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# Land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 107281.03  
July 2015



**Land to the East of Park Way,  
Newbury, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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# Land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Contents

Summary .....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project background .....	1
1.2 Scope of this document.....	1
1.3 The Site.....	1
<b>2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	2
2.2 Prehistoric (900,000 BC–AD 43) .....	2
2.3 Romano-British (AD 43–410) .....	2
2.4 Saxon and medieval (AD 410–1500).....	3
2.5 Post-medieval, 19 <sup>th</sup> century and modern (AD 1500–present).....	3
<b>3 METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 General aims and objectives .....	4
3.2 Fieldwork methodology .....	4
3.3 Recording.....	5
3.4 Reinstatement.....	5
3.5 Finds and environmental sampling .....	5
3.6 Health and safety .....	6
3.7 Best practice .....	6
<b>4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	6
4.2 Trench 4 (10m x 2m x 1.2m) .....	6
4.3 Trench 5 (5.5m x 2m x 1.2m) .....	7
<b>5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	7
5.2 Pottery.....	8
5.3 Ceramic building material .....	8
5.4 Other finds .....	8



<b>6</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
6.1	Introduction .....	8
6.2	Sediments and Molluscs .....	8
	<i>Summary</i> .....	9
6.3	Further Potential.....	9
	<i>Sediments and molluscs</i> .....	9
<b>7</b>	<b>FURTHER POTENTIAL</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>STORAGE AND CURATION</b> .....	<b>9</b>
8.1	Museum .....	9
8.2	Preparation of Archive.....	10
8.3	Discard policy.....	10
8.4	Security Copy.....	10
<b>9</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>11</b>
9.1	Bibliography .....	11
<b>10</b>	<b>APPENDICIES</b> .....	<b>13</b>
10.1	Appendix 1: Detailed Trench tables.....	13
10.2	Appendix 2: Environmental Data .....	15
10.3	Appendix 3: OASIS Data.....	16

#### Tables

Table 1:	All finds by context (number / weight in grammes).....	8
Table 2:	Sediment descriptions and sub-samples taken .....	15

#### Figures

Figure 1:	Site and trench location plan
Figure 2:	Trench sections.

#### Plates

Cover :	Recording trench 5
Plate 1:	Trench 4 taken from the north
Plate 2:	East facing section in Trench 4
Plate 3:	Trench 5 taken from the south west
Plate 4:	South east facing section in Trench 5



# **Land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Rowe Partnership Ltd, on behalf of Rotterdam Properties Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the East of Park Way, Newbury Berkshire (NGR 447250, 167612). The work was undertaken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 and comprised the excavation of two machine excavated trial trenches.

Soil sequences present within trenches 4 and 5 were consistent with those recorded within the three previously excavated trenches on the site (TVAS 1996). Variations in the lower alluvial strata imply that the eastern side of the site supported a permanent stream environment with fairly fast flowing water with marsh land extending into the western side of the site. This is suggested by the presence of the layer of peat recorded at the limit of excavation (1.3m below ground level) in trench 4.

The recovery of pottery dating to the medieval period from the layers sealing the peat in trench 4 corresponds to the previously recovered ceramic assemblage from the site. The residual prehistoric flint flake and the abraded Iron Age pottery sherd are of interest however no features or deposits of this date were identified



# **Land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to The Rowe Partnership Ltd for commissioning the project on behalf of Rotterdam Properties Ltd. The help and assistance of Alex Godden Archaeological Officer West Berkshire Council and is also duly acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Clelland assisted by Jamie McCarthy.

The samples were processed by Tony Scothern and were assessed by Nicki Mulhall. This report was written by Susan Clelland with contributions from Nicki Mulhall (Environmental) and Lorraine Mephram (Finds). The report illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.



# Land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by The Rowe Partnership Ltd, on behalf of Rotterdam Properties Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 447250, 167612
- 1.1.2 The evaluation follows on from previous evaluation work, undertaken by TVAS in 1996, confirmed the presence of medieval features within the western part of the Site, although this evaluation sampled less than 2% of the total development area, and did not incorporate the eastern part of the current site.
- 1.1.3 The Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council acting on as the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) recommended that two additional evaluation trenches would be excavated in order to investigate the remainder of the site. Results of the evaluation may inform the LPA of any further requirement to mitigate the impact of any future development.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation comprised two trenches measuring 10m x 2m and 5.5m x 2m, the location of which are indicated in **Figure 1**.

#### 1.2 Scope of this document

- 1.2.1 This report provides a statement on the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.

