

Little John's and Battle Farm, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**LITTLE JOHN'S & BATTLE FARM, READING,
BERKSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**LITTLE JOHN'S AND BATTLE FARM,
READING, BERKSHIRE****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Festival Republic Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation at Little John's and Battle Farm, Reading, Berkshire, within the area of the annual Reading Festival, centred on National Grid Reference 469945 174205.

Planning permission has been granted by Reading Borough Council for the provision of two 5m wide access tracks within the site, on condition that a programme of archaeological mitigation is completed ahead of construction. The machine excavation of 15 trial trenches within the footprint of the two proposed access tracks was undertaken, located along the southern and northern boundaries of the site.

The first phase of the project was carried out in June 2011 ahead of the festival, with the excavation of two evaluation trenches located at the eastern edge of the site. The second phase, undertaken in October 2011, comprised the excavation of a further nine evaluation trenches, located along the southern boundary. The final phase of work was carried out in December 2011 and consisted of the excavation of a further 4 evaluation trenches within the route of the northern trackway.

No features of archaeological significance were identified, however fragments of prehistoric pottery of probable Late Bronze Age date and worked flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. The underlying geology comprised alluvial deposits overlying natural river gravels. In the eastern area of the site, Trenches 1 to 4 identified a brickearth type deposit above the river gravels. The river gravels were recorded between c. 1m to 2m below ground level (BGL) in the trenches positioned over the southern track and between 0.30m and 0.51m BGL in the trenches targeted over the northern track.

The fieldwork was carried out on in three phases between June and December 2011.

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The project was commissioned by Festival Republic Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Noel Painting of Festival Republic in this regard and also for his co-operation and assistance during the fieldwork. Thanks are due to Mary Neale (Berkshire Archaeologist) for her advice and assistance during these works. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mavis Drayton the farmer at Little John's Farm for her co-operation during the various stages of fieldwork.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Piotr Orczewski, Thomas Burt, Darryl Freer and John Powell, who also compiled this report. The illustrations were prepared by Liz James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

LITTLE JOHN'S AND BATTLE FARM, READING, BERKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Festival Republic Ltd. (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation at Little John's and Battle Farm, Reading, within the area of the annual Reading Festival (hereafter 'the Site') and centred on National Grid Reference 469945 174205 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Following wet weather during the festival in 2010, improvements to reduce the impact of the event on the long term management of the grassland were necessary. Planning permission (11/00306 & 11/00307) was granted by Reading Borough Council for the provision of two tracks, 5m wide on condition that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken.

1.1.3 Condition 5 of the planning consent states:

No development shall take place within the Reading Festival site (blue line), including any works of demolition or ground preparation, until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title, has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the approved scheme.

1.1.4 The Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology required a programme of archaeological mitigation along the route of the two proposed tracks. Although the initial proposals comprised two phases of work including archaeological trial trenching along the southern track and a Strip, Map and Sample investigation along the northern track, the lack of archaeological features identified in the first two phases of evaluation along the southern track, and the uncertainty regarding the depth of excavation required for the construction of the northern track led to a change in the agreed methodology. In consultation with the Berkshire Archaeologist it was agreed that a further four archaeological trial trenches would be excavated within the footprint of the northern track.

1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011a) was prepared and approved by the Archaeological Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, which set out the methodologies and standards to be employed by Wessex Archaeology when undertaking the archaeological mitigation. It was prepared in accordance with the standards and guidance maintained by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). A subsequent

addendum to the WSI (WA 2011b) was submitted to Berkshire Archaeology for work undertaken prior to the 2011 festival. A final WSI (WA 2011c) was prepared and approved by Berkshire Archaeology prior to the excavation of the archaeological trial trenches along the route of the northern track and superseded previous statements concerning the Strip, Map and Sample methodology.

