



11-17 Mill Lane Newbury, Berkshire

Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey
and Watching Brief Report



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**11-17 Mill Lane,
Newbury, Berkshire**

**Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey
and Watching Brief Report**

Prepared for:

Kendall Kingscott Limited
Glenworth Court
Line Kiln Close
Stoke Gifford
Bristol
BS34 8SR

On behalf of:

The Trustees of The Charity of Mrs Mabel Luke
New Road
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 7RX

Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kendall Kingscott Limited, on behalf of the Trustees of The Charity of Mrs Mabel Luke, to undertake a geoarchaeological borehole survey and archaeological watching brief prior to the development of 11-17 Mill Lane, Newbury, Berkshire. Planning permission was granted for the demolition of the existing terrace of four almshouses and replacement with sixteen one and two bedroom flats.

The geoarchaeological borehole survey consisted of five boreholes drilled across the site. Analysis of the borehole soil profiles revealed a fairly uniform gravel surface across the site that sloped gradually down from 74.29 m OD in the west to 73.35 m OD in the east. This gravel surface was in turn overlain by alluvial deposits up to 0.93 m thick. At the east end of the site a thin 0.4 m thick layer of highly humified peat was recorded interbedded within the alluvial deposits.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered from the core samples, and no further work has been recommended.

Archaeological monitoring of the removal of existing foundations of the demolished almshouses, machine dug trial pits, dry stone piling and machine digging of new foundations trenches confirmed the soil sequences recorded in the earlier borehole survey. The existence of the deep garden soils across the Site is probably related to when the immediate area was recorded as gardens in the 19th century. Below this layer of garden soil the sequence of deposits were related to natural alluvial episodes of flooding within the River Kennet valley. Patches of peaty soils were recorded as well as mixed areas of sandy soils and river gravels. With the exception of a single 19th or 20th century cut feature, no archaeological features or deposits were found.



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Acknowledgements

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The geoarchaeological borehole survey was monitored by Richard Payne. The watching brief was undertaken by Bob Davis, Vijaya Pieteron and Rachel Williams. This report was compiled by Richard Payne, Rachel Williams and Bob Davis. The illustrations were prepared by Karen Nichols. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Matt Rous.



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Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey and Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Kendal Kingscott Limited, on behalf of the Trustees of the Charity of Mrs Mabel Luke (hereafter 'the Client'), to carry out a geoarchaeological borehole survey and an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the construction of new dwellings at 11-17 Mill Lane Newbury, Berkshire.

1.1.2 The work was carried out in response to a grant of planning permission by West Berkshire Council (WBC) (planning ref: 15/00170/FULEXT) for the demolition of four almshouses and replacement with sixteen one and two bedroom flats subject to certain planning conditions. Condition 18 states:

18. No development/site works/development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall incorporate and be undertaken in accordance with the approved statement.

Reason: To ensure that any significant archaeological remains that are found are adequately recorded. In accord with the advice in the NPPF.

1.1.3 Following discussions with Alex Godden, the former Archaeological Officer at West Berkshire Council (AOWBC), a geoarchaeological borehole survey and archaeological watching brief were required to ensure that the archaeological potential of the site was adequately investigated and recorded.

1.1.4 Prior to the commencement of the works, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2015i) which covered the building recording, geoarchaeological borehole survey and archaeological watching brief was submitted to and approved by the former AOWBC.

1.1.5 The archaeological works followed an earlier programme of Historic Building Recording of the almshouses which were formerly located on the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2016). This combined report presents the results of the subsequent works, which comprise a geoarchaeological borehole survey and archaeological watching brief.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is located on the south side of Mill Lane within the town of Newbury, Berkshire. It is on the eastern edge of the historic core of the town and just outside the Newbury



conservation area, which encompasses much of the town centre, and stretches of the Kennet and Avon canal to the east and west (**Figure 1**). The Site comprises a terrace of four almshouses with front and rear gardens and a plot of vacant land to the east.

1.2.2 The Site is bounded to the north by Mill Lane with housing opposite and the Police Station and Magistrates Court beyond. It is bounded to the east by the garden plots of houses on Denmark Road, to the south by properties on the north side of Kings Road and to the west a modern detached range of flats on Mill Lane set slightly back from the road. The Site is situated at an elevation of approximately 76 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The underlying geology is mapped as the Seaford Chalk Formation, with superficial deposits of Beenham Grange Gravel (British Geological Survey, www.bgs.ac.uk). Just to the northeast of the Site peat deposits are also mapped; it is quite possible that these extend onto the site.

1.3 Scope of report

Geoarchaeological Borehole survey

1.3.1 Wessex Archaeology has developed a staged approach for geoarchaeological investigations, going from desk-based assessment through fieldwork and into assessment and analysis. This process enables the necessity of further work to be examined, questions identified, and the requirements of each stage to be costed accurately in advance.

1.3.2 This report follows the approach outlined in Table 1 below, and presents the results of the Stage 2 Geoarchaeological description and interpretation.

