

Quality Hotel Heathrow, London Road, Langley, Slough

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

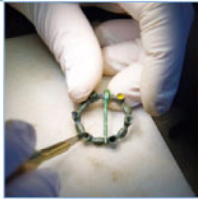
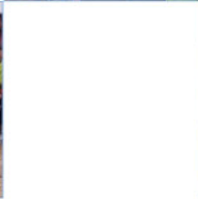
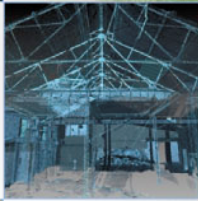
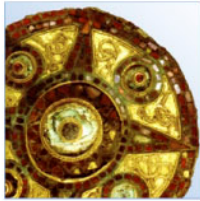
Planning Application Number: P/00864/045

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 0171 7767

AOC Project no: 30229

Site Code: REDMG: 2009.179

APRIL 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Quality Hotel Heathrow, London Road, Langley, Slough

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of: JLA Architects
Kings House
30 Station Way
Cheam
SM3 8SQ

National Grid Reference (NGR): TL 0171 7767

AOC Project No: 30229

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Date of Evaluation: 14th to 17th April 2009

Date of Report: April 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 14th and 17th April 2009 at the site of The Quality Hotel, Slough. The work was on behalf of JLA Architects. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of a proposed hotel extension on any surviving archaeological remains.

The evaluation comprised two machine excavated trenches which measured 10m by 2m. Archaeological features were identified in one of the two trenches. Trench 2 contained a range of features which included four possible gravel extraction pits, a boundary ditch, and a single posthole. The features are thought to derive from concentrated activity in a restricted area of land during the 19th century.

Two sondage trenches were also excavated to investigate the underlying Taplow Gravel for any evidence of Palaeolithic activity on site. No archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity was observed.

Overall, a high density of archaeological features were encountered, all of which were deemed to be of limited significance. This indicates the site has only a limited archaeological potential.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The site is situated to the south of the town of Slough, 200m to the northeast of The Queen Mother Reservoir (Figure 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 0171 7767, and is within land bounded by London Road to the northeast, Brands Road to the southeast, and residential properties to the southwest and northwest (Figure 2). The site is roughly rectangular in shape and covers an area of approximately 0.7ha.

1.2 Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The development proposal is for the construction of an extension of the current hotel building westwards incorporating basement levels and plant room, increasing the hotel's footprint by 600m².
- 1.2.2 Full Planning Permission for the development was applied for on 4th June 2007; Planning Application Number: P/00864/045. A condition was attached to planning approval for a programme of archaeological works stating:

“no development shall take place until the applicant has secured and implemented a phased programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (method statement) which has been submitted by the applicant and approved Planning Authority”.

Reason: The site is within an area of archaeological potential, specifically relating to Bronze Age, some Roman and medieval remains. Archaeological monitoring is required to mitigate the impact of development and ensure preservation “by record” of any surviving remains. This is to be undertaken as the provisional stage of a phased programme of works should initial investigations warrant further mitigation.

This condition has been required in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and was recommended by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

- 1.2.3 The site does not fall within an Archaeological Priority Zone or a designated Conservation Area.
- 1.2.4 AOC Archaeology Group Ltd were commissioned by JLA Architects to carry out the field evaluation. The methodology was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2009). This document detailed how the evaluation, comprising of two trenches, would be undertaken.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 269) indicates the development site is underlain by Taplow Gravel, and may be sealed by alluvium. These deposits relate to the formation of the Thames Valley floodplain. The site stands at a height of approximately 24m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) on a small ridge of land.
- 1.3.2 Geotechnical investigations conducted within area of the new basement show a depth of 1.00m of made ground overlying the Taplow gravels, which extend a further 4-6m with London Clay beneath these. The made ground may consist solely of deposits associated with the car park surface, or may be of potential alluvial and archaeological character (STATS 2006).

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1 Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

2.1.1 The site is part of the low-lying gravel terrace and floodplain of the Middle Thames Valley, the prehistory of which has been investigated at a number of similar topographic locations. These are:

- Holyport NGR SU 8920 7850
- The Eton Rowing Course, Dorney NGR SU 9200 7850 to 9360 7730
- Eton Wick Causewayed Enclosure NGR SU 9500 7810
- Agars Plough, Eton NGR SU 9750 7840
- Terminal 5, Heathrow NGR TQ 0540 7580

Holyport

2.1.2 Excavations at Moor Farm, Holyport, in Bray lay adjacent to a minor tributary of the Thames. Over 15,000 artefacts were retrieved, located on the wetland edge. No single occupation horizon was identified and the site was not radiocarbon dated. However, typologically it is thought to be of Late Mesolithic age. 201 finished tools included obliquely blunted point microliths, scrapers, 2 adzes and saws, the rest waste, again clearly showing local knapping were present (Chisham 2006).

Eton Rowing Course

2.1.3 Excavations at the Eton Rowing Course revealed that the present floodplain results from two different situations. The first comprises areas where low-lying gravel terrace areas are flooded on occasion, leading to a build-up of alluvium. Ditches and pits were found beneath the alluvium cut into the underlying gravel terrace deposits, and on the gravel terrace just above flood levels settlements of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date were present.

2.1.4 The second comprises areas that were formerly Early Holocene lakes or former channels of the Thames, some active as late as the Roman period, and which became hay meadow in the medieval period. The former lakes silted up gradually, and within the alluvial sequence occupation horizons of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date were found.

2.1.5 Similar conditions to those at the Eton Rowing Course have also been found on the banks of the Thames at Runnymede Bridge, Egham, Surrey, several kilometres downstream.

Eton Wick Causewayed Enclosure

2.1.6 A Neolithic causewayed enclosure adjacent to a stream running into the Thames set on a low-lying gravel terrace was present, partially overlain by between 0.4 and 0.8 m of alluvium. Excavations also revealed evidence of Late Bronze Age fields and of a Late Iron Age/ Early Roman enclosure.

Agars Plough

2.1.7 In advance of the Maidenhead-Windsor Flood Alleviation Scheme this area was excavated. An Iron Age and Roman settlement was found, together with struck flints indicating Neolithic or Bronze Age activity. These were cut into the gravel terrace.

Terminal 5, Heathrow

2.1.8 Large scale archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of Mesolithic communities and the emergence during the Neolithic of a landscape comprising a number of monumental structures including the Stanwell Cursus. Later communities modified this landscape, particularly during the

Bronze Age, with the formation of enclosed agricultural fields and associated settlements. This predominantly agricultural landscape was to be successively re-orientated during the Roman and Medieval periods.