- 1.1.6 The fieldwork was carried out on in three phases; the first was undertaken on 2nd June 2011, the second between the 4th and 6th October 2011, and the third on 12th and 13th December 2011.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The Site is located close to the centre of Reading on farm land utilised for both a small livestock farm and the Reading Festival. For the majority of the year the land is managed grassland, which ensures the farm is in a condition fit for use as an annual international music festival.
- 2.1.2 The Site is bounded by the River Thames to the north and the railway line to the south.
- 2.1.3 The Site is approximately 0.38ha in extent and is situated approximately 38m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 2.1.4 The underlying geology of the Site comprises alluvial deposits overlying gravels of the Reading Beds.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Archaeological background

- 3.1.1 The town and immediate vicinity have provided archaeological evidence from the prehistoric period onwards. Upper Palaeolithic and early Mesolithic activity has been recorded along the valleys of the Kennet, Thames and other lesser watercourses. In the vicinity of the Site, small numbers of Palaeolithic hand axes and other occasional unstratified stray finds of diagnostic flint artefacts have been recorded.
- 3.1.2 A Mesolithic transept axe was found at Caversham Warren, to the north of the Site and a Neolithic stone axe was found in the River Thames at The Clappers, near Reading, to the east of the Site. Evidence of flint knapping has also been recorded at Chazey Court Farm to the north of the Site (Oxford Archaeology, *In prep.*).
- 3.1.3 Five ring ditches, indicative of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The barrows are arranged in a roughly east-west orientated curving line and positioned immediately to the west of the Site.
- 3.1.4 A number of linear earthworks in Berkshire have been tentatively ascribed to the post-Roman period, although so far none of them has been convincingly

dated This includes Coombe Bank, a low lying earthwork positioned perpendicular to the river, immediately to the east of the northernmost track. Although damaged by arable cultivation, the monument is considered of local importance.

- 3.1.5 Archaeological mitigation, in the form of a watching brief and evaluation, was carried out during recent improvements to the railway line immediately to the south of the Site (WA 2011d and 2011e). No significant archaeological features were recorded. A single post-medieval ditch was identified during the evaluation, and the alluvial sequences observed during the evaluation were thought to be of low palaeoenvironmental potential (WA 2011d).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development.
- identify, within the constraints of the fieldwork, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- complete a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive. This will facilitate judgements on the status of the archaeological resource and allow the formulation of an appropriate response to the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological deposits, if required.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Fieldwork

- 5.1.1 In accordance with the three Written Schemes of Investigation (WA 2011a, 2011b and 2011c) approved during the course of the fieldwork, the archaeological mitigation consisted of the excavation of a total of 15 archaeological trial trenches as set out in **Figure 1**. In consultation with the Berkshire Archaeologist, Trench 7 was repositioned approximately 20m to the west of its original location, due to livestock within the field
- 5.1.2 The trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The overburden (topsoil, subsoil and made ground) was removed by machine to the top of the underlying natural geology. Test pits were excavated, up to 1.2m below the ground surface, at the ends of the trenches to expose the underlying geology; where safe to do so sections of the test pits were recorded.
- 5.1.3 Machine excavation ceased at the top of the archaeology or the top of the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately and scanned for artefacts.

- 5.1.4 All archaeological deposits and representative sections were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and a photographic record of investigations was maintained. A full photographic record (digital and 35mm film) of the investigations was maintained during the fieldwork.
- 5.1.5 All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum. Trenches were located using a Leica 1200 series GPS unit using the OS National GPS Network through a RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.
- 5.1.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated material.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the archive and detailed summary of the excavated sequences and features can be found in **Appendix 1**. A plan showing the location of the trial trenches is provided on **Figure 1**.

