



making sense of heritage

Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Ref: 102050.01
December 2013



**Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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November 2013

102050.01



Quality Assurance

Project Code	102050	Accession Code		Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	F/2013/0172	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	471080 167569		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	NB	AK		25/11/13
File:	X:\PROJECTS\102050\Report\102050_Grazeley Road 84-86_report v1.0.docx				
File:					
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire

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Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kirby Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction works to the rear of 84-86 Grazeley Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire (NGR 471080, 167569). The watching brief was undertaken between the 11th and the 22nd November 2013.

No archaeological features or deposits were found.



Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Kirby Homes Ltd. and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Francis Lazenby in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Fiona MacDonald and Mary Neale (Berkshire Archaeology) for their advice and assistance during the course of the works.

The watching brief was undertaken by Ben Cullen and Naomi Brennan. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations by Linda Coleman. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy King.



Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kirby Homes Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction works to the rear of 84-86 Grazeley Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire, National Grid Reference (NGR) 471080, 167569 (hereafter 'the Site'). The watching brief was undertaken during excavation of footings and other invasive groundworks for 2 dwellings and associated garages, parking and landscaping (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development is located on land to the rear of Nos 84-86 Grazeley Road. Planning Consent has been granted to which conditions have been attached, including the following:

(8) No development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) has been implemented 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 detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition.

Reason:

To allow adequate archaeological investigation before any archaeological remains are disturbed by the approved development.

1.1.3 The Archaeological Officer for Berkshire has commented (dated 22nd March 2013) that an archaeological watching brief undertaken during all intrusive groundworks will be an appropriate response.

1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken between the 11th and the 22nd November 2013.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located within the urban area of Three Mile Cross in the suburb of Shinfield, Reading. The land comprises roughly 716 square metres of former gardens to the rear of residential properties along Grazeley Road to the north, Loxwood Close to the east and Woodcock Court to the south.

1.2.2 The ground surface is generally level, at an approximate height above Ordnance Datum (aOD) of 40m. The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as London Clay (BGS).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 Several archaeological investigations have taken place in the vicinity of Grazeley Road and Mere oak Lane. These investigations have predominantly yielded Iron Age and Romano-British features and artefacts, in particular to the north of Grazeley Road (TVAS 2003 & 2011). Fieldwork on the southern side of the road showed less extensive remains (TVAS 1998 & 2000) but the Site was still considered to be located within an area of high archaeological potential.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- *to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2013), this is summarised below:

3.2.2 An archaeological presence was maintained during initial ground reduction as well as the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwellings. Once these observations were complete and no archaeological features or deposits were found, the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority agreed that monitoring could cease.

3.2.3 A record was made of the on-site conditions and progress of groundworks using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* record sheets.

3.2.4 A full photographic record was compiled using digital images. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the site as a whole. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.

3.2.5 Monitored works were referenced to the OS mapping.

3.2.6 A unique site code **102050** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.



3.3 Health and Safety

- 3.3.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.4 Best practice

- 3.4.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 Up to 0.3m of modern topsoil was found to overlie 0.5m of a pale yellow-orange, sandy clay (natural geology), which contained frequent tree roots. Beneath this was a more gravel rich sandy clay deposit down to 1.7m below ground level at which point a pale blue-grey, gleyed clay, the upper mantle of the London Clay, was observed.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered during this watching brief.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1 The absence of any archaeological features or deposits on this site, along with the results of previous fieldwork in the vicinity, would seem to support the idea that the focus of Iron Age and Romano-British activity and occupation was to the north of Grazeley Road, with the area to the south remaining relatively undeveloped until the modern period.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Archive

- 7.1.1 No suitable repository has been found for the physical project archive. Given the small scale of the project, and the lack of artefactual evidence, it is proposed that following the digital scanning of the records, the physical archive is not retained for long-term curation. The digital records, including this report, will be submitted to the HER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code 102050.



