Brown silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, plastic and ceramic pipe fragments. Made ground.			0.36m
201	Dense building rubble. Made ground			0.73m
202	Dark grey blue sandy gravel clay. Possible alluvial deposit.			0.34m
203	Dense sandy gravel. Natural.			NFE
300	Loose brown silt with inclusions of brick, concrete, plastic and ceramic pipe fragments. Made ground.			0.45m
301	Concrete			NFE
400	Type 1 and loose brown silt. Made ground and modern surface.			0.06m
401	Pale light grey sandy gravel and dark grey sand with inclusions of concrete, brick and glass. Made ground			0.60m
402	Dark grey brown sandy silty clay with inclusions of rare brick and tile. Made ground			0.32m
403	Mid to light brown silty clay with gravel. Natural.			0.10m
404	Dense gravel. Natural.			NFE
500	Dark grey black Type 1 and tarmac. Modern surface.			0.14m
501	Mid brown sandy silt clay with inclusions of gravel, brick and concrete. Made ground.			0.41m

502	Dark brown sandy silt clay with inclusions of gravel and concrete. Made ground.			0.16m
503	Light Grey dense sandy gravel. Natural.			NFE
600	Mid brown clay silt with inclusions of concrete, ceramics and brick. Disturbed topsoil.			0.13m
601	Mid brown to mid grey clay silt with inclusions of concrete, brick and metal. Made ground.			0.27m
602	Reinforced concrete footing.			NFE
700	Mid brown silty clay with natural stone inclusions. Disturbed topsoil.			0.15m
701	Mid grey sandy clay with brick and pebbles. Made ground.			0.33m
702	Mid grey silty clay. Alluvial deposit.			0.41m
703	Light grey sandy grey. Natural.			NFE
800	Dark brown silt with occasional stone. Topsoil.			0.12m
801	Dark grey brown clay silt with inclusions of stone, brick, tile and gravel. Made ground.			0.36m
802	Brown orange silty clay with gravel. Disturbed brickearth.			0.16m
803	Light grey gravel and sand. Natural.			NFE
900	Type 1 and tarmac			0.10m
901	Modern rubble. Made ground			0.20m

Appendix B – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-127264

Project details

Project name Poyle Place, Horton Road

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on the 1st and 20th June 2012 at the site of Poyle Place, Horton Road, Colnbrook, Berkshire. The work was undertaken on behalf of HESL Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the potential for any in situ subsoil present on site and to assess the potential impact of the development on any surviving deposits. The watching brief was carried out on an area of the site not evaluated. The evaluation comprised of eight test pits measuring 2.00m x 1.60m. The natural horizon was recorded in five of the test pits with a possible alluvial deposit within two test pits. Two further test pits contained reinforced concrete indicating the presence of previous structures on site. All excavation contained a sequence of made ground indicating previous landscaping of the site. No subsoil was observed on site. The watching brief also uncovered made ground below the modern surface horizon

Project dates Start: 01-06-2012 End: 20-06-2012

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference HOD12 - Sitecode codes

Any associated project reference 32189 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Methods & "Test Pits"
techniques

Development type Car park (flat)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD COLNBROOK WITH POYLE Poyle Place,Horton Road

Postcode SL3 0

Study area 5.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 0329 7548 51 0 51 28 06 N 000 30 46 W Point

Height OD / Min: 18.00m Max: 19.00m
Depth

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Berkshire Archaeology

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Catherine Edwards

Project supervisor Helen MacQuarrie

Type of
sponsor/funding developer
body

Name of
sponsor/funding HESL Ltd
body

Project archives

Physical Archive To be confirmed
recipient

Digital Archive To be confirmed
recipient

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
available

Paper Archive To be confirmed
recipient

Paper Media "Context
available sheet","Matrices","Microfilm","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished
Text"

Paper Archive
notes no archive recipient at the current time

Project
bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title POYLE PLACE, HORTON ROAD, COLNBROOK, BERKSHIRE. AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C

Date 2012

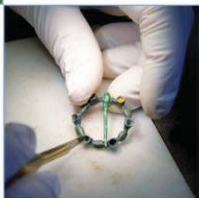
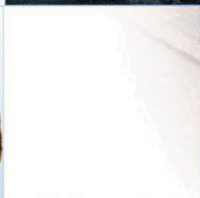
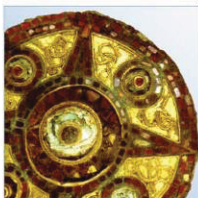
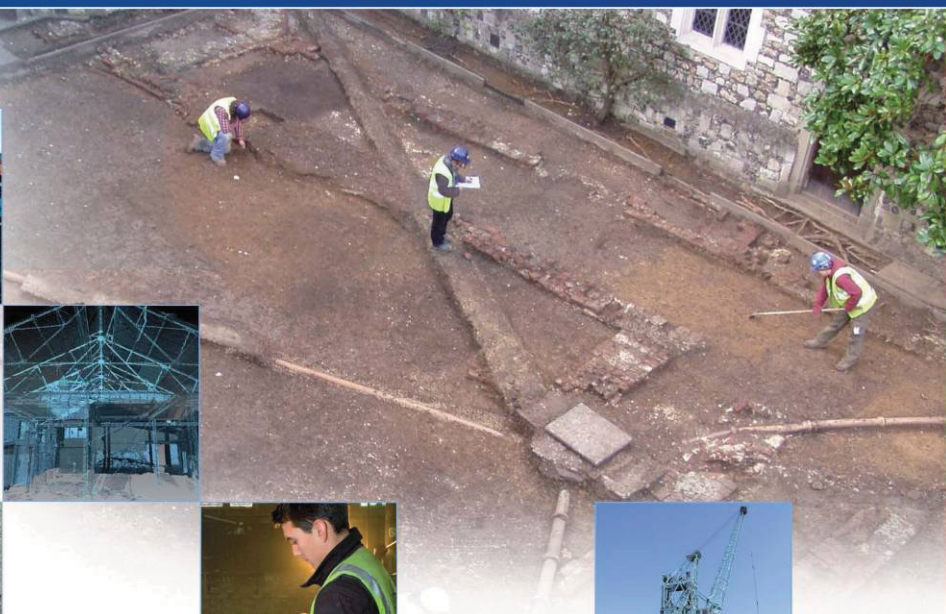
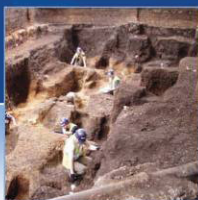
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