Table 1: Staged approach to geoarchaeological investigations

Stage 1: Geoarchaeological desk-based assessment	Desk-based Assessment (DBA) of samples and logs generated by geotechnical contractors. This assessment will establish the presence and location of sediment units with likely archaeological, palaeo-environmental and/or dating potential, as a basis for deciding what Stage 2 archaeological recording is required. The Stage 1 report will state the scale of Stage 2 work proposed. Should no further works be required a brief Stage 1 report outlining the results of the assessment will be prepared.
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<p>Stage 2: Geoarchaeological description & interpretation</p>	<p>Fieldwork if appropriate (e.g. purposive boreholing, or sampling during watching brief). Each sample containing sediment units identified as having archaeological, palaeo-environmental or dating potential will be cleaned, recorded, and the sediments described geoarchaeologically following Hodgson (1997). Preliminary interpretations will be made, those units of particular archaeological/palaeo-environmental interest will be highlighted, and an outline deposit model will be constructed/ added to if appropriate. The Stage 2 report will set out the nature and scope of any Stage 3 work which may be required to further characterise and interpret the sediment units in order to identify areas of potential archaeological or palaeoenvironmental significance. If during Stage 2 the potential is shown to be limited to well-defined areas which could be addressed by specific targeted sampling, a programme of investigation combining limited Stage 3/4 works may be proposed. This work would output to a final client report or straight to publication, depending on the requirements of the client and curator.</p>
<p>Stage 3: Sub-sampling and palaeoenvironmental assessment</p>	<p>Sub-sampling and assessment of any units of archaeological and/or palaeo-environmental interest. Sub-samples for the assessment of microfossil environmental indicators (including pollen, diatoms, plant macrofossils, molluscs, ostracods and/or foraminifera) will be taken. As far as possible the subsamples will be taken in such a manner that the remaining core is retained intact should further sub-sampling be required. The subsamples will be assessed, with the relevant ecofacts being identified to at least main Taxon, with quality of preservation and approximate quantification). This enables the value of the palaeo-environmental material surviving within the samples to be identified. Should radiocarbon dating have been specified at this stage by the Stage 2 report, then suitable material will be extracted from appropriate subsamples and submitted. If not, then sub-samples will also be taken and retained at this stage in case radiocarbon dating is required during Stage 4. The Stage 3 report will set out the results of each laboratory assessment, and summarise the archaeological implications of the combined results. The potential of the material will be summarised, and recommendations will be made as to whether any Stage 4 work is warranted. If Stage 4 work is recommended, then the specifics will be laid out.</p>
<p>Stage 4: Analysis and Dating</p>	<p>Full analysis of environmental indicators (including pollen, diatoms, plant macrofossils, molluscs, ostracods and/or foraminifera) from subsamples specified in the Stage 3 report. Typically, Stage 4 will be supported by radiocarbon dating of suitable sub-samples. Should Stage 3 assessment indicate that there is no further analytical work required on the microfossil assemblages, consideration will still be given for a programme of radiocarbon analyses to provide a chronological framework for the deposits encountered unless no suitable samples could be procured. The Stage 4 report will provide an account of the palaeo-environment(s) at each relevant sample location within a chronological framework (absolute or relative) and an outline of the archaeological implications of the analysis.</p>



Final Reporting	<p>If the archaeological results are sufficiently significant, a final report will be compiled for submission to a suitable journal, to be agreed with the client and curator. This publication report will cover all aspects of the palaeo-topography and prehistory of the area affected by the development, incorporating the results of each stage.</p> <p>If the archaeological results are not significant then the relevant Stage Report(s) will constitute the final documents for the investigation.</p>
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- 1.3.3 In format and content the geoarchaeological borehole report conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015a) and *Geoarchaeology. Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (English Heritage 2004). It will be submitted to and approved by the LPA prior to fieldwork commencing.

Archaeological Watching Brief

- 1.3.4 Following the demolition of the almshouses in autumn 2016, the watching brief consisted of the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks with the report seeking to illustrate the field work and in format and content it is in accordance with the *CIfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the archaeological and historical development of the Site, reproduced from the previous Heritage Impact Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2015). The potential for the likelihood of as yet unrecorded archaeological remains within the Site was informed by the consideration of the known heritage assets recorded within a 300 m study area surrounding the Site, in conjunction with the geology and topography of the area.

2.2 Prehistoric (900,000 BC–AD 43)

- 2.2.1 Though lying outside the vicinity of the Site 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 (Wessex Archaeology 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 east of the Site at Thatcham (Healy et al., 1992) and at Faraday Road, which lies just to the north of the Site. 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. The GIS model was generated using the outputs from deposit modelling and synthesised Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic HER record. This was used to identify criteria for mapping potential sites, for example proximity to water (Wessex Archaeology 2014). The model illustrates areas of 'high' or 'highest' potential to a resolution of 50 m. The site lies within an area of high potential with areas of the highest potential immediately to the north and west.
- 2.2.4 Approximately 250 m north of the Site, flint working sites dated typologically to the Mesolithic period were recorded in the 1930s and 1960s in the area of Victoria Park.
- 2.2.5 In common with other areas of the Lower Kennet Valley little evidence has been currently discovered for Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement adjacent to the Site or the wider area of Newbury, despite the period's association with the establishment of farming and permanent settlement (Oxford Archaeology 2005, 8).
- 2.2.6 A partly polished stone Axe dated to the Neolithic was recovered from a garden at Kings Road, 210 m east of the Site, reflecting the wider pattern of sparse find spots of flint tools recorded in the Newbury area. Additional finds of burnt flint generally assumed to belong to the prehistoric were also recorded during excavations at the former British Telecom site, also on King's Road.
- 2.2.7 A number of Bronze Age metal artefacts are recorded in the area of the River Kennet across Newbury, confirming the river's importance to local communities, although the settlements in which those people lived have not been located.
- 2.2.8 The Lower Kennet Valley became increasingly populated in the Iron Age, with large hilltop enclosures being constructed at Borough Hill, Bussock Wood, Grimsbury, Ramsbury, and Pond Farm. The majority of sites of the Iron Age were situated on the edge of the river gravel terraces or the floodplains themselves, maintaining the relationship with the natural resources of the river valley seen in earlier periods.
- 2.2.9 A pile structure said to have been found in Cheap Street in the 19th century has been suggested to have been of broadly prehistoric date, as was a further example encountered during the excavation of building footings at Northbrook Street to the north-west of the Site.

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). Settlement in this period in the Newbury area is suggested by a large cemetery of around 100 graves discovered in the mid-19th century during gravel extraction 160m south of the Site, but the only other material of this date recorded near to the Site is a single coin found in the area of the cemetery and three coins found in association with small pieces of tile observed during the excavation of wall footings at the Queen's Hotel.

2.4 Saxon and medieval (AD 410–1500)

- 2.4.1 A silver penny of Egbert (AD 802-39) is recorded in the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record (WBHER) as being found in Cheap Street to the west of the Site.
- 2.4.2 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.*)
- 2.4.3 In Newbury there are documentary references for a castle besieged in 1152 by Stephen. The precise location of this is unknown, although it has been suggested to have lain to the south of the river in the area later developed as Newbury Wharf, and a small stone building survives in this area which is reputed to have been constructed from the castle's stonework.
- 2.4.4 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 to the west of the Site, later expanding to the area of Northbrook Street.
- 2.4.5 Excavations across this area have revealed numerous examples of medieval land use and occupation, with isolated features and spreads of pottery, in addition to evidence of structures with flint walls and floor layers.
- 2.4.6 The suggested site of the Knight's Hospitallers' dwelling in Greenham lies c.65 m north-west of the Site.
- 2.4.7 The WBHER records a hospital for leprous women founded prior to 1232 to the south-western of the Site, and suggests that this may have become the St Mary's almshouses which stood on St Mary's Hill.