#### 1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Site is located within the town of Newbury on the eastern edge of the historic core and just outside the Conservation Area. The Site currently comprises of an area of car parking adjacent to a former cinema, now a health club and occupies an area of approximately 0.205 hectares.
- 1.3.2 The Site is bounded to the north by a Travel Lodge on London Road, to the west by Park Way, to the south by the health club and to the east by the properties on Park End. The Site is situated at an elevation of approximately 77m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as the Seaford Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits of Lower Beenham Grange Gravel (British Geological Survey). Just to the south of the Site superficial deposits of peat are also recorded.





## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A full detailed description of the archaeological background to the Site has been presented in the DBA previously produced by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2015a). A summary of those findings is presented below.

### 2.2 Prehistoric (900,000 BC–AD 43)

2.2.1 Though lying outside the immediate Study Area a number of finds of Palaeolithic material in the wider area indicate activity at this time. Due to subsequent periglacial processes at the end of the Ice Age, Palaeolithic artefacts and activity may be associated with specific geological deposits and can be deeply buried. Such finds are particularly associated with some of the river terrace gravel deposits and include flakes and hand axes found in the area of St John's Road, Station Road, Buckingham Road, Holland's Mill and Wash Common (WA 1993, 62-63).

2.2.2 The Lower Kennet Valley contains a number of Mesolithic sites represented by dense flint scatters. The Mesolithic period is associated with hunter-gatherer patterns of exploitation and shifting settlement, as a result evidence from this period is often ephemeral and difficult to identify in the archaeological record. Such activity is known to the west of the Study Area at Thatcham (Healy et al., 1992) and at Faraday Road, which lies just to the east of the Study Area (WA 1997). It has been suggested that these sites were linked to clearings in the woodland on the edge of the gravel terraces overlooking the floodplain, part of a natural route way to the chalklands in the west and to the East Anglian and Wealden sites (Healy et al., 1992). The activity represented by these deposits is likely to have been semi-permanent or seasonal settlements for communities exploiting the rich natural resources of the river valley.

2.2.3 The early prehistoric potential of the Kennet Valley between Avington and Ufton Bridge has been assessed through use of deposit modelling in conjunction with existing data (WA 2014). This established high Mesolithic potential within the north-eastern part of the Study Area. There are two recorded finds of Mesolithic flints within the Study Area, both within this zone of high potential. Though test pits were dug to help recover potential Mesolithic material from the Park Way redevelopment site only three clear examples of struck flint were recovered, none of which was chronologically diagnostic.

2.2.4 In common with other areas of the Lower Kennet Valley little evidence has been currently discovered for Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement within the Study Area or the wider area of Newbury, despite the period's association with the establishment of farming and permanent settlement (Oxford Archaeology 2005, 8). However, a barrow cemetery lies within the area of Wash Common to the south-west of the Study Area and a number of artefacts have also been recovered within the wider area.

2.2.5 Equally there is little direct evidence for Iron Age activity in the Study Area though an arrowhead dating to this period was discovered in Victoria Park. A pile structure found in the 19th century was also believed to date to this time. To the west of the Study Area an area of Middle Iron Age occupation was discovered at Enborne Road (WA 2002).

### 2.3 Romano-British (AD 43–410)

2.3.1 Newbury lies at an important bridging point over the River Kennet and on a major east – west route between Bath and London (Higgott 2001, 5). A Roman road is known to have linked Roman Bath (*Aquea Sulis*) and Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunorum*) with Silchester

2.3.2 (*Calleva*) and London (*Londinium*), passing through the area of Newbury (Peacock 2011, 8). Though there is only one recorded Roman findspot (pottery sherds and a glass bottle) within the Study Area, a number of Roman cemeteries lie within the Newbury Area as well as a possible villa or farmstead site near Enborne Road (*ibid.*, 11-14).

## 2.4 Saxon and medieval (AD 410–1500)

2.4.1 Within the Domesday Survey (1086) the pre-conquest settlement of *Ulvritone* is recorded, thought to lie within the area of Newbury, as a fairly large settlement of 22 households (Higgott 2001, 15). Newbury itself is thought to have been established after the conquest as a 'new borough' (*ibid.*). The parish church of St Nicholas, which lies to the south of the Study Area dates to at least the late 11th century, though the present structure was largely rebuilt in the 16th century. A castle is documented in the mid-12th century, though the location of this is unknown and may lie much further to the south-west at Hamstead Marshall (*ibid.* 16).

2.4.2 The settlement of Newbury grew both in size and wealth during the medieval period due to its involvement in the wool and cloth industries. By 1377, with a population of around 1,900, it was larger than Reading at this time (Higgott 2001, 18). The focus of the medieval settlement is thought to be in the areas of Cheap Street and Bartholomew Street (outside of the Study Area, to the southwest), later expanding to the area of Northbrook Street. Archaeological investigations suggest that the area between Northbrook Street and Park Way may have been reclaimed from marshland.

2.4.3 The Site itself lies within an area known as Speenhamland, once part of Speen parish and settled due to its position along the main road. A wayside chapel is thought to have stood at the junction between this road and Northbrook Street.

2.4.4 An archaeological evaluation previously carried out on the Site located a number of features, including ditches and pits, and around 1m of modern overburden deposits were found to overlie these archaeological features (TVAS 1996). In a deep sondage excavated in one of the trenches 0.68m of overburden overlay 0.30m of buried topsoil and then 0.40m of peat. Below the peat a natural sand was located. Most of the pottery recovered dated to the late 12th-15th century and was found in both a number of the features and more generalised spreads. While no indication of direct residential occupation was discovered, a number of the features seem to suggest medieval exploitation of the peat deposits present within the Site. Indications from the deposit sequence suggest that the area may have been prone to sporadic flooding.

## 2.5 Post-medieval, 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern (AD 1500–present)

2.5.1 A map dated 1768 by John Willis (copy reproduced in Higgott 2001) shows that the Site at this time lay to the north of an area of unenclosed land called The Marsh an arrangement which still persists into the 19th century.

2.5.2 On the 1780 enclosure map which covers the southern part of the parish, settlement can be seen at this time to be focused along the London Road and junction with Northbrook Street. The Site is seen to lie within the rear of these properties with a plot division boundary potentially crossing the Site.

2.5.3 The Site is not depicted on the 1842 tithe map of Newbury, although it can be seen that the area of the Marsh remained unenclosed at this date.

2.5.4 While the plot boundaries and road layout remains unaltered between the 1842 tithe map and the First Edition 1880 Ordnance Survey map there are a large number of visible

2.5.5 alterations and extensions to the properties along Northbrook Street. This intensive development is reflected in the late post-medieval and 19th century made ground deposits encountered in this area. Interestingly enough late post-medieval made ground was also noted at the former Feltham Tyres site, though this lies outside the main settlement area until the mid-20th century.

2.5.6 Most recently the Site has been used as a car park to the rear of an Art Deco style cinema building

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 General aims and objectives**

3.1.1 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 evaluation, the date, character and condition 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;*
- *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.*

3.1.2 The specific project objectives were to:

- *To better understand the nature and extent of the medieval archaeology identified during the evaluation undertaken by TVAS (1996).*
- *To assess the potential for Mesolithic activity on the site.*

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in the agreed WSI (WA 2015b) and comprised of 2 machine excavated trial trenches. Trenches were positioned to target the hitherto un-investigated eastern part of the site and to provide additional and/or supporting detail regarding archaeological features and deposits previously identified in the western part of the site (**Figure 1**).

3.2.2 The trenches were laid out using GPS in general accordance with the proposed layout detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WA 2015b). Alterations were made in the positioning and extent of the trench sited in the eastern part of the site in response to the identification of underground services and the limitations imposed by extant tree canopies. The trench locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

3.2.3 Prior to machine excavation, trench locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and Genny. The positions of any detected services were marked on the ground and were avoided.

3.2.4 The trial trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision. Machine excavation was under the instruction of the monitoring archaeologist and proceeded in level spits, c. 100mm until the



archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed or the HSE trench depth limit was reached, whichever was encountered first.

- 3.2.5 Once the level of archaeological deposits had been exposed by machine, archaeological features were hand cleaned, a sample excavated to sufficiently address the aims of the evaluation and each feature was recorded to professionally accepted standards.
- 3.2.6 A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural deposits was recorded.
- 3.2.7 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned by trained archaeological personnel for the purposes of finds retrieval.

### **3.3 Recording**

- 3.3.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.
- 3.3.2 A real time kinematic (RTK) survey was carried out using a Leica Viva series GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data was recorded in Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates and heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn), to a three-dimensional accuracy limit of 30mm. The electronic survey record will be retained within the site archive.
- 3.3.3 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels is marked on plans/sections.
- 3.3.4 A full photographic record was made using digital photography. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and the general context of the principal features and finds excavated as well as 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.
- 3.3.5 A unique project code **107281** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

### **3.4 Reinstatement**

- 3.4.1 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the County Archaeologist were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. Following consultation with the client excavated tarmac from both trenches was collected and piled discretely within the corner of the site. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

### **3.5 Finds and environmental sampling**

- 3.5.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were devised and implemented by Wessex Archaeology's finds and environmental specialists.
- 3.5.2 A full and detailed description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies are laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WA 2015b).