6.2 Southern Track

- 6.2.1 No archaeological features were recorded in the 11 excavated trial trenches. Two modern features were recorded in **Trench 2** and were probably related to recent farm or festival construction/drainage work. Made ground was recorded in **Trenches 4** and **6** and was related to a modern farm/festival track.
- 6.2.2 A thin dark grey-brown sandy-loam topsoil was recorded across the majority of the trenches. Below the topsoil, the subsoil varied in depth (0.15m – 0.45m), colour and texture. These variations were the result of changes in the underlying geology described below.
- 6.2.3 In **Trenches 1, 2, 3** and **4**, located in the eastern side of the Site, a mid reddish-brown sandy clay with orange mottling (brickearth/alluvium) was recorded above the underlying sand and gravels. The river gravel deposits recorded below the brickearth/alluvium sloped downwards towards the river to the north and was recorded at a depth of between 0.73m (**Trench 4**) and c. 2m BGL (**Trenches 1** and **2**). A mid to dark orange-brown natural sand and gravel was recorded immediately below the subsoil in **Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9** and **10**. No brickearth or clay deposits were recorded within these trenches. In **Trench 11** to the west of Little John's Farm, the underlying natural geology was a mid yellowish-grey clay.
- 6.2.4 A small quantity of archaeological finds was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil during the evaluation and included worked flint and probable Late Bronze Age pottery. Pottery was recovered from trial trenches excavated in the south-eastern area of the Site (**Trenches 1, 2** and **4**) although the condition indicates a high level of reworking and redeposition. Worked flint

was recovered from both the topsoil and subsoil of trial trenches across the southern track, one of which (**Trench 11**) was possibly retouched.

6.3 Northern Track

- 6.3.1 No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the four archaeological trial trenches excavated within the footprint of the northern track, which was in close proximity to the River Thames (**Figure 1**). Although, the eastern most trench (**Trench 15**) was located as near to Coombe Bank as possible (whilst remaining within the area of the proposed track), to recover any archaeological material relating to the earthwork, nothing of archaeological interest was recorded.
- 6.3.2 A thin dark grey brown sandy-clay-loam topsoil was recorded across the four northern trenches. Below the topsoil, the subsoil measured between 0.17m – 0.30m deep and varied from a light yellowish-grey, silty clay to a mid grey-brown sandy clay. These variations reflected the underlying geology.
- 6.3.3 The underlying geology varied between the four trenches. In **Trench 12** the natural geology was a mid blue-grey clay. The clay continued to the base of the sondage 1.10m below ground level.
- 6.3.4 In **Trenches 13** and **15** the underlying geology comprised river gravels within a blue-grey clay matrix. Sondages were excavated to a depth of c. 0.75m but were abandoned due to the high water table. In **Trench 14** a yellow-brown sand and gravel natural was recorded, and may represent an area of slightly higher ground within the Thames floodplain.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, consisting largely of worked flint, with a little pottery (a bunch of modern keys on a ring, recovered from **Trench 2**, is not included here). Finds came from eight of the trenches excavated, and were recovered from topsoil or subsoil layers; quantities by context are given in **Table 1**.

7.2 Worked Flint

- 7.2.1 The flint consists entirely of waste flakes, some bladelike. Two are patinated and most are edge damaged, some heavily so, which would be consistent with a topsoil or subsoil provenance, although the two pieces from subsoil context **1103** are relatively fresh. One of the flakes from **1103** is possibly retouched.

7.3 Pottery

- 7.3.1 The pottery comprises small, abraded body sherds, all in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics. These are undiagnostic, but on fabric grounds can be dated reasonably confidently as Late Bronze Age.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 8.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

9 CONCLUSION

- 9.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded within the evaluation trenches. Residual prehistoric worked flint and Late Bronze Age pottery from the topsoil and subsoil are not unexpected given the recorded and extensive prehistoric activity within the Thames valley.
- 9.1.2 Recent archaeological work to the immediate south of the Site revealed similar alluvial and gravel deposits within the floodplain and their potential for palaeoenvironmental remains was considered to be of low (WA 2011d).
- 9.1.3 The negative evidence for archaeological features and low potential for palaeoenvironmental remains suggests that it is unlikely that the proposed development will encounter any significant archaeological deposits/features on the Site.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 10.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with Reading Museum under the Site Code 77930/Accession Number REDMG:2011.352.

10.2 The Archive

- 10.2.1 The evaluation project archive, consists of:
- One A4 file containing the paper records and drawings
 - Digital data (Site photographs, survey data, word and pdf files)
- 10.2.2 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology (WA) in Salisbury under the WA report reference 77930.