2.5 Post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500–present)

- 2.5.1 During the post-medieval period the Site continued to be situated beyond the settled core of Newbury. To the north-west Newbury Wharf and the associated land reclamation, canalisation, and industrial activity dominated the area. From 1723 to 1794 the Kennet Canal terminated at Newbury wharf, the river being navigable to the east.
- 2.5.2 As well as the nearby Listed Buildings relating to post-medieval and later development and prosperity several other properties are highlighted in the WBHER as being worthy of note. These include the almshouses of Kimber, St Mary's, and Mabel Luke in the Site itself, the Granary, Cloth Hall, and possible corn store and numerous inns.
- 2.5.3 An area of unenclosed common land called The Marsh lay to the north-west of the Site, later becoming Victoria Park.
- 2.5.4 Archaeological investigations at the Queen's Hotel in the Market Place and the supermarket site to the south of the application area, produced further evidence of residential and light industrial use of the area at the eastern edge of Newbury in this period.



- 2.5.5 The Greenham parish Tithe map and apportionment dated 1840 shows the site location was then part of a large plot (no. 386), devoid of structures, which extended between Mill Lane and what is now King's Road. The plot was owned and occupied by gardener Thomas Smith and described as a garden. Smith also owned and occupied plot 385 on the north side of Mill Lane, which comprised a house, garden, yard and outbuildings as well as other garden plots including 389 to the south of King's Road.
- 2.5.6 The Great Western Railway, opened in Newbury in the mid-19th century c.250 m south of the Site.
- 2.5.7 On the 1880 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, the area bounded by Mill Lane, Greenham Lane (now Kings Road) and Boundary Road is depicted as system of fields that vary in size and shape. The site location was then occupied by a series of tree-lined tracks including one between Mill Lane and Greenham Lane, which suggests the area was a public garden or park.
- 2.5.8 By 1900, the area bounded by Mill Lane, Kings Road and Boundary Road had been partially infilled with housing developments. This included the establishment of Denmark Road with its series of terraced houses and other terraces accessed from King's Road and Boundary Road. A semi-detached structure had also been built at the junction of King's Road and Mill Lane, to the west of the site. The 1900 OS map shows the site itself as empty except for a small rectangular building, presumably a storage outbuilding.
- 2.5.9 The 1911 OS map shows no changes to the site since 1900. To the east of the site there had been more development with Connaught Road and more terraced housing being constructed off of Mill Lane.
- 2.5.10 On January 13th 1928 the land was conveyed to Mrs Mabel Luke as freehold land. On the 24th October 1928 Mrs Mabel Luke conveyed the freehold land and terrace of four cottages "to be used for housing of the working classes with preference to those living in the borough of Newbury or Greenham". This places the date of the Almshouses construction as 1928. This charitable act is commemorated by the date stone above the central passage in the terrace inscribed 'M. L. 1928'. The site first appears on the OS county series 25inch 1934 edition map, which shows no changes to the plot boundaries have occurred since then. Between 1911 and 1934, the majority of the area between Mill Lane, Denmark Road and King's Road was infilled with large detached and semi-detached houses fronting King's Road. Only two plots remained without buildings, one is the vacant plot within the site and the other is on the west side of Denmark Road. The latter is currently used as allotments.
- 2.5.11 The first almshouse tenants are recorded in Mrs Mabel Luke's Charity minute book (first meeting dated 18th October 1928). Inspection of street directories show the tenancies tended to be longstanding as two of the original tenants still occupied almshouses (nos. 13 and 17) in the 1970s.
- 2.5.12 The minute book also includes annual account statements that list the tenants and various rents due. This indicates that the vacant land at the west end of the site used to be an unoccupied garden containing apple trees. The apples were sold as income for the charity in addition to the various rents (Mrs Mabel Luke's Charity minute book, Statement of accounts dated 1st March 1930).



2.5.13 In 1982, it was reported to the Greenham parish council indicated that the almshouses had become treated as ordinary council houses. Therefore, a new scheme of trusteeship was devised with co-opted members as well as representatives from Newbury District and Greenham Parish Councils.

2.5.14 The almshouses were demolished in November 2016 following a programme of building recording (Historic England Level 1-2) (Wessex Archaeology 2016).

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Geoarchaeological Borehole survey aims

3.1.1 The aims of the Geoarchaeological Borehole survey were to:

- Obtain core samples through the underlying deposits
- Interpret the likely environments represented
- Determine the importance of the deposits, with regard to their archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential
- Make appropriate and proportionate proposals for work on the core samples, to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

3.1.2 These aims were addressed by achieving the following objectives:

- Obtaining continuous samples through the sequences in several places across the Site;
- Interpreting the sediments geoarchaeologically;
- Using the additional data to supplement the existing deposit model;
- Establishing the likely palaeoenvironmental potential (of the various units represented); and
- Making recommendations for dating and palaeoenvironmental assessment as appropriate.

3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief aims

3.2.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be disturbed by development;
- identify, within the constraints of the investigation, 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; and
- produce a report which will present the results of the fieldwork.



4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A fully detailed methodology of all the archaeological works on the site (building recording, geoarchaeological borehole survey and archaeological watching brief) was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2015b), which was approved in advance of the works by the former AOWBC.

4.2 Geoarchaeological Borehole Survey

4.2.1 A programme of window-sampling was carried out through the deposits in five locations (**Figure 1**). Before drilling commenced service plans were consulted, and all locations scanned using a Cable Detection Tool.

4.2.2 Following drilling the 'as dug' borehole locations were accurately surveyed with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit, using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30 mm or below.

Sample Collection

4.2.3 A percussive window sampling rig (Terrier type) was used to extract sleeved cores 1 m in length and 0.1 m in diameter. The rig was operated by experienced engineers from Ground Technology Limited (<http://www.groundtechnology.co.uk/index.php>), under the supervision of a suitably experienced member of the Wessex Archaeology geoarchaeological team.

4.2.4 On retrieval, the cores were sealed and marked with site code, borehole number and sample depth, before being returned to the Wessex Archaeology laboratory at Salisbury for further investigation.

Geoarchaeological recording methodology

4.2.5 The cores were opened in the laboratory and described by a suitably experienced geoarchaeologist following Hodgson (1997), to include information such as:

- *Depth*
- *Texture*
- *Composition*
- *Colour*
- *Inclusions*
- *Structure (bedding, ped characteristics etc)*
- *Contacts between deposits*

4.2.6 Interpretations were made regarding the probable depositional environments and formation processes of the sampled deposits.