### 3.6 Health and safety

- 3.6.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 3.6.2 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.

### 3.7 Best practice

- 3.7.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of 2 trenches were excavated during the evaluation and were positioned as shown on **Figure 1**. For ease of reference the trenches were numbered 4 and 5 to continue the number system employed during previous work (TVAS 1996). A full and detailed description of all the features and deposits identified during the evaluation can be found in **Appendix 1**

### 4.2 Trench 4 (10m x 2m x 1.2m)

- 4.2.1 Trench 4 aligned north to south and was located on the western side of the development site **Figure 1** and **Plate 1**. A representative section detailing a majority of the deposits recorded within the trench are shown on **Figure 2** and in **Plate 2**. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench is as follows:
- 4.2.2 A c. 0.62m depth of modern deposits (layer **401**) sequentially comprising tarmac, Type 1 gravel, hoggin and modern levelling overlay a 0.3m deep layer of modern buried topsoil (deposit **402**). Pit **407** recorded at the northern end of the trench cut through the modern levelling and was sealed by the hoggin carpark formation.
- 4.2.3 Topsoil layer **402** sealed an irregular shallow area of disturbed ground (feature **410**). The feature which extended across width of trench at its northern end was 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep with a diffuse cut interface and undulating base. It is likely to have been the result of bioturbation. Feature **410** cut through a small surviving area of subsoil (deposit **403**) on its northern side and alluvium (deposit **404**) on its southern side. Three sherds of medieval pottery, a prehistoric flint flake and a French 5-centime piece, Napoleon III, dated 1854 were found within the associated fill (deposit **411**).
- 4.2.4 A 0.4m long and 0.6m wide vertically sided pit (pit **413**) or trench terminus was present on extending beyond the western side of the trench. The pit was filled with a mixed deposit (deposit **412**) derived from medieval occupation debris and eroded alluvium. The upper part of the cut interface was poorly defined but the feature became partially visible during the removal of topsoil layer **402**.
- 4.2.5 In the north west corner of the trench buried subsoil deposit **403** was 0.15m deep and overlay a 0.17m thick layer of moderately compact dark orange sandy loam and gravel (deposit **409**).



4.2.6 Within the remainder of the trench the 0.25m thick alluvial layer **404**, a mid grey sandy loam with frequent fine to large coarse gravel, dark grey mottling, frequent rooting and worm casts was found to overlie a distinct 0.15m to 0.2m thick layer of alluvial material (**405**) containing frequent degraded chalk which in turn sealed peat layer **406**. Three sherds of abraded pottery were found within alluvial layer **405**, two dated to the medieval period and the other dated from the Iron Age.

### 4.3 Trench 5 (5.5m x 2m x 1.2m)

4.3.1 Trench 5 aligned north to south and was located on the western side of the development site **Figure 1** and **Plate 3**. A representative section detailing a majority of the deposits recorded within the trench are shown on **Figure 2** and in **Plate 4**. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench is as follows:

4.3.2 A c. 0.55m depth of modern deposits (layer **501**) sequentially comprising tarmac, Type 1 gravel, hoggin and modern levelling overlay a 0.2m deep layer of modern buried topsoil (deposit **502**).

4.3.3 Topsoil layer **502** sealed an alluvial subsoil layer (deposit **503**) composed of grey sandy clay with chalk flecking. Small fragments of ceramic building material were also noted throughout. Layer **503** was 0.15m thick with clear horizons and overlay the uppermost of a series of alluvial deposits, layer **504**.

4.3.4 The characteristics of alluvial layer **504** were similar to that of layer **405** (trench 4). Both were distinct in their composition with a notable presence of degraded chalk. Layer **504** was 0.2m thick and overlay deposit **506** the fill of a small hollow (feature **505**) which is likely to have been the result of water action or bioturbation impacting on the upper surface of underlying alluvial layer **507**.

4.3.5 Layer **507** was a maximum of 0.45m thick and represents the successive accumulation of river flood deposits. It comprised a mid to dark brown sandy loam with rooting and degraded organic material noted within it. Fine horizontal laminations of alluvial gravel interspersed the deposit reflecting its gradual build up.

4.3.6 A white sandy gravel layer (deposit **508**) with abundant small aquatic shells interspersed with broadly horizontal lenses and laminations of mid to dark brown organic silt was recorded below layer **507**. Layer **508** extended along the length of the trench but was at its deepest (0.3m deep) towards the south west end of the trench. It extended below the limit of excavation.