Prehistoric Summary

- 2.1.9 Evidence from these sites shows that the Middle Thames floodplain was intensively used from the later prehistoric period onwards, and that buried archaeological horizons that are well preserved may be expected in areas that have not been truncated by post-medieval development. The depth at which these horizons occur may vary from as little as 0.4 m to 1 m below current ground levels, though the majority of such horizons will be found at more than 0.5 m depth.

2.2 Roman (cAD 43 - 410)

- 2.2.1 A single Roman pendant was found approximately 1km to the north of the site and 10 Roman coins were discovered closer to the centre of Langley.

2.3 Medieval (1066 - 1485)

- 2.3.1 The site lies on London Road between Langley and Colnbrook, and appears to have been largely undeveloped, possibly farmland in the medieval period. Langley derives from the Old English *lang* and *lea*, for 'the long clearing', whereas Colnbrook takes its name from the river. Both villages may have developed from ribbon settlement along the road between London and Slough, and thus to Windsor. That medieval farming was carried out in the area is shown by two separate areas of medieval ridge and furrow at Ditton Park, approximately 2km to the west of the site. Medieval activity seems to have been focussed around the church at Langley, over 2km north of the site: excavations at the site of the old vicarage identified evidence of settlement dating from the 13th century onwards. The place name was first recorded in 1208 and St Mary's Church is believed to date from the 12th to 14th century. Settlement at Colnbrook was focussed on the river and main road.

2.4 Post-Medieval (1485 – present)

- 2.4.1 The cartographic evidence for the site comes from Ordnance Survey Maps. The Old Series 1 inch Map shows the area as undeveloped land, on a slight ridge above the surrounding land. The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1875 shows a small dwelling with a well and a wooded area immediately to the south. By 1897 the dwelling was shown as the Plough Public House. Additionally, outbuildings are shown to have been constructed to the south of the public house by 1923. Further development of the site had been undertaken by 1932 and the Public House had been renamed as the Plough Hotel. A commercial garage appears to have been constructed by 1963, which extended across the eastern area of the site. This eastern extent of the site had been redeveloped by 1972 and was labelled as a Hotel. The most recent map reviewed, dated 1989, still shows the majority of the site being occupied by the Plough Hotel and the eastern area of the site by grounds of the Quality Hotel.

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Investigation

- 3.1.1 The specific aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:
- (i) To determine the existence or absence of archaeological remains and, should archaeological remains be present, to assess their general nature and significance.

- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- (iii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (viii) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- (ix) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental, geo-archaeological and/or economic evidence. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* and *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.
- (x) To produce information on geological and stratigraphic setting of the site and the relative and absolute dating and phasing for these deposits if appropriate.
- (xi) To search for the remains of Palaeolithic occupation and deposits and to excavate those deposits as the next phase of works to be undertaken in consultation with and in agreement with Berkshire Archaeology, the project Palaeolithic consultant(s), English Heritage and funding bodies.
- (xii) To address research questions discussed in the Solent Thames Research Framework as relevant to any periods of archaeology identified. Of particular relevance, are papers on the Palaeolithic, the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic and in particular the findings at Manor Farm, Holyport.

3.1.2 General aims of the evaluation were:

- Determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- Determine the presence / absence of remains relating to prehistoric activity.
- Determine the presence / absence of remains relating to Roman activity on the site.
- To enable the Archaeological Advisor to Slough Borough Council to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeology condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

3.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

3.2 Research Design

3.2.1 A written scheme of investigation prepared by AOC Archaeology (2009), detailed how the evaluation, consisting of two evaluation trenches, would be undertaken.

3.2.2 The size and location of the two evaluation trenches is shown in Figure 2. Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009). All practices were carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (IFA 1994). Provision was made for a report as defined in the written scheme of investigation. Guidance supplied by Berkshire Archaeology for the conduct of evaluation work and the deposition of archive material was also followed (Berkshire Archaeology 2009).

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 The excavation of the evaluation trenches was undertaken without modification to the methodology as stated in the WSI (AOC 2009).

3.3.2 Prior to commencing work a unique site code (REDMG:2009.179) for the project was obtained from the Reading Museum.

3.3.3 On site field work was undertaken between the 14th and 17th April 2009.

3.3.4 Levels for each context were established relative to Ordnance Datum, taken from a Bench Mark on the property.602 London Road (23.86m Above Ordnance Datum). A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on the kerb adjacent to the car park barriers at 24.48m AOD.

3.3.5 The evaluation was conducted by the author under the overall management of Andy Leonard. The site was monitored by Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology.

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Surface of Trench = 23.99m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
23.99-23.69m	0.00m	(101)	Made Ground and Tarmac. Loose, grey, sandy CBM and demolition rubble.
23.69- 23.34m	0.30m	(102)	Soil Horizon. Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay. Occasional CBM and mortar flecks.
23.34- 23.19m	0.65m	(103)	Undisturbed Deposit. Firm, orangey brown, clayey sand.
23.19- 22.69m	0.80m	(104)	Alluvial Deposit. Compact, yellowish brown, clayey sand gravel.
22.69- 21.89m	1.30m	(105)	Alluvial Deposit. Compact, orangey brown, sandy gravel.
21.89- 21.79m	2.10m	(106)	Alluvial Deposit. Firm, orangey brown, sand with occasional small angular inclusions.
21.79-20.69m (NFE)	2.20- 3.30m	(107)	Alluvial Deposit. Compact, orangey brown, sandy gravel.

4.1.2 The earliest recorded deposit was a substantial layer of compact, orangey brown, sandy gravel (107), interpreted as an alluvial deposit, which was observed at the base of machine excavated sondage at the southwest end of Trench 1 at a height of 21.79m AOD. The sandy gravel was composed of small to moderate sized stone inclusions which were poor to moderately sorted. Overlying context (107) was a sequence of alluvial deposits. Immediately above sandy gravel (107)

was a 0.10m thick band of firm orangey brown sand (106) which contained small angular flinty inclusions. This was overlain by two further gravel deposits (105) and (104). Context (105) was up to 0.80m thick, consisting of a sandy gravel deposit, with context (104) up to 0.50m thick with a more clayey sand gravel character. Both gravel deposits consisted of small, moderately sorted stone inclusions. No Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered during the excavation of the alluvial deposits.