4.2.7 The data was tabulated by borehole and depth (see **Appendix**).

4.3 Watching brief methodology

4.3.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological watching brief was set out in the agreed WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015b) and comprised the monitoring of the

groundworks associated with the construction of the new buildings, including geotechnical trial pits, foundation piles and foundation trenches. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance on an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a).

- 4.3.2 The trenches and foundations were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator employing, where possible, a toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision by an experienced field archaeologist. Machine levels were determined by construction levels. The topsoil was separated from the subsoil and the spoil from the trenches scanned for artefacts.
- 4.3.3 Foundation piles were dug using a vibration piling rig with hollow pile. There is no soil up cast created during this process as the soil underground is forced apart by the hollow pile and dry stone is poured into the void as the pile is removed. This system creates a series of close-set stone piles onto which, the concrete foundations are poured.
- 4.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.
- 4.3.5 A full photographic record was maintained during the watching brief using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. The record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and 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.
- 4.3.6 The survey was carried out with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit, using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30 mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system. A unique site code **108841** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds. A unique accession code **NEBYM: 2015.89** was also used.

5 BOREHOLE SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Sediment description and interpretation

- 5.1.1 The borehole survey took place in November 2015. Core samples were retrieved to a depth of up to 2 m for each of the five borehole locations. Detailed sediment descriptions can be found in the **Appendix**.

Modern topsoil/subsoil

- 5.1.2 A black silty loam garden soil, well mixed, and containing fragments of CBM was recorded at each borehole at depths from 0.4 m to 0.78 m in depth.

Fluvial/Alluvial deposits

- 5.1.3 These grey brown silty/sandy clays were present in all cores except WS2 (most probably due to proximity to dwellings having truncated them). They varied in thickness from 0.10 m to 0.96 m, with the upper parts commonly altered by the effects of pedogenesis from the overlying garden soil.



- 5.1.4 These deposits were originally the result of fluvial inundation in the form of overbank alluvial deposition from the River Kennet (now constrained and canalised) that flows past the site approximately 60 m to the north.

Peat

- 5.1.5 A thin layer (0.04 m) of a black well humified peat was recorded in WS3 within the fluvial alluvial deposits at 73.85 m OD, and a dark grey sandy clay (0.13 m thick) with a granular structure was recorded in WS5 at 74.02 m OD, also within fluvial/alluvial deposits. Although the dark grey sandy clay recorded in WS5 was not a peat, both this deposit and the thin peat in WS3 represent a period of stabilisation and soil formation before once again being buried under alluvium.

Fluvial sands and gravels

- 5.1.6 The sands and gravels were recorded in all boreholes and were fairly uniform and gradually sloping down from 74.29 m OD in the west to 73.35 m OD in the east, they equate to the Beenham Grange Gravel Member which belongs to the Kennet Valley Formation.

5.2 Discussion

- 5.2.1 The deposits recorded across the site represent river terrace deposit sands and gravels overlain by alluvial sandy clays which in the upper part have undergone some alteration by pedogenesis.
- 5.2.2 In a borehole located in the east of the site (WS3) a thin peat (0.04 m) was recorded within the alluvial deposits and at a corresponding depth in WS5 a dark grey sandy clay soil had developed. Both of these deposits indicate a period of stabilisation and soil development before being buried by overbank alluvium.
- 5.2.3 Apart from the post-medieval to modern fragments of building rubble contained within the topsoil no archaeological artefacts were recorded.

5.3 Potential and recommendations

- 5.3.1 For the most part the deposits recorded here can be considered as of low palaeoenvironmental potential, and no further work is proposed upon the core samples.
- 5.3.2 The possible exception is the thin humified peat – or probably more accurately peaty soil – recorded in WS3. However, this is poorly preserved and does not represent a high potential resource for palaeoenvironmental work. A radiocarbon date would be possible, but the results would be unreliable as root and other material would be incorporated into the humified sample.



6 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The following section provides a summary description of the results of the archaeological watching brief which took place intermittently from November 2016, immediately following demolition of the almshouses, and February – May 2017 during the new groundworks. Details of individual excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in the **Appendix**.

6.2 Natural Deposits and Soil Sequences

6.2.1 The general soil sequence recorded across the site comprised of distinctive garden soil, on average 0.7 m in depth. This comprised of a dark grey/black sandy loam over lying alluvial deposits of mixed sands and gravels.

6.3 Trench 1

6.3.1 The former Almshouses footprint was located in the north-west corner side of the Site and parallel to Mill Lane (**Figure 1**). It measured approximately 30.85 m east-west and 8.3 m north-south. The foundations for the demolished almshouses, 11 – 17 Mill Lane, were shallow concrete footings cut in to the garden soils (**Plate 1**). The soil sequence of deep garden soil was consistent across this area, only truncated by the shallow footings and drains of the almshouses. The dark topsoil was recorded to a depth of 0.7 m during foundation removal.

6.4 Trial pits

Trial pit 2

6.4.1 Located to the south side of the almshouses footprint this machine dug trial pit measured 1.4 m long and 1 m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.84 m (**Figure 1, Plate 2**). The soil sequence recorded in the trial pit consisted of the characteristic dark garden soil, identified across the site, to a depth of 0.2 m. Below the topsoil a sub-soil layer was recorded. This consisted of mid-grey sandy clay with occasional sub-angular flints to a depth of 0.4 m. Alluvial deposits were recorded below the subsoil and consisted of a thin band of dark grey sandy clay loam 0.10m thick above mid-orange brown silty clay to a depth of 0.64 m. At the base of the trench river gravels were identified at a depth below the ground surface of 0.64 m. The trial pit terminated at 0.84 m below ground surface. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded within the trial pit.

Trial pit 3

6.4.2 Located to the south of the almshouses footprint, this machine dug trial pit measured 1.5 m long and 1.1 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8 m (**Figure 1, Plate 3**). The soil sequence recorded in the trial pit consisted of the characteristic dark garden soil, identified across the site, to a depth of 0.4 m. Below the topsoil a subsoil layer was recorded. This consisted of light greyish brown sandy clay to a depth of 0.7 m. Below the subsoil alluvium was recorded, this consisted of dark brown sandy silt containing some small amounts of shell. River gravels were not recorded in this trench and no archaeological features or artefacts were recorded within the trial pit.