## 5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, in a restricted range of material types; the assemblage includes material of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date. The quantified breakdown of finds by material type and by context is given in **Table 1**.



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

Context	CBM	Pottery	Other Finds
405		3/8	
411		3/26	1 flint; 1 coin
412	2/62	2/12	1 animal bone
<b>Total</b>	<b>2/62</b>	<b>8/46</b>	

## 5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 Of the eight sherds of pottery recovered, one is prehistoric and the remainder are medieval. All sherds are small, although not showing signs of heavy abrasion; mean sherd weight is 6g.
- 5.2.2 One sherd from context **405** is dated as Iron Age; this is in a sandy fabric with prominent iron compounds. This is an undiagnostic body sherd, and cannot be dated more closely within the period. It is clearly residual in this context, found with medieval sherds.
- 5.2.3 The seven medieval sherds are divided between sandy wares and chalk-/flint-tempered wares; there are no diagnostic sherds. The sandy wares are medium-grained; one is glazed. These are comparable to sandy wares previously recorded from Newbury and for which one source in west Berkshire has been identified, at Ashampstead (Vince 1997, pottery group C; Mephams and Heaton 1995). The chalk-/flint-tempered wares fall within a group of coarsewares known as 'Kennet Valley' wares, with a wide distribution across west Berkshire and the surrounding counties, and a lengthy currency through the medieval period (Vince 1997, pottery group B; Mephams 2000). In the absence of diagnostic forms, it is difficult to date this small group of sherds closely, but a date range of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century is likely.

## 5.3 Ceramic building material

- 5.3.1 Two pieces of CBM were recovered, both fragments of medieval peg tiles; one is glazed.

## 5.4 Other finds

- 5.4.1 Other finds comprise one animal bone; one prehistoric flint flake, and one coin (French 5-centime piece, Napoleon III, 1854).

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A sequence of two monoliths and two accompanying bulk samples were taken through the section within trench 5 in order to characterise the deposits.

### 6.2 Sediments and Molluscs

- 6.2.1 Two monolith samples were taken from a section of trench 5.
- 6.2.2 The monoliths were cleaned prior to recording and standard descriptions used, (following Hodgson 1997) including Munsell colour, texture, structure and nature of boundaries, as given below in Table 2



- 6.2.3 The two monoliths overlap to show a sequence that is alluvial in nature. It is dominated by fairly narrow laminations of fine, slightly organic silty clay with calcareous sand with aquatic mollusc shells throughout.
- 6.2.4 Mollusc species were noticed in the deposit and nomenclature follows Anderson (2005) and habitat information follows Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). The mollusc species observed include: *Pisidium amnicum*, *Valvata cristata*, *Valvata piscinalis*, *Gyraulus crista*, *Carychium cf. minimum*, *Bathyomphalus contortus*, *Bithynia tentaculata* and opercula, *Radix balthica*, *Gyraulus albus* and *Ancylus fluviatilis*. This assemblage suggests a permanent, fairly fast flowing aquatic environment, probably a stream. The presence of *Carychium cf. minimum* indicates the presence of marshy vegetation.

#### Summary

- 6.2.5 The sequence is alluvial in nature as shown by the laminations of fine slightly organic silt and calcareous sand with abundant aquatic mollusc shells throughout. The mollusc assemblage supports a permanent stream environment with fairly fast flowing water and some possible marshy land. There is no evidence for the presence of peat *sensu strictu* as seen in the previous evaluation (TVAS 1996) at this depth.

### 6.3 Further Potential

#### *Sediments and molluscs*

- 6.3.1 No further work is recommended on this deposit, as the sequence likely to be relatively short-lived and by its nature is likely to contain micro- and macrofossils washed in from upstream. It also has no known link with archaeological activity.
- 6.3.2 No further work is proposed on this sequence.

## 7 FURTHER POTENTIAL

- 7.1.1 Soil sequences present within trenches 4 and 5 were consistent with those recorded within the three previously excavated trenches on the site (TVAS 1996). Variations in the lower alluvial strata imply that the eastern side of the site supported a permanent stream environment with fairly fast flowing water with marsh land extending into the western side of the site. This is suggested by the presence of the layer of peat recorded at the limit of excavation (1.3m below ground level) in trench 4.
- 7.1.2 The recovery of pottery dating to the medieval period from the layers sealing the peat in trench 4 corresponds to the previously recovered ceramic assemblage from the site. The residual prehistoric flint flake and the abraded Iron Age pottery sherd are of interest however no features or deposits of this date were identified.

## 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the West Berkshire Museum, Newbury Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **NEBYM:2015.65**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.