4.1.3 Sealing the sequence of alluvial gravels and sand was an undisturbed layer of firm, orangey brown, clayey sand (103), and measuring 0.15m thick. Lying above context (103) was a layer of firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay (102) up to 0.35m thick, and containing occasional fragments of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM). This layer is believed to be a disturbed soil horizon, possibly associated with the creation and developments of late post-medieval garden plots. The final deposit in the trench sequence was a layer of modern made ground (101), formed of loose sandy rubble up to 0.30m thick, capped with tarmac as part of the existing car park.

4.1.4 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 1.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 Surface of Trench = 24.16m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
24.16-23.76m	0.00m	(201)	Made Ground and Tarmac. Loose, grey, sandy CBM and demolition rubble.
23.76- 23.46m	0.40m	(202)	Soil Horizon. Firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay. Occasional CBM.
23.46- 23.06m	0.70m	(219)	Alluvial Deposit. Compact, dark orangey brown, clayey sand gravel.
23.06- 22.06m	1.10m	(220)	Alluvial Deposit. Compact, orangey brown, sandy gravel.
22.06-21.46m (NFE)	2.10- 2.70m	(221)	Alluvial Deposit. Soft, yellowish brown, sand with occasional small angular inclusions.

4.2.2 The earliest recorded deposit, observed at the base of a sondage excavated at the northeast end of Trench 2, was a thick layer of soft, yellowish brown sand (221), believed to be an alluvial deposit. Layer (221) was recorded at a height of 22.06m AOD. Overlying, in turn, sandy layer (221) were two alluvial gravel deposits. The lower of the two deposits was a sandy gravel (220), up to 1m thick, with the higher deposit being a clayey sand gravel (219), up to 0.40m thick. Both gravel layers were compact and contained small to medium sized stone inclusions which were poor to moderately sorted. No Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered during the excavation of the alluvial deposits.

4.2.3 Truncating the upper layer of gravel (219) was a series of cut features. Potentially the earliest feature was a large pit [208], present in the northeast end of Trench 2, with the majority of the pit lying beyond the southeast limit of the trench. Pit [208] was over 1.90m in length and 0.60m wide, with a depth of 0.55m, and contained three distinct fills (207), (206) and (205). Each of the three deposits had a distinctive character, with the lowest fill (207) containing large quantity of ashy debris associated with fragments of pottery and animal bone, indicating that this derives from domestic waste. The secondary fill (206) of pit [208] was a more sandy deposit containing large fragments of

CBM, potentially the debris from construction activities. Tertiary deposit (205), a soft, sandy clay, may have accumulated gradually while the pit was still open.

- 4.2.4 Pit [208] was truncated by later pit [204], which was smaller in size measuring approximately 1.40m long by 0.95m wide, albeit deeper with a depth of 0.65m. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. The pit contained a single uniform dark brown, sandy clay fill (203) containing occasional to moderate quantity of pottery, animal bone and CBM fragments.
- 4.2.5 Two further pits [212] and [214], similar to pit [204], were partially present in the southwest half of Trench 2. Both pits were either sub-square or oval in shape, and of substantial size measuring over 2m in length by 1.80m wide, with a depth of between 0.40m to 0.65m. Each had a profile with steeply concave sides and a flat base. The fills of the two pits (211) and (213) were also similar to (203), although both of these fills contained several fragments of partially corroded metal objects. The size and character of these pits suggests they might have been excavated for the purpose of extracting the underlying gravel.
- 4.2.6 The other significant feature recorded in Trench 2 was ditch [216] oriented on a north-south axis in the southeast half of the trench, which appeared to truncate pit [212]. Ditch [216] was over 0.50m wide by 0.60m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill (215) of ditch [216] was notably different from other features due to its lighter brown colour, although it still had a sandy clay texture.
- 4.2.7 Two smaller features were also present in Trench 2. Circular posthole [210] was located in the central area of the trench, with a vertical side and curved base profile, measuring approximately 0.40m in diameter and 0.45m deep. The dark brown, sandy clay fill (209) contained several fragments of 19th century pottery and corroded metal objects. The second of the two smaller features [218] was located in the southern corner of the trench, although not enough of the feature was present within the trench to enable a full interpretation of the features purpose to be made. A small fragment of pottery was recovered from the fill (217) of feature [218] indicating that the feature was contemporary with the activity evident in the trench.
- 4.2.8 All of the features in Trench 2 were sealed by a disturbed soil horizon of firm, mid brownish grey, sandy clay (202), up to 0.30m thick, containing occasional fragments of pottery and CBM flecks. The sequence was completed by a layer of modern made ground (201), formed of loose sandy rubble capped by tarmac.

5. Finds

- 5.1.1 The finds have been cleaned and catalogued. By far the largest finds category is pottery, with domestic wares such as plates, saucers, bowls and bottles all represented. These are mostly tablewares, and probably derive from the former Plough Public House known to have been on site.
- 5.1.2 Earlier pottery suggests limited activity on the site in the 16th-17th centuries, but finds from this date are in later features, so are clearly residual, and could even have been brought to the site.
- 5.1.3 A geoarchaeological assessment of the natural deposits encountered at the site was carried out (Appendix C).

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and archaeological potential of the site. Alluvial deposits were observed in both trenches, between a height of 23.19m and 23.46m AOD. This is consistent with the general topography of the site.
- 6.2 The archaeological evaluation identified archaeological features in one of the two trenches. Trench 2 contained seven features, consisting of four pits, one ditch, one posthole, and one undiagnostic feature. No features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 1.
- 6.3 The features identified in Trench 2 appear to represent a range of activities, the finds suggest a roughly contemporary range of dates therefore representing activity within a limited period in a concentrated area. The four pit features encountered [204], [208], [212] and [214], the size and character of which suggest they were excavated for the purpose of extracting gravel for use in construction. Whereas, the presence of later ditch [216] may indicate the creation of a boundary division in the late 19th century. In addition, although only one posthole [210] was observed, it may indicate the presence of a structure in this area during the 19th century.
- 6.4 The activity in Trench 2 contrasts greatly with the lack of activity identified in Trench 1. The two trenches are located approximately 10m apart, so for the similar type and concentration of activity observed in Trench 2 not to extend to Trench 1 is of interest. The overburden deposits in both trenches are similar, indicating that the area of both trenches has been subjected to the same process of deposition, without any obvious truncation of the archaeological horizon occurring. This suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits to survive in Trench 1, meaning that any similar activity being undertaken in this area should have survived if it had been present. Taking this into account, it is most likely that during the 19th century the area between the two trenches was divided, most probably by an obvious boundary marker such as a fence or ditch, representing differing ownership or use of the two areas. If this is correct then the activity represented in Trench 2 may have taken place in a restricted environment, as a result concentrating the aforementioned activity.
- 6.5 The sequence of deposits overlying the archaeological horizon was similar in both trenches, comprising of a possible disturbed garden soil horizon, overlain by modern made ground and tarmac associated with the hotel car park. This indicates that the soil profile accumulated gradually in the late post-medieval period when in use as garden plots, with the impact of modern development limited to the upper portion of the soil profile.
- 6.6 Sondage trenches were excavated in the base of both evaluation trenches with the purpose of sampling the alluvial gravel deposits for any sign of potential Palaeolithic activity. The sondage in Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 20.69m AOD, with the sondage in Trench 2 reaching a depth of 21.46m AOD. The sequences of deposits exposed in each sondage did vary, but each sequence did represent an undisturbed series of gravel deposits. No Palaeolithic artefacts were recovered during the excavation.
- 6.7 The features and deposits encountered during the evaluation are of limited archaeological significance either due to their recent period of use, or the lack of archaeological material observed within them. No features were observed during the course of the evaluation pre-dating the post-

medieval period, specifically those that may relate to the concentration of Roman or prehistoric activity known to be present in this region.

- 6.8 Overall, a high density of archaeological features were encountered, all of which were of limited significance. This indicates the site has only a limited archaeological potential.

7. Publication

- 7.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Berkshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix D).

8. Archive Deposition

- 8.1 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, 35mm and digital photographs, will be deposited with the Reading Museum.

9. Bibliography

AOC Archaeology (2009). *Quality Hotel Heathrow, London Road, Langley, Slough. A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief.*

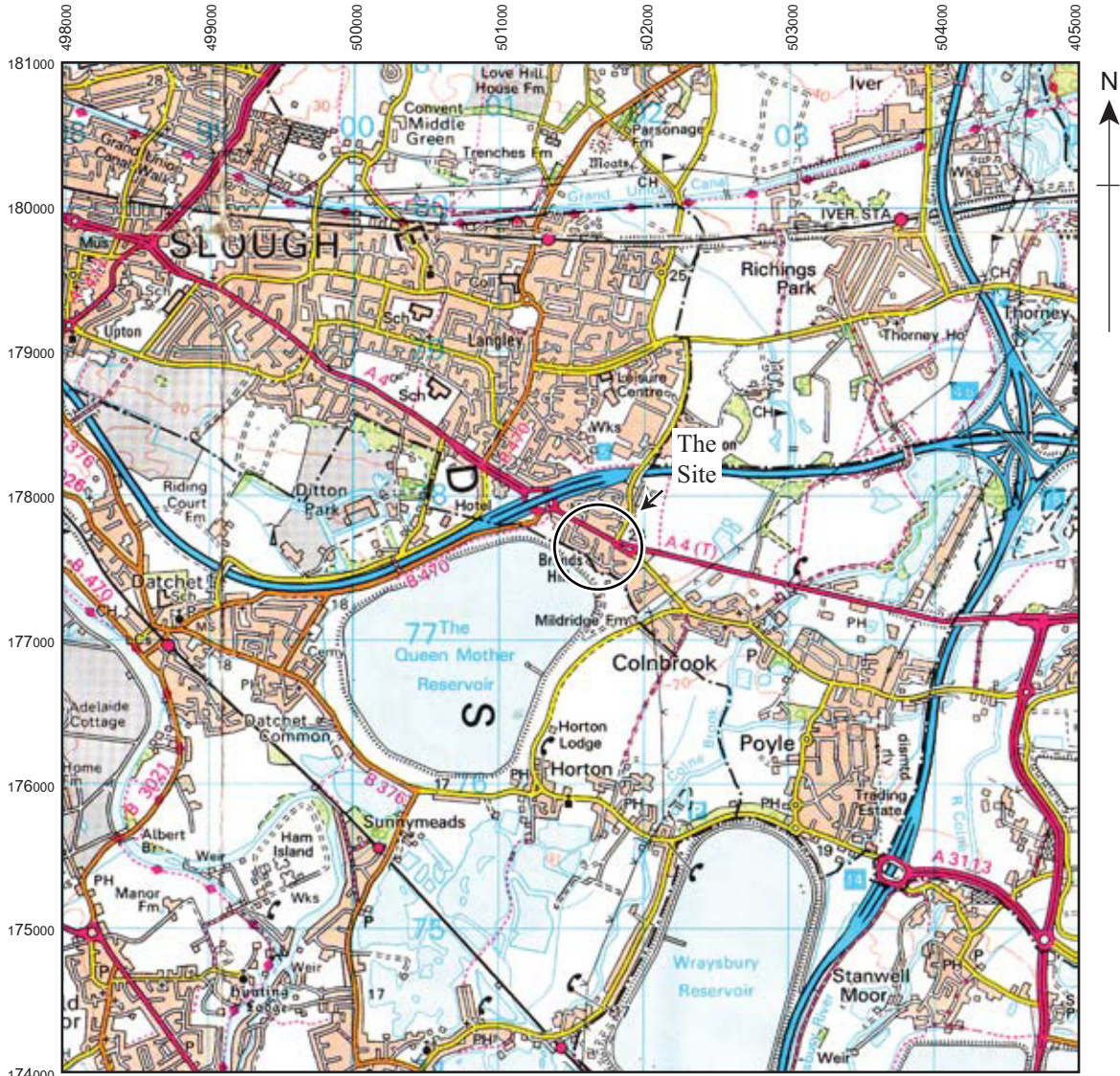
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QUALITY HOTEL HEATHROW, LONDON ROAD, LANGLEY, SLOUGH: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

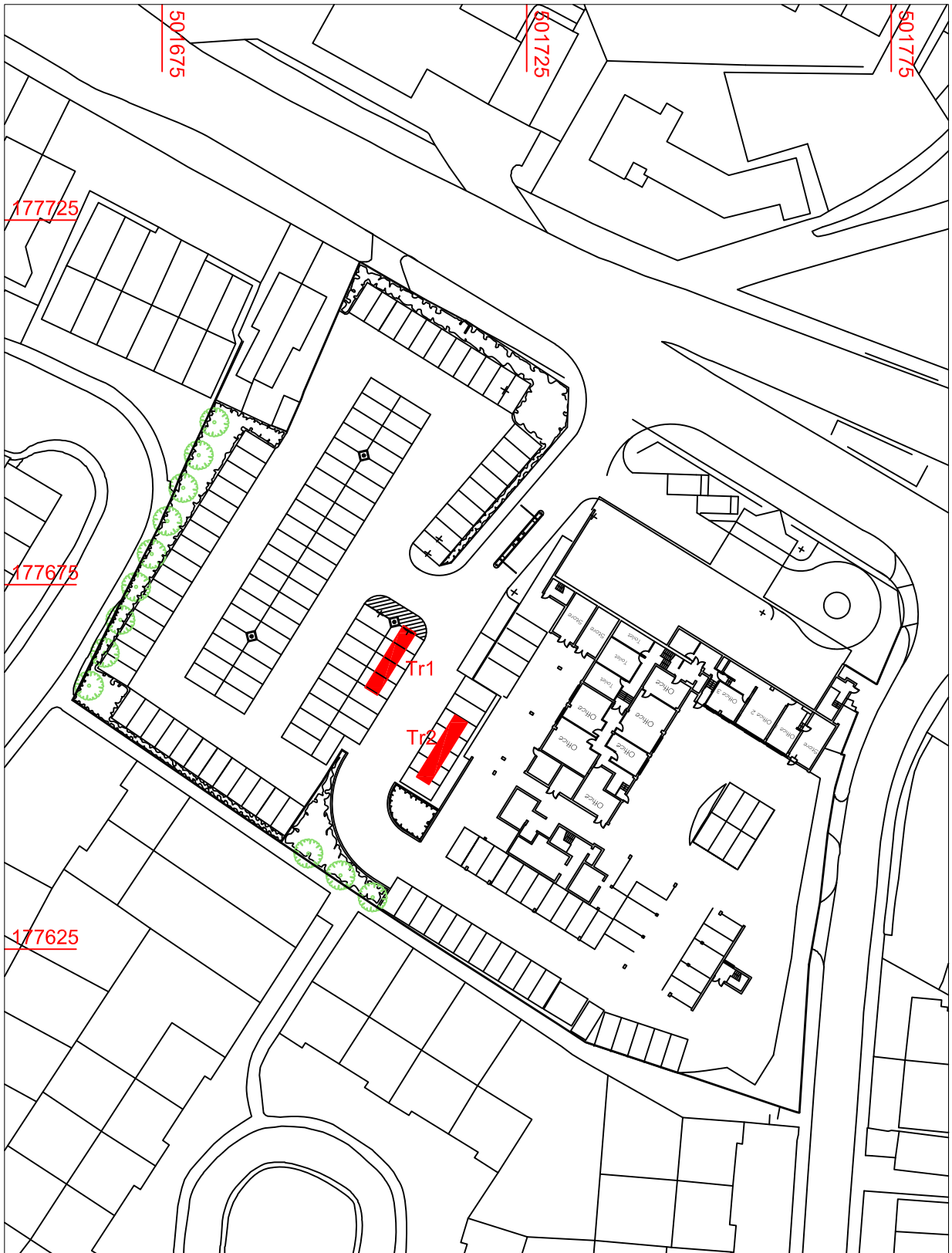


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Figure 1: Site Location

QUALITY HOTEL HEATHROW, LONDON ROAD, LANGLEY, SLOUGH: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT



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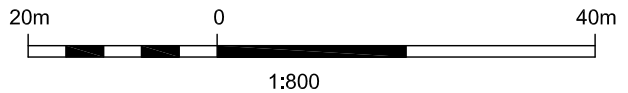


Figure 2: Detailed Site /Trench Location

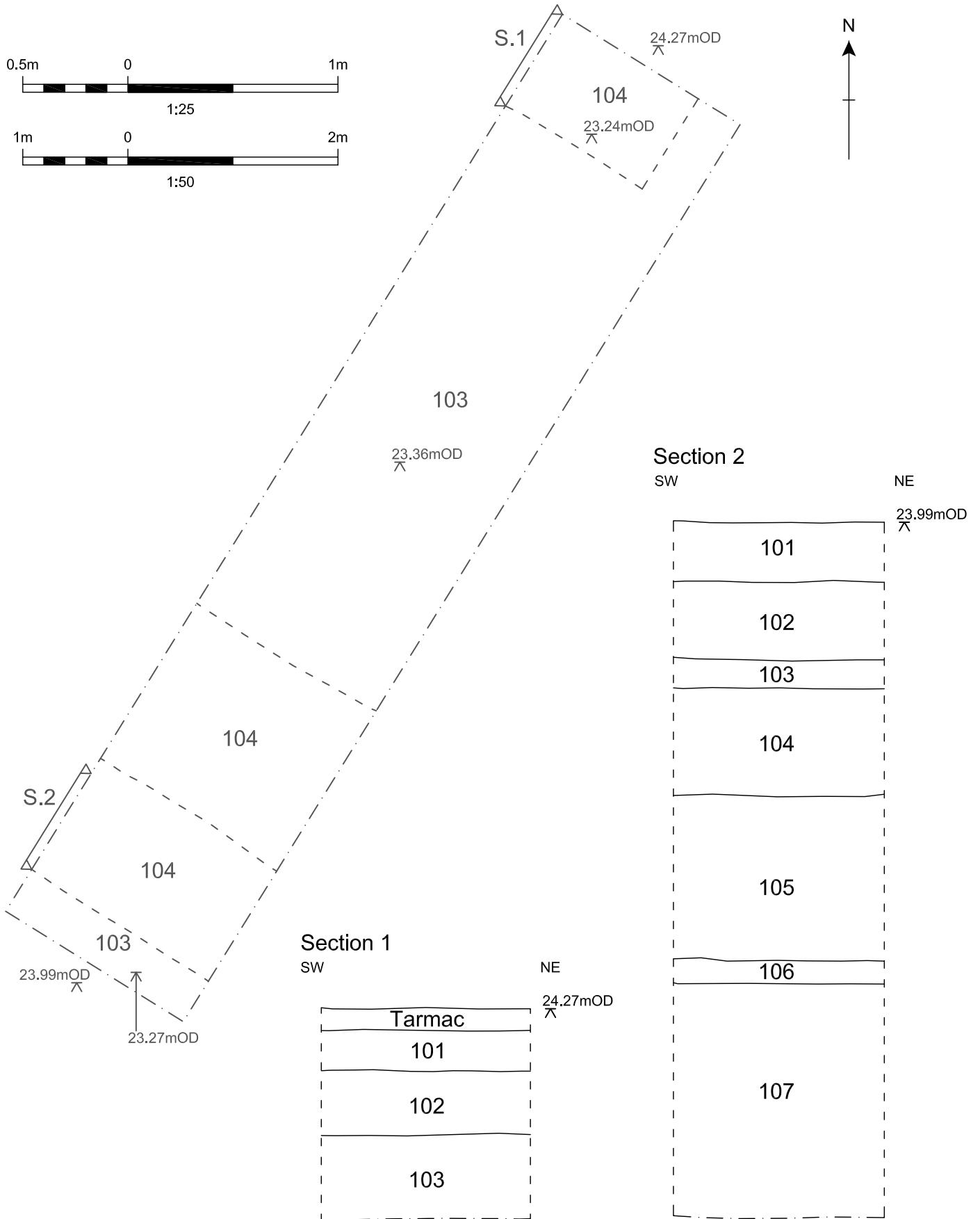


Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan (1:50) & Sections (1:25)

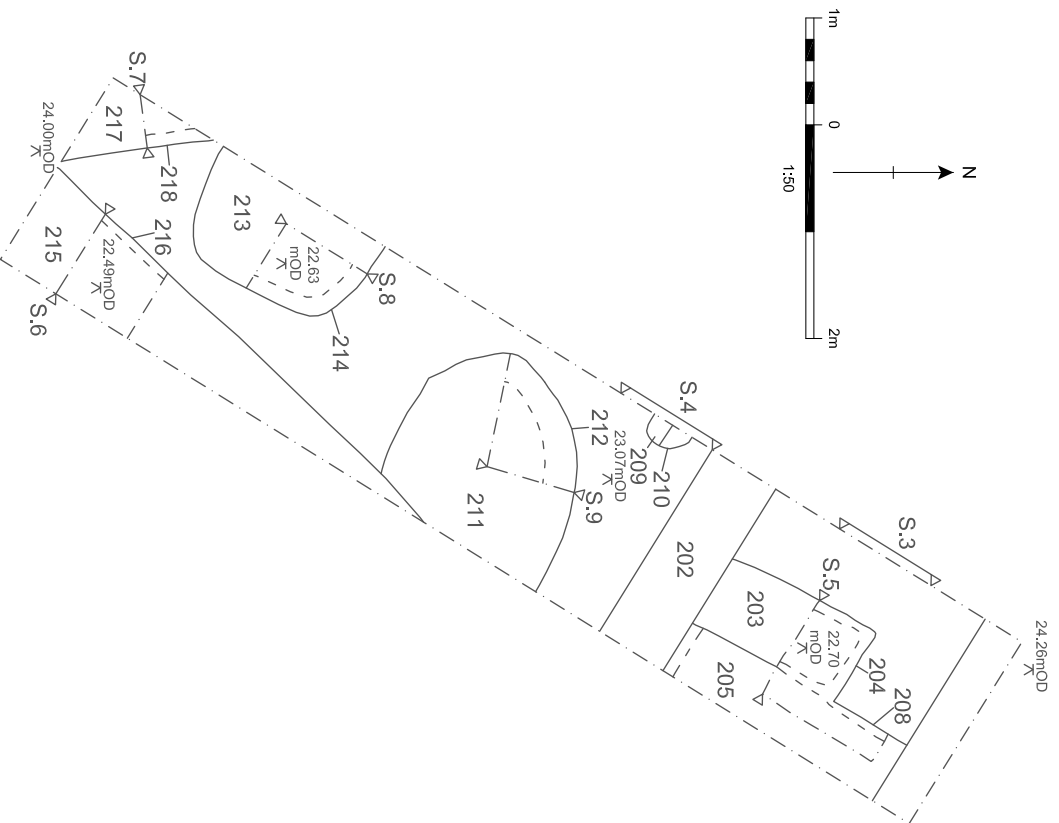
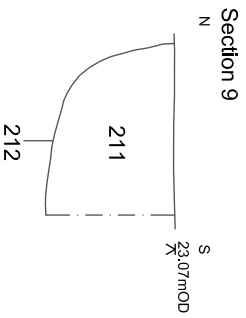
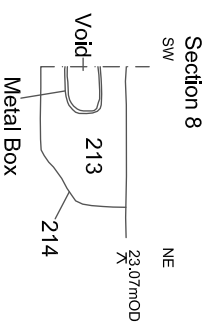
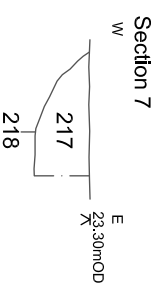
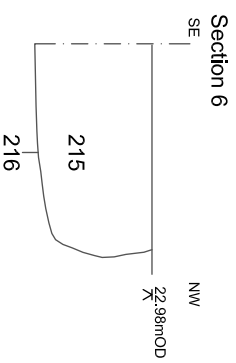
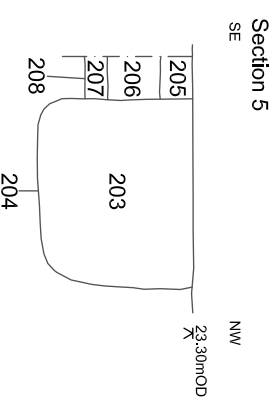
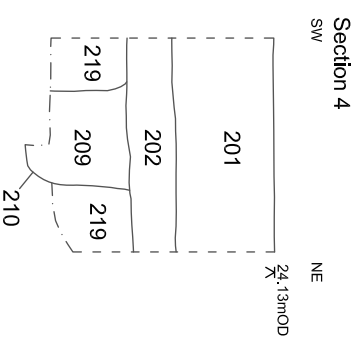
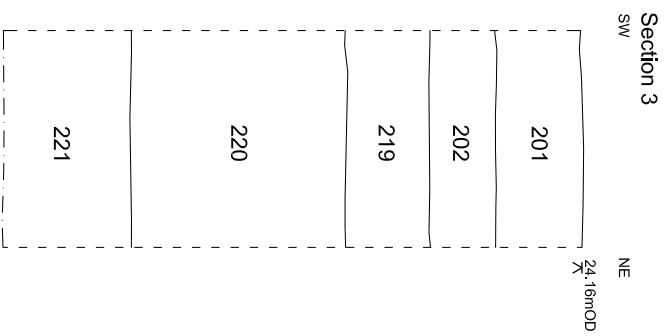


Figure 4: Trench 2: Plan (1:50) & Sections (1:25)





Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
101	Made Ground	10.00m	2.00m	0.30m
102	Soil Horizon	10.00m	2.00m	0.30m
103	Undisturbed Soil Horizon	10.00m	2.00m	0.40m
104	Alluvial Gravel	10.00m	2.00m	0.50m
105	Alluvial Gravel	2.00m	2.00m	0.80m
106	Alluvial Sand	2.00m	2.00m	0.10m
107	Alluvial Gravel	2.00m	2.00m	1.10m+
201	Made Ground	10.00m	2.00m	0.40m
202	Soil Horizon	10.00m	2.00m	0.40m
203	Fill of [204]	1.38m+	0.95m	0.65m
204	Extraction Pit	1.38m+	0.95m	0.65m
205	Fill of [208]	1.98m+	0.58m+	0.14m
206	Fill of [208]	1.98m+	0.58m+	0.18m
207	Fill of [208]	1.98m+	0.58m+	0.22m
208	Extraction Pit	1.98m+	0.58m+	0.54m
209	Fill of [210]	0.40m+	0.26m+	0.30m
210	Cut of Posthole	0.40m+	0.26m+	0.30m
211	Fill of [212]	2.1m+	1.7m	0.64m
212	Extraction Pit	2.1m+	1.7m	0.64m
213	Fill of [214]	1.70m+	1.14m	0.40m
214	Extraction Pit	1.70m+	1.14m	0.40m
215	Fill of [216]	4.00m+	0.50m+	0.60m
216	Cut of Ditch	4.00m+	0.50m+	0.60m
217	Fill of [218]	1.60m+	0.80m	0.40m
218	Cut of Feature	1.60m+	0.80m	0.40m
219	Alluvial Gravel	10.00m	2.00m	0.40m
220	Alluvial Gravel	2.00m	2.00m	1.00m
221	Alluvial Sand	2.00m	2.00m	0.60m+

Appendix B – Finds

Paul Fitz, AOC Archaeology Group

Introduction

Finds were collected from 10 contexts during archaeological evaluation work at the site of the Quality Hotel on London Road, Langley, Slough in April 2009.

The small assemblages of ceramics, glass and iron dates the context to between the 1820's and the present, although there is residual earlier material of 16th century date.

Pottery

The majority of the pottery finds date to the late 19th and early 20th century, and the assemblages are dominated by domestic tablewares such as plates, bowls and bottles. These are typical finds from a 19th century domestic setting, and there is nothing of special interest or rarity.

The earlier pottery indicates some activity in the area during the 16th-18th centuries; bowls of borderware in two contexts (213 and 215) are represented alongside the more recent porcelain and transfer-printed ware.

No further work is required for the pottery other than recording on the LAARC archive finds inventory.

Table 1. The Pottery

Context	Fabric	Quantity	Object	Date	Comment
102	ENPO	6	bowl	1930s	Pale green and black horizontal bands
202	ENPO PNTD	1	bowl	1745-1900	Brown floral pattern
203	PMR	4	bowl	1580-1900	Internal glaze
	ENPO PNTD	1	plate	1745-1900	Blue diamond pattern or rim
207	LONS	2	bottle	1670-1900	Probably closer to 1900
	TPW 2	2	plate	1807-1900	Willow pattern
	TPW 2	1	bowl	1807-1900	Rural scene
	ENPO	2	bowl	1745-1900	Probably 20 th C
209	ENPO	1	plate	1745-1900	
211	TPW 2	1	plate	1807-1900	Staffordshire
	PMR	1	unid	1580-1900	Internal glaze
	LONS	1	jar	1670-1900	Closer to 1900, milling and star decoration
213	BORDY	1	plate	1550-1700	Rim
	ENPO	2	Unid	1800-1900	Brown, red white and blue exterior bands, white interior
215	BORDG	2	bowl	1550-1700	Internal and external glaze. Base sherd.
	TPW 2	1	plate	1807-1900	Rim
217	TPW 2	1	plate	1807-1900	Blue transfer

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Seven fragments from the stems of clay tobacco pipes were collected. All are of probable 19th century date with a typical narrow bore. No further work is required on these finds.

Table 2. The Clay Tobacco Pipe

Context	part	Comment	Date
207	stem	Narrow bore	C 19 th
211	stem	Narrow bore	C 19 th
213	Stem x 5	Narrow bore	C 19 th

Ceramic Building Materials

The ceramic building materials are a mixture of brick, roof and floor tile. All bar one are of post-medieval date, but since there are few whole measurements, this assessment is limited to providing general dates.

The two floor tiles are slightly more interesting. That from (211) probably post-dates 1700, since it has sharp edges, and a well-mixed sandy fabric. The other floor tile, whilst not complete, measures 4" square and 1" thick. The fabric is soft, and may be medieval, or perhaps early post-medieval.

Further analysis could be carried out on the floor tile, but given the general 19th-century date of the finds assemblage as a whole, this is not necessary.

Table 3. The CBM

Context	Object	Dimensions	Comment	Date
203	Ridge tile			1600-1900
	Floor tile	104mm x 104mm x 23mm		? medieval
211	Floor tile	32mm thick	Sharp edges	1600-1900
	Brick	59mm thick	overfired	1800-1900
	Brick		Fragments x 5	1600-1900
213	Roof-tile		fragment	1600-1900
215	Peg tile		Fragments x 4	1600-1900
	Unid		Fragments x 3	1600-1900

Glass

The glass indicates occupation on the site since the mid 18th century. One bottle in the assemblage (207) has a hand-made rim, indicating a probable 18th century date. The other items are more recent, and are household-based: a scent bottle, and other fragments of wine bottles being present.

No further work is required on the glass assemblage.

Table 4. The Glass

Context	Object	Comment	Date
207	bottle	Neck, green	C 19 th -20 th
	wine bottle	Neck, green	C 18 th -19 th
	bottle	Body shard clear	
	Scent bottle	Base shard, blue	C19th-20th
211	Wine bottle x 2	Neck and body shard	C19th

Animal Bone

Animal bone was retrieved from three contexts, and derived from sheep and cattle. Some of the bones had been sawn, clearly butchery. The animal elements of rib and limb make it clear that these are food items.

Table 5. The Animal Bone

Context	Item	Quantity	Comment
203	Sheep-sized limb	4	1 x butchered
207	Cow-sized	7	1 x butchered
	Sheep-sized	7	fragments
211	Sheep-sized	1	fragments

Iron

The metal objects are of low significance. The assemblage consists of three partial nails, part of a vessel and a short length of wire. The vessel is thin walled, and may be no more than a paint-pot of modern date. The length of wire is 4mm thick, so may be part of a handle.

All objects are moderately concreted but required no conservation. They will be recorded on the archive finds inventory and boxed with the other bulk finds.

Table 6. The Iron

Context	object	Comments	Date
203	Nail	corroded	
209	Wire?	Good condition, could be part of a handle?	Modern?
211	Nail	fragment	
213	Vessel	3 x fragments	
215	Nail	fragment	

Flint

The gravel horizons in both trenches were examined for finds in order to test the Palaeolithic potential of the site. In all the flint gravel sieved, only eight objects were collected for secondary examination. Of these, three are natural flakes and a fourth naturally fractured. All other pieces had no characteristics proving they had been worked.

Other

Two fragments of coal and one of slag were collected from context (207). These are probably domestic fire waste.

Significance and Recommendations

Whilst much of the finds assemblage is relatively modern, it proves the date of the excavated features, and indicates that occupation of the site in the 19th and 20th century was domestic rather than industrial in nature. This conforms with the map evidence, showing a building on the site in 1875 later identified as the Plough Public House.

The cut features are generally pits. The largest pit [208] contained ashy fire debris; coal and clinker were collected (207) as were animal bone, wine bottles, and household pottery (205). This strongly indicates that

this is an ash pit, probably associated with the known dwelling. Other pits on the site appear to be localised quarry pits, but may be tree-pits.

The earliest finds come from a ditch and a pit, and date to AD 1550-1700. These finds are present alongside 19th century material, so are residual. They hint at limited activity on the site since at least the 19th century.

Appendix C – Geoarchaeological Assessment

C.P. Green

Quaternary Scientific (QUEST), School of Human and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 227, Reading, RG6 6AB, UK

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in connection with the proposed development of land at Quality Hotel, Slough (National Grid Reference: TQ 0171 7767). The evaluation consisted of two trenches located 10m apart, and at the base of each trench was excavated a sondage into the Taplow Gravel in order to search for any Palaeolithic artefacts that might be present. No artefacts were discovered, but in recording the sondages two sandy deposits were identified.

INTERPRETATION OF THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Sandy deposits comprising contexts (106) and (221) were observed within the Taplow Gravel terrace deposits at the Quality Hotel site. Gibbard (1985, pp.44-52 and Fig.17) provides a useful and comprehensive account of the Taplow Gravel of the Middle Thames area including various records of exposures and boreholes close to the Quality Hotel site, e.g. along the route of the M4 motorway in the vicinity of Langley. In his descriptions of Taplow Terrace deposits, Gibbard (1985) refers repeatedly to 'gravel and sand' and specifically, to an abandoned quarry in Langley, where Wymer (1968) recorded 'fine gravel bands interstratified with tabular cross-bedded sand beds up to 20cm thick'. Sand beds are undoubtedly a common feature of the Taplow Gravel, as of other Pleistocene gravel deposits in the Thames valley. There is no indication in accounts of the Palaeolithic archaeology of the Taplow Gravel of the Middle Thames area (e.g. Wymer 1968) that either artefacts or fossil bones are preferentially associated with sand beds. In fact, almost all the artefacts recovered from the Taplow Gravel are found at the base of the deposit and are heavily rolled, suggesting that they are redistributed from pre-existing accumulations - in the case of the Slough area, probably the Lynch Hill Gravel from which large numbers of Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered (Collins 1978). There are no records of *in situ* organic deposits in the Taplow Terrace sediments of the Middle Thames area, but fossil bones have been recovered in various places, almost invariably in a rolled condition and towards the base of the deposits. In conclusion, therefore it would be difficult, having regard to the existing evidence from the Middle Thames area, to justify a more extensive archaeological or palaeoenvironmental investigation of the Taplow Gravel at the Quality Hotel site based on a record of sand beds within the deposits.

REFERENCES

Collins, D. 1978 *Early Man in West Middlesex*. London Museum Archaeological Report. HMSO.

Gibbard, P.L. 1985 *Pleistocene History of the Middle Thames*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge pp.44-52.

Wymer, J.J. 1968 *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain*. John Baker, London.

Appendix D – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-60193

Project details

Project name Quality Hotel Heathrow, London Road, Langley, Slough

Short description of the project an archaeological evaluation comprising of 2 trenches revealed 19th century gravel extraction pits, a ditch and posthole. sondages into the gravel natural yielded no evidence of any palaeolithic activity.

Project dates Start: 14-04-2009 End: 17-04-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes REDMG:2009.179 - Museum accession ID

Any associated project reference codes 30299 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds CERAMICS Post Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

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

Project location

Country England

Site location BERKSHIRE SLOUGH SLOUGH Quality Hotel Heathrow

Postcode SL3 8QB

Study area 0.70 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 0171 7767 52.3872127498 -0.505322454854 52 23 13 N 000 30 19 W
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 23.19m Max: 23.69m

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology Group

Project brief originator Berkshire Archaeology

Project design AOC Archaeology Group
originator

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Name of JLA Architects
sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive Reading Museum recipient

Physical Archive ID REDMG:2009.179

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass'

Digital Archive Reading Museum recipient

Digital Archive ID REDMG:2009.179

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Digital Archive notes jpeg images

Paper Archive Reading Museum recipient

Paper Archive ID REDMG:2009.179

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Map','Microfilm','Plan','Unpublished Text'

Paper Archive notes trench context records,report with figures, WSI, job brief. finds assessment (all will be microfilmed)

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Quality Hotel Heathrow, London Road, Langley, Slough-an archaeological evaluation report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke, C.

Date 2009

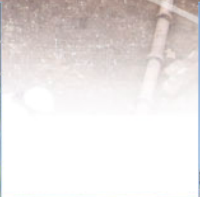
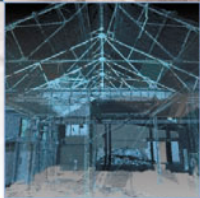
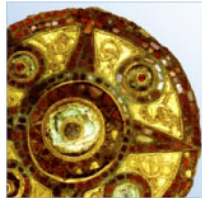
Issuer or publisher AOC archaeology Group

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology South

Description A4 size, full colour text and site location/trench figures

Entered by fitz (paul.fitz@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 1 June 2009



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