10.3 Copyright

- 10.3.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved.

10.4 Security Copy

- 10.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

11 REFERENCES

- Institute for Archaeologists [IfA], Oct. 2008, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation*.
- Wessex Archaeology 2011a, *Little John and Battle Farm, Reading, Berkshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation (May 2011)*, unpublished client report 77930.01
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- Wessex Archaeology 2011d, *Allotment Site, Cow Lane, Reading Station Area Redevelopment, Reading, Berkshire, Archaeological Watching Brief Summary Report*, unpublished client report ref 76391.03
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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Southern Trenches

Trench 1	Dimensions :	16.7m x 2.14m x 2m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	470216.13, 174363.48, 37.47m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
1000	Alluvium	Dark brown-grey alluvial silty clay with frequent organic flecking.	1.0 - 2.0m
1001	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown alluvial silty clay. Compact with moderate organic flecking. Brickearth.	0.5 - 1.0m
1002	Subsoil	Light orange-brown silty clay with occasional fragments of brick and rubble, compact.	0.15 – 0.50m
1003	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey topsoil.	0 – 0.15m
1004	Natural	Natural gravel with mid orange-brown silty clay	2.0m+

Trench 2	Dimensions :	16.5m x 2.15m x 1.1m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	470264.03, 174387.87, 37.58m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
2000	Subsoil	Dark orange-brown silty clay with moderate organic flecks. Brickearth.	0.44 – 2.0m
2001	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay with common fragments of brick/flint.	0.19 – 0.44m
2002	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown topsoil.	0.0 – 0.19m
2003	Cut	Cut of modern rectangular pit.	1.2m
2004	Fill	Green-grey silty clay fill of 2003.	-
2005	Cut	Cut of modern rectangular pit.	1.1m
2006	Fill	Mid brown-grey loam fill of 2005.	-
2007	Bioturbation	Bioturbation feature.	1.1m

2008	Natural	Natural gravel with mid orange brown silty clay.	2.0m+
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Trench 3	Dimensions :	17.6m x 1.96m x 1.02m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	470305.79, 174361.81, 37.67m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
301	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with moderate small flints gravels less than 0.04m in length	0 - 0.20m
302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy-silt with sparse small sub-angular flint gravels	0.20m – 0.42m
303	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty clay with sparse small sub-angular flint gravel	0.42m – 0.59m
304	Natural	Brickearth - Mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate sub-angular flint gravels.	0.59m – 1.02m
305	Natural	Gravel – Light yellowish-brown sandy clay with abundant poorly sorted flint gravel.	1.02m+

Trench 4	Dimensions :	16.62m x 1.94m x 0.74m	
	Land use:	Pasture and Farm Track	
	Coordinates:	470321.13, 174238.02, 37.85m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
401	Made Ground	Modern made ground used to construct the current access track, hardcore.	0 – 0.06m
402	Made Ground	Mid orange-brown compact sandy silt. Re-deposited sand and gravels used as bedding for track?	0.06 – 0.19m
403	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown silt loam with sparse sub-angular gravel inclusions.	0.19 – 0.28m
404	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silt clay with sparse sub-angular flint gravels.	0.28m – 0.73m
405	Natural	Mid reddish-brown, sandy clay with abundant flint gravels up to 60mm in length. Patches of mid reddish brown sandy clay were also visible in base of trench. Sand and Gravel and brickearth natural.	0.73m+

Trench 5	Dimensions :	18.72m x 1.87m x 0.86m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469983.33, 174206.35, 37.86m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
501	Topsoil	Light grey brown sandy loam with common sub angular flint gravels.	0 – 0.29m

502	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with common sub-angular flint gravels.	0.29m – 0.48m
503	Natural	Mid orange-brown sand with common to abundant flint gravel.	0.48 – 0.64m
504	Natural	Dark orange-brown sand with abundant flint gravels, river terrace gravels.	0.64m – 0.88m

Trench 6	Dimensions :	18.78m x 1.96m x 0.97m	
	Land use:	Pasture and Farm Track	
	Coordinates:	470079.99, 174211.71, 37.54m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
601	Made Ground	Mid grey-brown sandy loam with abundant flint gravels. Modern made ground relating to farm access track.	0 – 0.20m
602	Made Ground	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with orange mottling, very compact. Modern made ground or bedding for track.	0.20 – 0.38m
603	Natural	Mid reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional flint gravels. Thin brickearth type deposit above sand and gravels	0.38 – 0.77m
604	Natural	Mid to dark yellow-brown sandy clay with abundant flint gravels. Natural sand and gravel.	0.77 – 0.97m+

Trench 7	Dimensions :	18.65m x 1.75m x 0.79m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469741.52, 174316.55, 37.92m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
701	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy-loam with sparse sub-angular flint gravels, less than 40mm in length.	0 – 0.18m
702	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silt loam with sparse flint inclusions. Probably the same as 703, but with less gravel.	0.18 – 0.52
703	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with common flint gravels up to 40mm in length. Probably the same as 702.	0.18 – 0.52m
704	Natural	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay with abundant flint gravels inclusions. Mixed deposit of sands and flint gravel.	0.52 – 0.79m+

Trench 8	Dimensions :	18.78m x 1.82m x 0.89m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469696.19, 174221.17, 38.02m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
801	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with rare to moderate flint gravel inclusions, friable.	0 – 0.24m
802	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional to moderate flint gravels up to 40mm in length.	0.24 – 0.49m

803	Natural	Light orange-brown sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions, upper natural.	0.49 – 0.89m
804	Natural	Dark greyish-brown sandy clay with abundant flint gravels, lower natural gravel deposit.	0.89m+

Trench 9	Dimensions :	18.62m x 1.86m x 0.81m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469588.92, 174251.35, 37.85m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
901	Made Ground	Dark grey-brown sand and gravels. Re-deposited flint gravel that formed farm track.	0 – 0.10m
902	Subsoil	Dark reddish-brown with moderate flint gravels, probable subsoil.	0.10 – 0.25m
903	Layer	Light greyish-brown sandy clay with abundant flint gravels, probably represents subsoil/natural gravel interface.	0.12m – 0.47m
904	Layer	Light yellowish-brown sandy silt with abundant flint gravels, possibly the same/similar deposition as 903 but with less clay. Natural sand and gravels	0.47 – 0.60m
905	Layer	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay with sparse flint gravel inclusions. Formed a thin layer of sandier material within gravel horizon.	0.60 – 0.65m
906	Natural	Mid yellowish-brown sandy-silt with abundant flint gravel, natural sands and gravel.	0.65 – 0.81m+

Trench 10	Dimensions :	19.84m x 1.80m x 0.90m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469435.77, 174281.87, 37.27m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
101	Topsoil	Mid brownish-grey sandy clay loam with occasional sub-angular flint, and CBM.	0 – 0.22m
102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silt clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions, slightly more clayey towards the base of deposit.	0.22 – 0.37
103	Natural	Mid yellowish-grey sandy clay with green mottling and frequent flint gravels.	0.37 – 0.90m
104	Natural	Light yellowish-grey sand and gravels, observed in test pit only.	0.90m+

Trench 11	Dimensions :	18.40m x 1.78m x 1.10m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469386.77, 174313.62.62, 37.11m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
1101	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-loam, sparse sub-angular flint gravels and a well-developed turf line.	0 – 0.11m

1102	Subsoil	Mid brownish-grey silt clay with sparse sub-angular flint and CBM. Iron staining was visible throughout, clear horizon to 1103.	0.11 – 0.29m
1103	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silt clay with sparse flint and chalk inclusions. Probably represents the weathered natural soil profile.	0.29 – 0.45m
1104	Natural	Mid yellowish-grey sandy clay with sparse flint inclusions. Firm clay.	0.45 – 1.1m
1105	Natural	Mid yellowish grey clay with green mottling, firm alluvial clay.	1.1m – 1.2m+

Northern Trenches

Trench 12	Dimensions :	11.70m x 1.65m x 1.10m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469410.02, 174926.53, 37.09m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
1201	Topsoil	Very dark grey-brown sandy-clay-loam. Fairly well compact with a well-defined turfline. Clear horizon to subsoil.	0 – 0.17m
1202	Subsoil	Light yellowish-grey with brown mottling. Silty clay firm and compact with a clear horizon to natural. Very rare sub-rounded flints up to 30mm in length.	0.17 – 0.47m
1203	Natural	Alluvial Clay, Mid blue with greyish mottling. Flecks of iron staining and manganese throughout.	0.47 – 1.10m+

Trench 13	Dimensions :	11.30m x 1.5m x 0.75m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469523.90, 174916.49, 37.13m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
1301	Topsoil	Very dark grey-brown sandy clay loam with reddish mottling. Moderately compact with Iron staining throughout. Sparse sub-rounded flints up to 60mm in length.	0 – 0.17m
1302	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy clay very firm and compact. Moderate sub-rounded flint gravels up to 60mm in length.	0.17 – 0.30m
1303	Natural	River Gravels, mid to light blue-grey sandy clay with abundant river gravels up to 120mm in length.	0.30 – 0.75m+

Trench 14	Dimensions :	13.16m x 1.5m x 0.53m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469620.83, 174903.17, 37.35m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
1401	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam with very rare sub-rounded gravels up to 10mm in length. Loose and humic.	0 – 0.19m
1402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular gravels up to 30mm in length. Quite loose and with common bioturbation.	0.16 – 0.43m
1403	Natural	Sands and Gravel, mid brown silty-sand with moderate sub-rounded and sub-angular gravels up to 50mm in length.	0.41 – 0.53m

1404	Natural	Sand and Gravels, mid yellow-brown silty sand with abundant river gravels, fairly loose and poorly sorted.	0.51m+
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Trench 15	Dimensions :	12m x 1.5m x 0.51m	
	Land use:	Pasture	
	Coordinates:	469726.92, 174868.81, 37.15m aOD	
Context	Category	Description	Depth (BGL)
1501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam. Rare sub-angular gravels. Loose with a well-developed humic horizon.	0 – 0.18m
1502	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay rare sub-angular gravels less than 40mm in length. Common bioturbation and quite loose.	0.09 – 0.26m
1503	Alluvium	Mid brown clay with rare sub-angular gravels up to 50mm in length. Compact.	0.20 – 0.44m
1504	Alluvium	Mid blue-grey clay common river gravels throughout up to 100mm in length.	0.36 – 0.51m
1505	Natural	Mid brown sandy-clay, compact. With common river gravels up to 100mm in length.	0.49 – 0.51m+

APPENDIX 2: FINDS TABLE

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Trench	Context	Flint	Pottery
1	1001	1/1	1/3
2	2000		3/11
3	302	1/33	
4	404		5/22
7	701	1/23	
8	802	1/6	
10	101	1/10	
11	1103	2/25	
	TOTALS	7/98	9/14

APPENDIX 3: OASIS RECORD FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-118117

Project details

Project name Little John's and Battle Farm, Reading, Berkshire

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 77930 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

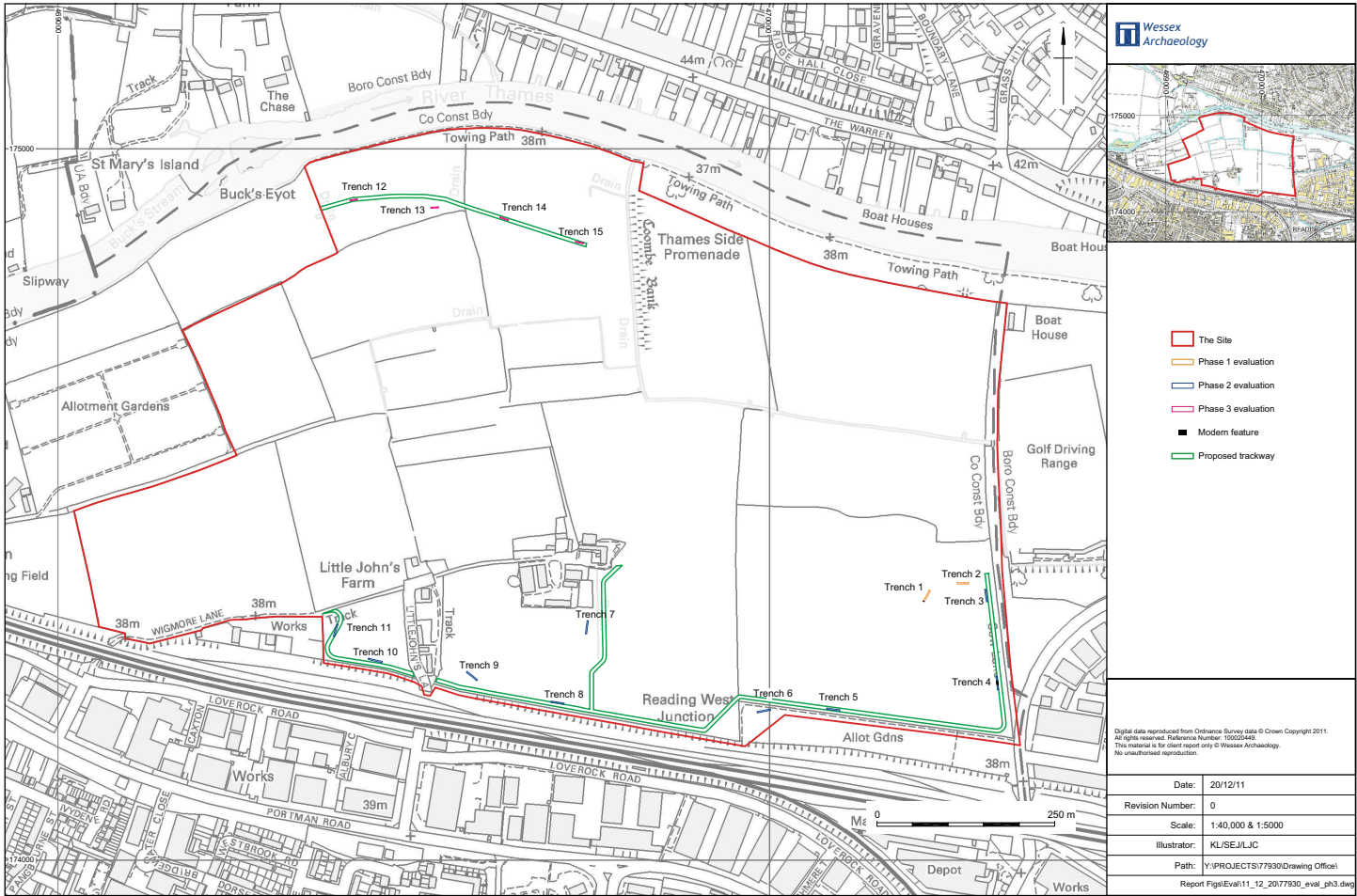
Monument type NONE

Significant Finds NONE

Methods & 'Sample Trenches' techniques

Development type New Path network

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS



Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: General view of Trench 2, viewed from west



Plate 2: General view of Trench 5, viewed from south-west



Plate 3: General view of Trench 7, viewed from north



Plate 4: General view of Trench 9, viewed from east



Plate 5: General view of Trench 10, viewed from west



Plate 6: East facing representative section of Trench 1

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Plate 7: North-west facing representative section of Trench 5



Plate 8: South facing representative section of Trench 8



Plate 9: South-east facing representative section of Trench 11



Plate 10: View of Site and Trench 12



Plate 11: North facing representative section of Trench 13



Plate 12: General view of Trench 15



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