## **8.2 Preparation of Archive**

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the West Berkshire Museum (2009), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

1.1.1 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard box of finds
- 1 file of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

## **8.3 Discard policy**

1.1.2 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, retention of the whole finds assemblage is recommended.

8.3.1 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

## **8.4 Security Copy**

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital 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.



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2015b, *Land to the East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Report ref. 107281.01



## 10 APPENDICIES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Detailed Trench tables

<b>Trench 4</b>	Dimensions: 10m x 2m x 1.2 m		Ground Level (maOD): c.75m
	Land use: Car park		
	Coordinates: (SW) 447232.6100, 167607.9430; (NE) 447235.6620, 167618.7870		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
401	Made Ground	Modern ground surface sequentially comprising modern levelling, hoggin, type 1 gravel and tarmac	0m-0.62m
402	Buried topsoil	Dark grey black silty loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded gravel. Occasional CBM fragments and occasional fine to medium rooting. Soft compaction and clear horizons.	0.62m-0.9m
403	Buried subsoil	Only identified at northern end of the trench. Dark orange brown silty loam with sparse medium sub-rounded gravel and frequent fine gravel. Moderate compaction and clear horizons	0.82m-0.99m
404	Alluvium	Mid grey sandy loam with frequent fine to large coarse gravel. Soft compaction. Dark grey and occasional white mottling throughout resulting from bioturbation. Soft compaction clear horizons.	0.9m-1.14m
405	Alluvium	Light grey white silty loam with frequent degraded chalk and sparse small to medium rounded gravel.	1.14m-1.3m
406	Peat	Dark grey brown to black peat – degraded organic material	1.3m+
407	Modern truncation	Extends northwards beyond edge of trench - sub-rectangular pit/trench. FB 408	0.3-1.2m+
408	Deliberate backfill	Mixed up-cast with CBM clinker and modern glass. FO 407	0.9m thick
409	Alluvium	Only a very small extent of this layer present in the north west corner of the trench overlain by layer 403. A moderately compact dark orange sandy loam and gravel	0.99m-1.16m
410	Bioturbation	Irregular shallow area of disturbed ground extending across width of trench with diffuse definition and undulating base. Likely to be the result of bioturbation. Cut through layer 403 and 404. FB 411	0.29m deep
411	Primary fill	Mid grey brown silty loam with frequent mixed gravel. Diffuse physical horizon with alluvial deposits to south. Contained Object 1 and pottery fragment	0.29m thick
412	Deliberate backfill	Mixed deposit derived from Late to Post-med occupation debris and eroded alluvium from feature sides. FO 412	0.7m thick
413	Pit	Straight sided trench end or pit. Feature extends beyond western edge of trench. FB 413	0.7m deep
Natural horizons were not reached due to Health and Safety limits. Trench was backfilled immediately as it was located in close proximity to a fire escape.			



<b>Trench 5</b>	Dimensions: 5.5 x 2m x 1.2m		Ground Level (maOD): c. 74.4m
	Land use: Car park		
	Coordinates: (SW) 447273.0920, 167602.4600; (NE) 447277.2310, 167606.6890		
<b>Context</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
501	Made Ground	Modern ground surface sequentially comprising modern levelling, hoggin, type 1 gravel and tarmac	0m-0.55m
502	Buried topsoil	Dark grey black silty loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded gravel. Occasional CBM fragments and occasional fine to medium rooting. Soft compaction and clear horizons.	0.45m-0.65m
503	Subsoil	Grey sandy clay with chalk and CBM flecking throughout. Occasional small to medium rounded gravel. Stiff compact deposit with clear horizons	0.6m-0.75m
504	Alluvium	Mid brown and grey white silty loam with frequent degraded chalk and sparse small to medium rounded gravel.	0.65m-0.85m
505	Hollow	Undulation within the alluvium likely to be the result of water action or bioturbation. Deposit 506 and 504 maybe the same layer.	0.85m-1.05m
506	Primary fill	Mid brown and grey white silty loam with frequent degraded chalk and sparse small to medium rounded gravel.	0.85m-1.05m
507	Alluvium	Mid to dark brown sandy loam with rooting and degraded organic material and fine horizontal laminations of alluvial gravel	0.75m-1.2m
508	Alluvial Gravel	White sandy gravel with abundant small shells and lenses and laminations of mid to dark brown organic silt	0.9m-1.2m
Natural horizons were not reached due to Health and Safety limits. Monolith samples taken of lower alluvial deposits to determine whether confirm or disprove peat formation at this level			