Trial pit 4

6.4.3 Located to the south of the almshouses footprint, this machine dug trial pit measured 1.35 m long and 1 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9 m (**Figure 1, Plate 4**). The soil sequence recorded in the trial pit consisted of dark brown sandy loam

garden soil to a depth of 0.23 m. Below the topsoil a subsoil layer was recorded, a dark reddish brown sandy loam to a depth of 0.35 m. Two alluvial deposits were recorded below the subsoil. A mid-grey sandy clay was recorded between 0.35 and 0.55 m. This contained some CBM and shell above a second layer of light grey-yellow sandy clay with gravel to a depth of 0.62 m. River gravels were identified at 0.62 m below ground surface to the base of the trial pit. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

Trial pit 5

- 6.4.4 Located to the south of the almshouses footprint, this trial pit measured 1.4 m long and 0.9 m wide and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95 m (**Figure 1, Plate 5**). The soil sequence recorded in the trial pit consisted of dark brown sandy loam topsoil to a depth of 0.3 m. Below the topsoil a sub soil layer consisting of mid-grey sandy loam, to depth of 0.5 m was recorded. Two layers of alluvium were recorded below the sub soil consisting of the upper thin layer of dark brown sandy loam with dark lenses of organic or charcoal to a depth of 0.6 m above light yellow grey sandy clay to a depth of 0.74 m. River gravels were identified below this layer which continued to the base of the trial pit at 0.95m. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

Trial pit 6

- 6.4.5 Located to the south of the almshouses footprint, this machine dug trial pit measured 1.4 m long and 0.9 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7 m (**Figure 1, Plate 6**). The soil sequence recorded in the trial pit consisted of a dark garden soil layer to a depth of 0.3 m. This overlay a subsoil layer of light grey sandy clay to a depth of 0.5 m. River gravels were identified directly below the sub soil layer and to the base of the trench. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded in trial pit.

Trial pit 7

- 6.4.6 Located on the north side of the almshouses footprint, this machine dug trial pit measured 1.4 m long and 1.1 m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6 m (**Figure 1, Plate 7**). The soil sequence recorded within this trial pit consisted of entirely dark brown sandy loam topsoil to the base of the trial pit. This layer became slightly lighter toward the base and no archaeological features or artefacts were recorded within the trial pit.

6.5 Foundation trenches

Trench 8

- 6.5.1 This trench refers to the west set of machine dug foundations for the new building (**Figure 1**). The trench measured 17.24 m west-east and 13.65 m north-south covering an area of approximately 235 square meters. The maximum depth of the trench was 1.19m below existing ground surface which was at approximately 75 m aOD. It consisted of a series of interconnecting trenches dug over the pattern of previously installed stone piling columns. The general soil sequence recorded within this trench consisted of dark brown topsoil to a depth of 0.6 m. The site had been prepared with a stone piling mat to a thickness of 0.28 m. Alluvial deposits were recorded below this layer and generally consisted of a well-defined very dark grey silty clay with lenses of calcareous silt with patches and lenses of gravel to a depth of between 0.88 and 1.1 m (**Plate 8**).

Trench 9

- 6.5.2 This trench refers to the larger set of machine dug foundation trenches for the new building (**Figure 1**). The trench measured 32.75 m east-west and 14.22 m north-south covering an area of approximately 465 square meters. The maximum depth was 1.4 m below existing ground surface which was at approximately 75 m aOD. It consisted of a

series of interconnecting trenches dug over the pattern of previously installed stone piling columns. The general soil sequence recorded across the trench consisted of dark grey silty clay topsoil to a depth of 0.75 m below existing ground level. This overlay an alluvial layer of very dark black/grey silty clay with occasional lenses of fine gravel (**Plate 9**). Natural river gravels were recorded at 1.35 m below ground level to the base of the trench.

- 6.5.3 A single small pit feature (**906**) was recorded in the north-east facing section of the south-west end of trench 9 (**Figure 1**). The feature measured 0.8 m wide and was 0.34 m deep (**Plate 10**). Cutting into the underlying alluvium, the profile had a straight side to the north with a sloping south edge and relatively flat base. It was filled with two distinct layers (**907**, **908**). The upper fill, 907, was a mid-dark grey silty clay with sparse charcoal flecks 0.05 m thick. This layer is thought to have been formed by the base of the deep garden soil layer above. Layer 908 was a mid-grey brown silty clay with rare sub angular flints. It was moderately compact and well defined.

Trench 10

- 6.5.4 Located on the north-east side of the almshouses footprint, 2.5 m east of Trench 7, this machine dug trench measured 28.2 m long and 0.50 m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1 m (**Figure 1**, **Plate 11 and 12**). The general soil sequence recorded across the trench consisted of dark brown sandy loam topsoil to a depth of 0.75 m. Below the topsoil a sub-soil layer was recorded consisting of light greyish brown sandy loam with rare sub-angular flints to a depth of 0.95 m. This overlaid an Alluvial deposit of very dark brown sandy loam with thin bands of dark black organic material (**Plate 12**). The south face of a 19th century brick culvert was recorded in the north-west end of the trench (**Plate 13**). The culvert was located in the topsoil layer and is aligned north-south, most-likely running below Mill Lane.

Trench 11

- 6.5.5 Located on the north-west side of the almshouses footprint, 6 m west of Trench 7, this machine dug trench measured 9.4 m long and 0.5 m wide. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.02 m (**Figure 1**, **14 and 15**). The general soil sequence recorded across the trench consisted of dark brown sandy loam topsoil to a depth of 0.22 m. Below the topsoil a sub-soil layer was recorded consisting of mid yellowish grey sandy loam with rare sub-angular flints to a depth of 0.3 m. This overlaid an Alluvial deposit of very dark brown sandy loam with roots throughout and rare sub-angular flint gravels. A second alluvial deposit consisted of light grey sandy clay with pockets of moderate sub-angular flint gravels. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded within the trench.

7 FINDS

- 7.1.1 Finds were recovered only from Trench 9, and comprise one sherd of post-medieval pottery (redware, not closely datable), and two fragments of ceramic building material (one medieval roof tile, one post-medieval brick), all found in the lower fill (908) of pit 906. These finds have not been retained.