- 7.1.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

7.2 Copyright

- 7.2.1 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. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.
- 7.2.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report

7.3 Security Copy

- 7.3.1 In line with current best practice (Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of a PDF/A file; PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

British Geological Survey data available at:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/digmap50wms.html>

Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (revised edition)*, Archaeological Archives Forum

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9 APPENDIX: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-165140

Project details

Project name	Grazeley Road nos 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire, Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	In November 2013 an archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for two residential properties on land at the rear of 84-86 Grazeley Road. Previous fieldwork in the vicinity had identified Iron Age and Romano-British deposits and features to the north of Grazeley Road. However, no archaeological deposits or features were present on this site.
Project dates	Start: 11-11-2013 End: 22-11-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	102050 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	F/2013/0172 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM SHINFIELD Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire
Postcode	RG7 1BX
Study area	716.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 471080 167569 50 -1 50 56 51 N 001 19 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 39.00m Max: 40.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
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Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andy King
Project supervisor	Ben Cullen
Project supervisor	Naomi Brennan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Kirby Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Digital Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	Wokingham Museum not accepting archives in 2013. Digital archive record will be kept by Wessex Archaeology.
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Wessex Archaeology

Project bibliography 1

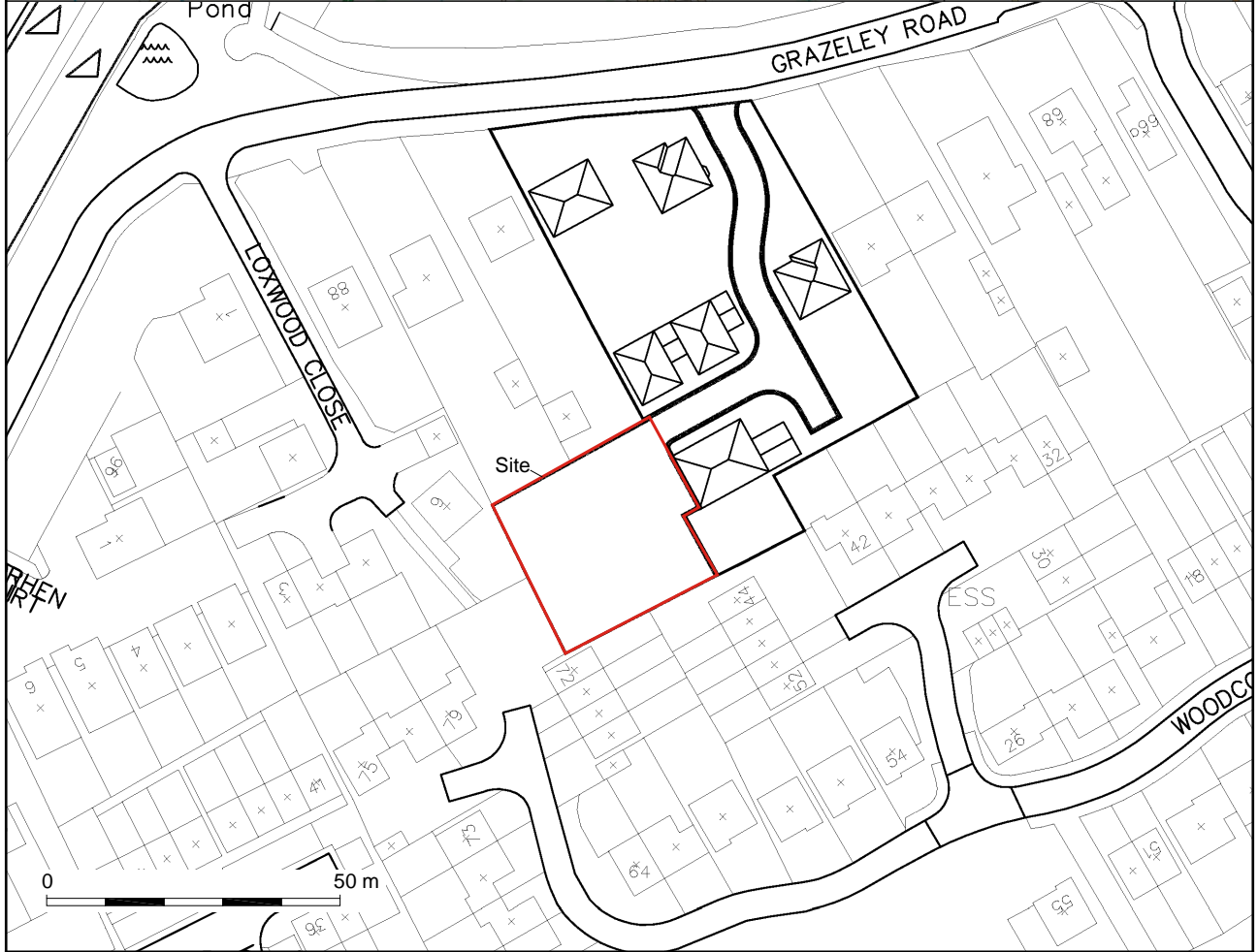
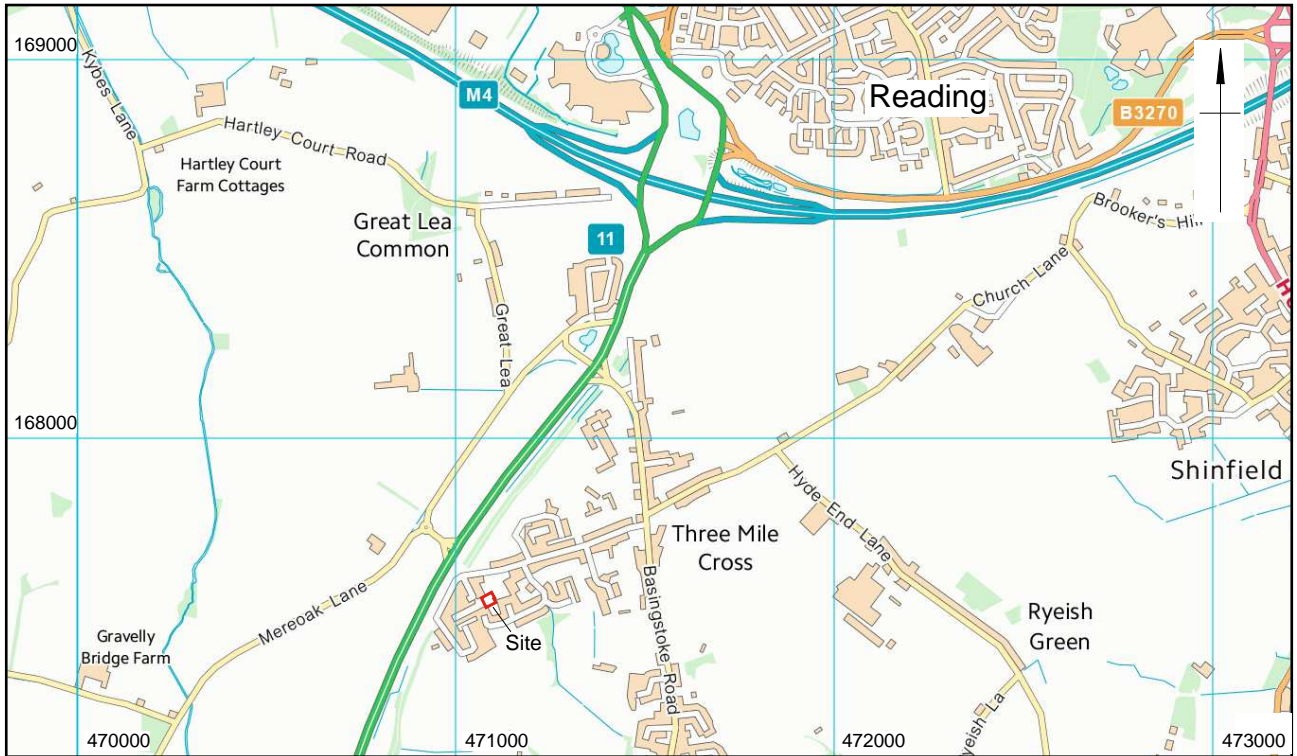
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Grazeley Road 84-86, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berkshire, Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brennan, N.
Other bibliographic details	102050.01
Date	2013





Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or
publication Portway House, Old Sarum, Salisbury

Description A4 bound booklet




 Watching Brief 	Client basemapping: digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 01439000. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2013. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
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Location of Site and monitored works

Figure 1



Plate 1: South-west facing representative section

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