## 10.2 Appendix 2: Environmental Data

**Table 2: Sediment descriptions and sub-samples taken**

Location:		Trench 5	Mono:	1 and 2	Comments: 107281 Premier Inn, Newbury. Monoliths <1> and <2> overlapping taken from the section of trench 5.	
Level (top):			Drg:	501	Described and interpreted by Nicki Mulhall	
Depth		Context	Samples	Sediment description	Interpretation	
Mono	mOD					
0.00-0.17		(504) (506)		10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown silty clay loam. Common crushed chalk throughout and moderate small stones <3cm from 0.10-0.17. 0.2% fine pores, no visible plant remains. Sharp boundary.	Alluvium.	Probable fairly fast flowing stream with fluctuations in speed.
0.17-0.21		(507)		10YR 2/2 very dark brown slightly organic silty clay. Very faintly horizontally laminated. Sparse calcareous grains throughout. Very rare plant remains (only visible under the microscope). Sharp boundary.	Slightly organic alluvial sediment. Laid down by water as sediment, not developed in situ	
0.21-0.30		(507)		Fairly thin (2-5mm) laminations of predominantly 10YR 2/2 very dark brown silty clay and 10YR 5/2 greyish brown calcareous sand with moderate aquatic mollusc shells (species listed below) Abrupt boundary.	Laminations of silt and sand laid down by flowing water.	
0.30-0.39		(508)		Laminations of 10YR 4/3 brown sand with abundant aquatic mollusc shells and 10YR 2/2 very dark brown silty clay. Mollusc shells are especially abundant towards the bottom. Species include: <i>Pisidium amnicum</i> , <i>Valvata cristata</i> , <i>Valvata piscinalis</i> , <i>Gyraulus crista</i> , <i>Carychium cf. minimum</i> , <i>Bathyomphalus contortus</i> , <i>Bithynia tentaculata</i> and opercula, <i>Radix balthica</i> , <i>Gyraulus albus</i> and <i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i> . The assemblage suggests permanent (not seasonal) fairly fast flowing water. The presence of <i>Carychium cf. minimum</i> suggests some marshy land could be present.	Laminations of sand and silt with an aquatic mollusc assemblage. Permanent fairly fast flowing water, suggesting a probable stream.	



### 10.3 Appendix 3: OASIS Data

#### OASIS ID: wessexar1-218761

##### Project details

Project name	Land East of Park Way, Newbury: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	2 x evaluation trenches. Soil sequences present within trenches were consistent with those recorded within the three previously excavated trenches on the site (TVAS 1996). Variations in the lower alluvial strata imply that the eastern side of the site supported a permanent stream environment with fairly fast flowing water with marsh land extending into the western side of the site. Medieval pottery and 1 x sherd of abraded Iron Age pot recovered.
Project dates	Start: 02-07-2015 End: 03-07-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	107281 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	NEBYM:2015.65 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age

##### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WEST BERKSHIRE NEWBURY Land to the East of Park Way
Postcode	NONE
Study area	0.21 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 447250 167612 50.9480018852 -1.36326331224 50 56 52 N 001 21 47 W Point

##### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	West Berkshire Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	S Clelland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner



### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	West Berkshire Museum, Newbury
Physical Archive ID	NEBYM:2015.65
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	West Berkshire Museum, Newbury
Paper Archive recipient	West Berkshire Museum, Newbury

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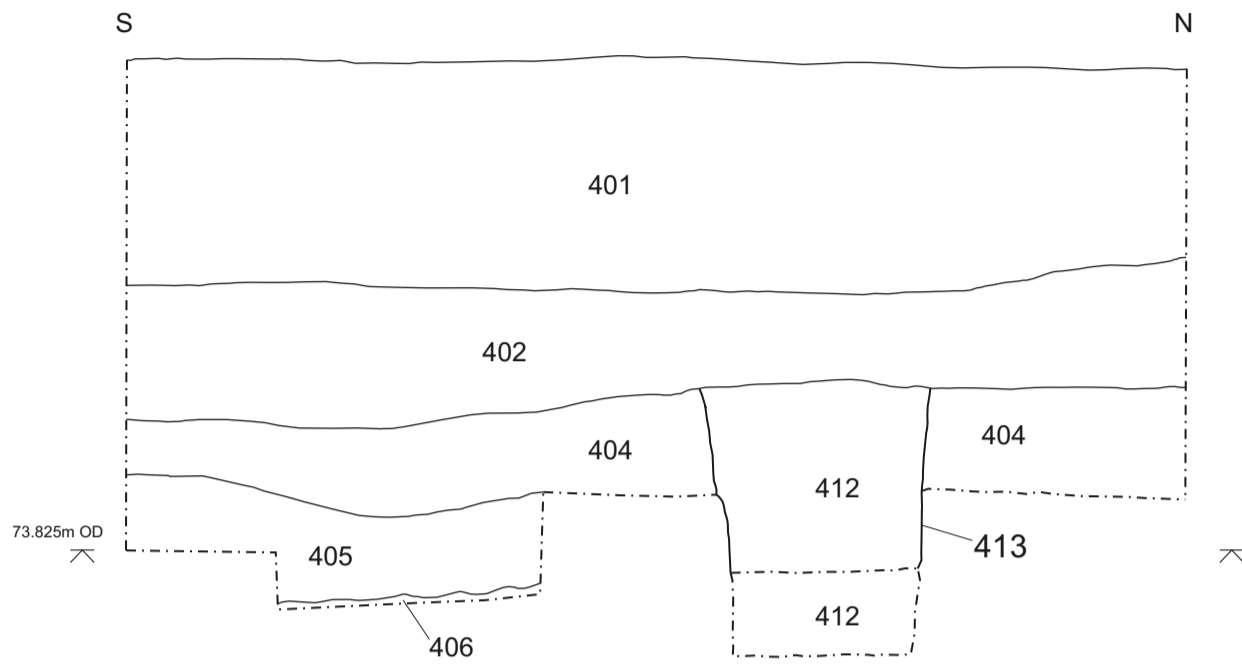
### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land East of Park Way, Newbury, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clelland, S.
Other bibliographic details	107281.03
Date	2015

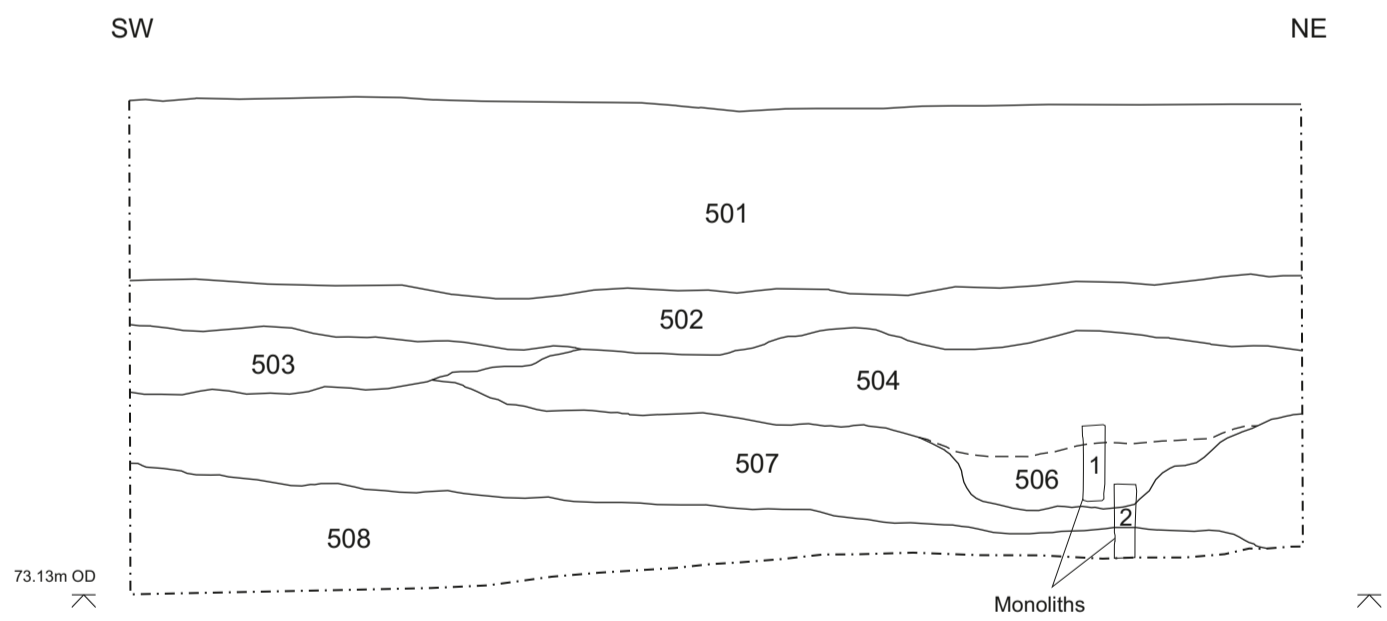




East facing section 406



South-east facing section of Trench 5



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Plate 1: Trench 4 taken from the north



Plate 2: East facing section in Trench 4



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Plate 3: Trench 5 taken from the south-west



Plate 4: South-east facing section in Trench 5

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