8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 8.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas, accordingly no samples were taken.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1.1 Despite being located within an area of archaeological potential and within the flood plain of the River Kennet, no archaeologically significant finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. Given the methodology employed, and the extent of the areas exposed to the upper surface of the natural river gravels, it is considered that any surviving archaeological remains present within the locations monitored during the watching brief would have detected.
- 9.1.2 The presence of deep garden soils observed across the site, suggesting a significant period of topsoil disturbance, may have been responsible for the removal of any buried archaeological remains once present within the site. However, the underlying natural alluvial deposits, observed within both the boreholes and watching brief areas, did not indicate any significant level of disturbance.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with West Berkshire Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **NEBYM: 2015.89**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 Preparation of Archive

- 10.2.1 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 and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the West Berkshire HER. A copy of the OASIS entry form has been included in this report (Appendix 2).

10.3 Selection Policy

- 10.3.1 WA 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, given the very small quantity of finds recovered, their nature and date range, none has been retained for long-term curation.
- 10.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011)

10.4 Security Copy

- 10.4.1 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.

11 REFERENCES

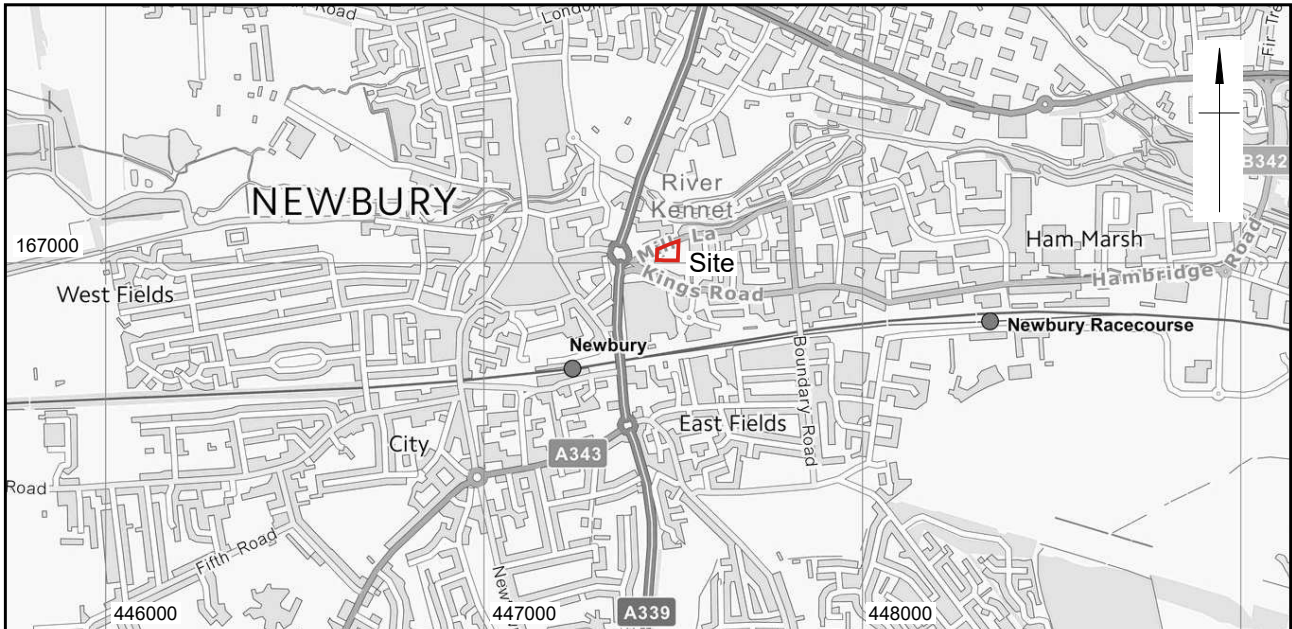
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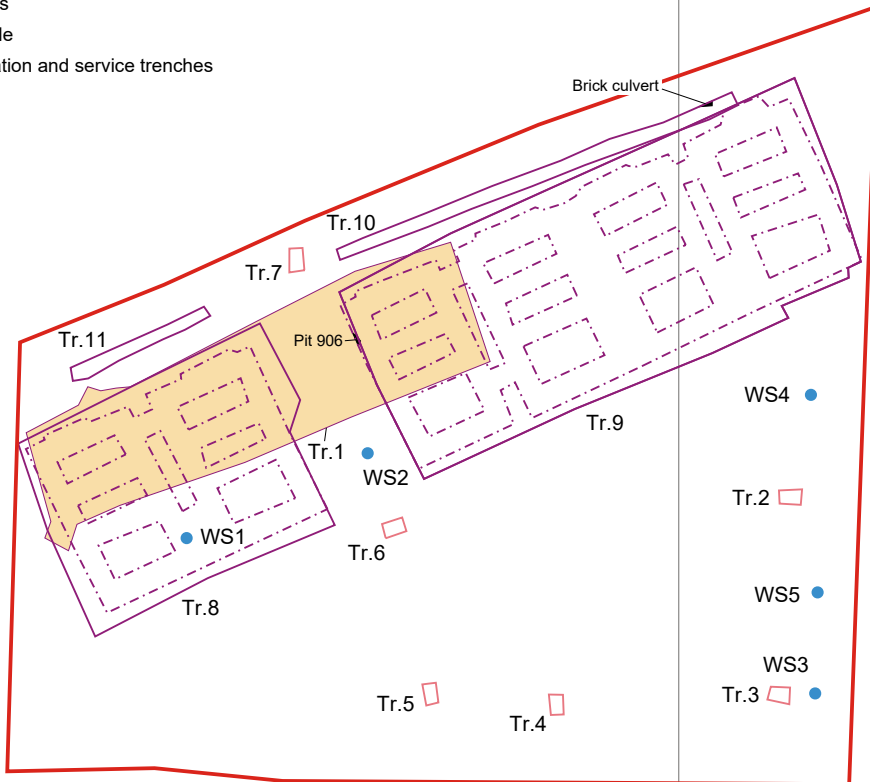
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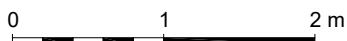
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- Site boundary
- Watching Brief - Old Almshouses Footprint
- Trial pits
- Borehole
- Foundation and service trenches



167000



447500



Coordinate system:
OSGB36
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Removal of shallow foundations of demolished almshouses



Plate 2: South facing section of trial pit 2


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Plate 3: South facing section of trial pit 3



Plate 4: West facing section of trial pit 4


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Plate 5: East facing section of trial pit 5



Plate 6: South facing section of trial pit 6


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Plate 7: North-west facing section of trial pit 7



Plate 8: Trench 8 showing foundation trenches and underlying general mixed alluvial deposits and round stone filled piling columns


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Plate 9: Trench 9 showing foundation trenches and underlying general mixed alluvial deposits and round stone filled piling columns



Plate 10: Trench 9, pit feature 906 viewed from north-east


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Plate 11: View of Trench 10, from the north-east



Plate 12: North-west facing section of Trench 10


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Plate 13: Trench 10, 19th century brick culvert viewed from the south-east



Plate 14: View of Trench 11, from the north-east



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Plate 15: North-west facing section of Trench 11

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APPENDIX : BOREHOLE LOGS AND TRENCH LOGS

Borehole logs

Location:		447467.46 167022.72	Borehole ID:	WS1	Comments: 108841 Mill Lane, Newbury	
Level (top):		75.19m OD	Drg:			
Depth		Sediment description			Interpretation	Unit
Mbg	mOD					
0 – 0.3	75.19 – 74.89	Void			Compression	
0.3 – 0.78	74.89 – 74.41	5YR 2.5/1 black silty loam, granular/crumb structure with occasional small fragments of CBM, small <0.01 chalk/calcareous fragments. Clear/gradual lower boundary.			Garden soil	
0.78 – 0.9	74.41 – 74.29	7.5YR 3/3 dark brown silty clay loam with a granular structure, some evidence of darker material moving down profile from above due to pedogenesis. Gradual lower boundary			Fluvial/alluvial deposits with some evidence of pedogenesis from overlying soil	
0.9 – 2.0	74.29 – 73.19	10YR 6/3 pale brown clayey flint gravel, gravel SA/SR <0.06m with common chalk fragments			River Terrace gravels	

Location:		447479.43 167028.33	Borehole ID:	WS2	Comments: 108841 Mill Lane, Newbury	
Level (top):		75.07m OD	Drg:			
Depth		Sediment description			Interpretation	Unit
Mbg	mOD					
0 – 1.0	75.07 – 74.07	Very mixed deposit of made ground and soil, little recovery due to large brick fragment blocking core			Garden soil/made ground	
1.0 – 1.14	74.07 – 73.93	Void			Compression	
1.14 – 2.0	73.93 – 73.07	10YR 6/3 pale brown clayey flint gravel, gravel SA/SR <0.06m with common chalk fragments			River Terrace gravels	



Location:		447509.02 167012.45	Borehole ID:	WS3	Comments: 108841 Mill Lane	
Level (top):		74.81m OD	Drg:			
Depth		Sediment description			Interpretation	Unit
Mbg	mOD					
0 – 0.2	74.81 – 74.61	Void			Compression	
0.2 – 0.53	74.61 – 74.28	5YR 2.5/1 black silty loam, granular/crumb structure with occasional small fragments of CBM, small <0.01 chalk/calcareous fragments. Diffuse lower boundary.			Garden soil	
0.53 – 0.73	74.28 – 74.08	10YR 4/3 brown silty clay loam. Granular structure, occasional small SA flint inclusions <0.02, occasional fine calcareous/tufaceous fragments. Gradual lower boundary.			Pedogenically altered fluvial/alluvial deposits	
0.73 – 0.87	74.08 – 73.94	10YR 5/1 grey sandy clay with common small calcareous/tufaceous inclusions <0.01, some orange mottling as a result of redoximorphism indicating persistent waterlogging, which increases in concentration towards base of unit.			Fluvial/alluvial deposits	
0.87 – 0.96	73.94 – 73.85	10YR 4/3 brown silty clay loam. Granular structure, occasional small SA flint inclusions <0.02, occasional fine calcareous/tufaceous fragments and common orange mottling due to redoximorphism indicating persistent waterlogging. Gradual lower boundary.			Fluvial/alluvial deposits	0.87 – 0.96
0.96 – 1.0	73.94 – 73.81	5YR 2.5/1 black, very humified peat			Stabilisation horizon	
1.0 – 1.24	73.81 – 73.57	Void			Compression	
1.24 – 1.46	73.57 – 73.35	Gley 1 4/10Y dark greenish grey sandy clay, occasional fine calcareous/tufaceous inclusions, evidence of some large rooting from above, with a clear/gradual lower boundary.			Fluvial/alluvial deposits	
1.46 – 2.0	73.35 – 72.81	10YR 6/3 pale brown clayey flint gravel, gravel SA/SR <0.06m with common chalk fragments			River Terrace gravels	



Location:		447508.74 167032.19	Borehole ID:	WS4	Comments: 108841 Mill Lane, Newbury	
Level (top):		74.6m OD	Drg:			
Depth		Sediment description			Interpretation	Unit
Mbg	mOD					
0 – 0.24	74.6 – 74.36	Void			Compression	
0.24 – 0.6	74.36 – 74.0	7.5YR 3/2 dark brown becoming medium brown with depth silty loam with a granular/crumb structure, occasional fine calcareous/tufaceous inclusions and small fragments of CBM. Diffuse lower boundary.			Garden soil	
0.6 – 0.7	74.0 – 73.9	7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey sandy clay with a granular structure and common fine calcareous/tufaceous inclusions. Gradual lower boundary.			Soil formation/stabilisation	
0.7 – 1.0	73.9 – 73.6	10YR 6/3 pale brown clayey flint gravel, gravel SA/SR <0.06m with common chalk fragments			River Terrace gravels	

Location:		447509.18 167019.13	Borehole ID:	WS5	Comments: 108841 Mill Lane, Newbury	
Level (top):		74.6m OD	Drg:			
Depth		Sediment description			Interpretation	Unit
Mbg	mOD					
0 – 0.2	74.79 – 74.59	Void			Compression	
0.2 – 0.44	74.59 – 74.35	7.5YR 3/2 dark brown becoming medium brown with depth silty loam with a granular/crumb structure, occasional fine calcareous/tufaceous inclusions and small fragments of CBM. Diffuse lower boundary.			Garden soil	
0.44 – 0.70	74.35 – 74.02	10YR 5/1 grey sandy clay with a granular structure, occasional SR pebble <0.02 and fine calcareous/tufaceous inclusions that become more abundant with depth. Gradual lower boundary.			Fluvial/alluvial deposits	



Location:	447509.18 167019.13	Borehole ID:	WS5	Comments: 108841 Mill Lane, Newbury	
Level (top):	74.6m OD	Drg:			
Depth		Sediment description		Interpretation	Unit
Mbg	mOD				
0.70 – 0.83	74.02 – 73.96	7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey sandy clay with a granular structure and common fine calcareous/tufaceous inclusions. Gradual lower boundary.		Soil formation/stabilisation	
0.83 – 0.96	73.96 – 73.83	10YR 5/1 grey sandy clay, occasional tufaceous/calcareous inclusions. Clear lower boundary.		Fluvial/alluvial deposits	
0.96 – 1.0	73.83 – 74.79	10YR 6/3 pale brown clayey flint gravel, gravel SA/SR <0.06m with common chalk fragments		River Terrace gravels	



Trench logs

Trench 1		Dimensions: 30.83m x 8.50m machine removal of existing concrete foundations	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
101	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil Dark grey/black sandy loam with rare gravels, poorly sorted, rare C.B.M. modern glass, animal bone (not retained) friable, moderately loose, cut by modern concrete foundations (Victorian) and building services (ceramic salt glazed pipes, water pipes)	0-0.70m

Trench 2		Dimensions: 1.40m x 1.0m Machine dug trial hole	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
201	Layer	Topsoil – very dark brown sandy loam fairly loose and friable with rare sub-rounded flint gravels. CBM noted	0-0.20m
202	Layer	Subsoil- Mid grey sandy clay with rare sub-angular flints and flecks of charcoal/organis matter	0.20-0.40m
203	Layer	Alluvium/fluvial layer-Dark grey sandy –clay-loam with common tuffaceous/calcareous frags and green and orange mottles (iron?)	0.40-0.54m
204	Layer	Alluvium/fluvial mid orange brown with dark (rootlets) striations silty clay rare sub-angular flint gravels	0.54-0.64m
205	Layer	River gravels- Common to complete rivers gravel flints ≤80mm	0.64-0.84m

Trench 3		Dimensions: 1.50m x 1.10m Machine dug trial hole	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
301	Layer	Topsoil- very dark brown (black) sandy loam. Very loose and friable thin turf with common roots throughout. Rare sub-angular flints ≤ 60mm	0-0.40m
302	Layer	Subsoil-Light greyish brown sandy clay with rare sub-rounded flint gravels. Iron mottling throughout slight greenish mottles too. Fairly soft. Shell noted	0.40-0.70m E 0.40-0.58W
303	Layer	Alluvium- Dark brown to black with tuffaceous/calcareous inclusions and shell noted. Same as 203	0.58-0.80m W 0.70-0.80m E



Trench 4		Dimensions: 1.35m x 1m Machine dug trial hole	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
401	Layer	Topsoil- Very dark brown (black) sandy loam with loose friable nature. Thin turf line very rare sub-angular flint gravels ≤60mm	0-0.23m
402	Layer	Subsoil- dark reddish brown sandy loam-looks like less organic version of 401	0.23-0.35m
403	Layer	Alluvium/fluvial deposit-mid grey with yellowish orange mottles sandy-clay. Rare sub-rounded flints gravels, CBM + shell noted. Slightly darker band to base of layer	0.35-0.55m
404	Layer	Alluvium- Light greyish-yellow sandy-clay with moderate sub-angular sub-rounded gravels	0.55-0.62m
405	Layer	River gravels	0.62-0.90m

Trench 5		Dimensions: 1.40m x 0.90m Machine dug trial hole	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
501	Layer	Topsoil- Very dark brown (black) sandy loam with loose friable nature. Thin turf line very rare sub-angular flint gravels	0-0.30m
502	Layer	Subsoil- grey-brown sandy-loam with rare sub-rounded flint gravels and calcareous lenses and roots	0.30-0.50m
503	Layer	Alluvium?- dark brown sandy-loam with dark organic/charcoal lenses. Fairly thin deposit. Shell noted	0.50-0.60m
504	Layer	Alluvium- light yellowish grey sandy-clay with dark root voids and iron staining	0-60-0.74m
505	Layer	River gravels- cleaner with depth	0.74-0.95m

Trench 6		Dimensions: 1.40m x 0.90m Machine dug trial hole	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
601	Layer	Topsoil- dark grey brown sandy loam with loose friable nature. Roots CBM + rare sub-angular gravels ≤30mm	0-0.30m
602	Layer	Subsoil/alluvium light grey sandy clay with rare flint inclusions, gravel increases to base	0.30-0.50m
603	Layer	River gravels	0.50-0.70m

Trench 7		Dimensions: 1.40m x 1.10m Machine dug trial hole	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
701	Layer	Topsoil- made ground-very dark brown (black) sandy-loam with loose + friable nature. Roots throughout, rare sub-angular and sub-rounded flints- brick-CBM, clay pipe. Slightly lighter towards base of test pit but essentially the same deposit	0-0.60+m



Trench 8		Dimensions: area covering 17.30m x 13.60m foundation trenches	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
801	Layer	Topsoil/garden soil-mid grey silty-clay with sparse sa+sr coarse gravels, rare CBM, glass, metal, plastic, 19th/20th cent. Compacted	0-0.60m
802	Cut	Modern excavation cut for piling mat	0-0.88m
803	fill	Infill of cut 802-compacted stone, CBM, sandy gravels-oversite to stabilise piling rig	0.60-0.88m
804	Layer	Alluvial/fluvial deposit. Very dark grey/black silty clay with lenses of calcareous silt. Inclusions of sparse sub-angular medium gravels, plastic in feel with a sharp truncated horizon with 803	0.88-1.10m
805	Layer	Grey/brown clay, stiff with patches of abundant river gravels	1.10m+

Trench 9		Dimensions: area covering 33m x 14.20m foundation trenches	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
901	Layer	Topsoil- made ground. Mid –dark grey silty-clay with rare sa/sr medium gravels. Rare modern artefacts (glass, metal, plastic etc) truncated by 902	0-0.75m
902	Cut	Modern excavation cut for piling mat	0-1.05m
903	fill	Deliberate backfill of 902. Greyish stone and sand compacted to support piling rig	0.75-1.05m
904	Layer	Alluvium. Very dark blackish grey silty-clay, moderately loose and plastic. Distinct horizons (cut by 902). Rare calcareous lenses. Rare fine gravels created by river flooding.	
905	Layer	Natural. Mid reddish brown with darker lenses of clay. With large areas of medium coarse and fine gravels compacted.	1.35m+
906	Cut	Straight sided feature 0.8m wide and 0.34m deep. Cuts alluvium 904. Probably post med/modern pot	0.40-0.74m
907	fill	Of 906. Mid-dark grey silty clay with sparse charcoal flecks. