

CRPR19



Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared on behalf of Red Kite Housing



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client	Red Kite Housing
National Grid Reference	SP80836 02846
Address	Clifford Road, Princes Risborough
Parish	Princes Risborough
Council	Buckinghamshire County Council
Archiv	Buckinghamshire County Museums
OASIS ref	headland4-367274
Project Manager	Antony Walsh
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Edited and approved by	Antony Walsh
Fieldwork	Katy Castle
Graphics	Raphael Maya Torcelly
Fieldwork dates	11 th September 2019
Report dates	11 th -12 th September 2019

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CLIFFORD ROAD, PRINCES RISBOROUGH

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with ground infiltration trial pitting at garages off Clifford Road, Princes Risborough. This work was undertaken for Red Kite Housing, as best practice in order to provide information on its archaeological potential. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Red Kite Housing to undertake a watching brief in connection with ground infiltration trial pitting at garages off Clifford Road, Princes Risborough. Two trial pits had already been excavated, with a further two to be completed as part of this watching brief. Pit 3 was left unexcavated, as it was positioned inside one of the garages, and no suitable replacement area could be identified. Monitoring of excavation of pit 4 took place on the 11th September 2019.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located off Clifford Road, Princes Risborough, centred on NGR SP 80836 02846 (Illus 1). It is positioned to the southeast of Clifford Road, between the A4010 and Upper Icknield Way. It is currently occupied by garages and hardstanding. It is bounded to the southeast and southwest by hedgerows, with agricultural land behind the hedgerows to the southwest. To the northeast, it is bounded by the back gardens of houses on Merton Road, and the entrance to the site is from the northwest. It lies around 136m OD, and is relatively flat, with a gentle slope down towards the site entrance. It is underlain by Zig Zag chalk formation (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>). There are no nearby watercourses.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record revealed three records close to the site location.

The route of the Icknield Way, a possible Prehistoric trackway (HER reference 0994900000) runs to the southeast of this site on a northeast – southwest axis.

An excavation in the garden of 35 Clifford Road revealed a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age inhumation (HER reference 0523600000)

Evaluation trial trenching and excavation on the playing fields east of Princes Risborough County Secondary School revealed three Roman infant burials, along with ditches and pits (HER reference 0668500000).

Historic maps show that the land was agricultural until at least 1922. The 1960 OS map shows the garages (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk>).

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

4.1 General

Generally, the archaeological investigations were undertaken in order to:

- *establishing the depth and character of archaeologically 'sterile' overburden;*
- Assess the extent, structure and date of any archaeological features and deposits of archaeological interest;
- Place, where possible, the archaeological features within their local and regional context;
- Establish any constraints to further fieldwork (e.g. services) and factors concerning the survival of archaeological remains (e.g. natural and human disturbance);
- Place the findings of the investigation within the context of previous work undertaken within the vicinity of the site.

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit (ClfA 2014a). An online OASIS form has been completed and will be ultimately submitted with the approved version of the report (OASIS ID: ref).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Site works

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on Wednesday 11th September 2019. This observed the excavation by Ian Farmer Associates of a ground infiltration trial pit (TP4). The trial pit location had been predetermined by the on-site contractor (Illus 1). Two trial pits had already been excavated without supervision, with a further two planned for this watching brief. Trial pit 3 was left unexcavated, as it was positioned inside an existing garage and a suitable replacement location could not be identified. TP4 was excavated by the on-site contractor using a small excavator. It had to be extended slightly to the southeast, to avoid disturbing a modern drain which was discovered in the north-western 1m of the pit. TP4 was 2.6m long, by 0.6m wide, and 0.71m deep. Monitoring involved archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks.

5.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA). Contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded. An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was compiled. The site plan was accurately tied into the National Grid and a scale version is shown in Illus 1. A digital photographic record was taken, and a metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

5.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database Headland4-367274. The resultant archive will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire Museums. All archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the ClfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007).

6 RESULTS

Trial pits 1 and 2 were not archaeologically monitored but their stratigraphy was recorded for the purpose of infiltration testing (Ian Farmer Associates 2019) and this stratigraphy is summarised in Appendix 1.

Trial Pit 1

Trial pit 1 comprised topsoil from 0-0.17m bpgl (0101) overlying made ground deposits between 0.17-0.80m bpgl (0102) which comprised mid-grey-brown silty clay with gravel and chalk inclusions and fragments of brick. Chalk bedrock (0103) was encountered from 0.80m bpgl and the test pit reached a maximum depth of 1.47m bpgl.

Trial Pit 2

Trial pit 2 comprised three separate layers of made ground Asphalt was present between 0-0.05m (O201), mid-red-brown 'type 1' gravel between 0.05-0.35 (O202) and mid-grey-brown clay with gravel, chalk and fragments of brick between 0.35-0.60m bpgl (O203). These were directly overlying the chalk bedrock (O204) at a depth of 0.60m bpgl and the test pit reached a maximum depth of 1.50m bpgl.

Trial Pit 3

This trial pit could not be excavated due to its positioning inside a modern garage.

Trial Pit 4 (Illus 2)

Monitoring of the excavation of Trial pit 4 revealed no archaeological finds or features. The top layer (401) was very compact dark grey/black modern asphalt and was 0.08m thick. This overlays 0.12m of compact mid brownish pink silty gravel made ground (402), which would have been bedding for the asphalt. The made ground overlays a 0.11m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil (403), with occasional sub angular stones, which sits on top of the natural geological chalk deposit forming part of the Zig Zag chalk formation (404), and was found at 0.31m below present ground level. As part of the infiltration testing, the trial pit was dug down 0.4m into the natural chalk. The trial pit also revealed part of a modern drain [405], appearing to run on a northeast-southwest axis, cutting the subsoil (403), and covered by the made ground (402). The modern drain was filled with very compact light grey brown gravel (406), which was not excavated. The trial pit was extended slightly to the southeast in order to avoid impacting the drain. The final trial pit dimensions were 2.6m long, by 0.6m wide, and 0.71m deep.

7 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains were found during the investigations. The sequence of deposits observed was the same as those recorded in the previous test pits dug for infiltration testing. The chalk bedroom was observed between 0.31m-0.80m. In the observed trial pit (TP4) a surviving subsoil 0.11m thick was present below made ground.

8 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey website www.bgs.ac.uk (accessed 12.9.2019, 09:00)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

Ian Farmer Associates 2019 *Results of Infiltration Test Pits at Clifford Road, Princes Risborough*

Old Maps website www.old-maps.co.uk (accessed 12.9.2019, 10:00)

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trench and Context Registers

Test Pit 1	Length 2.00m	Width 0.60m	Max Depth 1.47m		
Context	Description (Layer, fill, cut)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth bpgl (m)	
0101	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0-0.17	
1002	Made ground – mid-grey-brown silty clay with gravel and chalk inclusions and fragments of brick	N/A	N/A	0.17-0.80	
1003	Natural – Chalk bedrock	N/A	N/A	0.80->1.47	
Comments: This test pit was not monitored archaeologically but shows a similar sequence to the others.					

Test Pit 2	Length 1.65m	Width 0.60m	Max Depth 1.50m		
Context	Description (Layer, fill, cut)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth bpgl (m)	
0201	Asphalt	N/A	N/A	0-0.05	
0202	Made ground – mid-reddish-brown 'Type 1' gravel	N/A	N/A	0.05-0.35	
0203	Made ground – mid-grey-brown silty clay with frequent gravel and chalk inclusions and brick fragments.	N/A	N/A	0.35-0.60 2.50m-2.80+m Bgl (glacial clay)	
2004	Natural – Chalk bedrock	N/A	N/A	0.60->1.50	
Comments: This test pit was not monitored archaeologically but shows a similar sequence to the others.					

Test Pit 3	Length N/A	Width N/A	Max Depth N/A		
Comments: This test pit could not be excavated due to its positioning inside a modern garage.					

Test Pit 4	Length 2.60m	Width 0.60m	Max Depth 0.71m		
Context	Description (Layer, fill, cut)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth bpgl (m)	
0401	Asphalt	N/A	N/A	0-0.08	
0402	Made Ground – mid-brown-pink compacted silty gravel.	N/A	N/A	0.08-0.20	
0403	Subsoil – mid-grey-brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones	N/A	N/A	0.20-0.31	
0404	Natural – Chalk bedrock	N/A	N/A	0.31->0.71	
0405	Cut of modern drain 1m wide, northeast-southwest aligned	N/A	N/A	unexcavated	
0406	Fill of [0404] – light-grey-brown compacted gravel	N/A	N/A	unexcavated	
Comments: No archaeology encountered and similar stratigraphy to Test Pits 1&2					

Appendix 2: Photographic register

Photo No.	Direction facing	Description
001	S	General working shots of Trench 4 excavation
002	S	General working shots of Trench 4 excavation
003	S	General working shots of Trench 4 excavation
004	NW	Southeast facing section Trench 4
005	SW	Northeast facing section Trench 4
006	SE	Northwest facing section Trench 4
007	NE	Southwest facing section Trench 4
008	N	General shot of Trench 4

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

Project details

Project name	Clifford Road, Princes Risborough
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with ground infiltration trial pitting at garages off Clifford Road, Princes Risborough. Three trial pits were excavated but only one under archaeological supervision, a fourth was not excavated and could not be moved elsewhere. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 11-09-2019 End: 11-09-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CRPR19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WYCOMBE PRINCES RISBOROUGH Land at Clifford Road, Princes Risborough
Postcode	HP27 0DS
Study area	0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 80836 02846 51.718047680583 -0.829706087274 51 43 04 N 000 49 46 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 136m Max: 136m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project originator	brief Headland Archaeology
Project originator	design Antony Walsh
Project	Antony Walsh

director/manager

Project supervisor Katy Castle

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Red Kite housing
sponsor/funding
body

Entered by Sam Bithell (sam.bithell@headlandarchaeology.com)

Entered on 17 September 2019

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

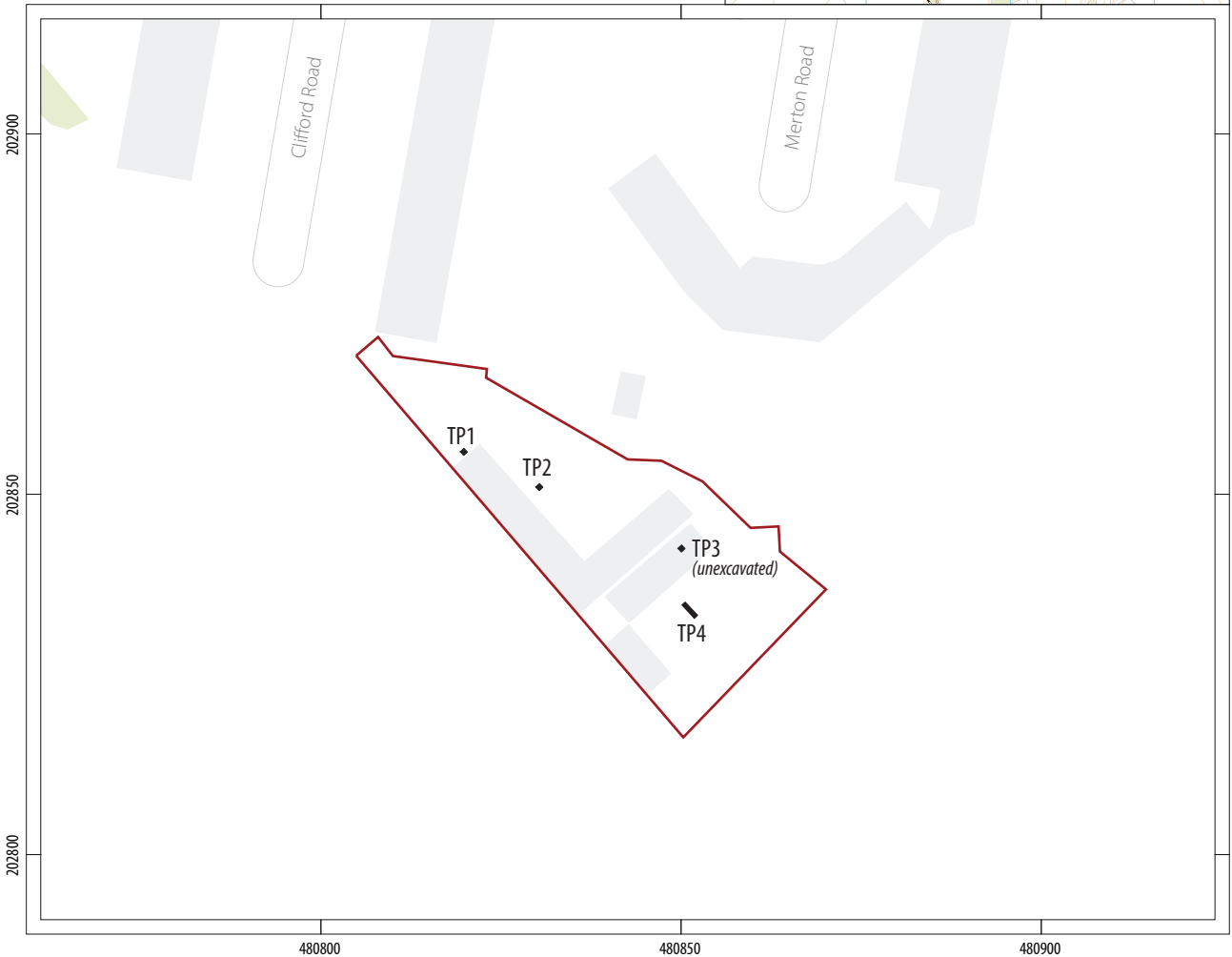
ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION

ILLUS 2 TRIAL PIT 4 DURING EXCAVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

Land at Clifford Road
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 20m
1:1,000 @ A4

development boundary
trial pit location



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ILLUS 1 Site location



ILLUS 2 Trial Pit 4 during excavation, looking south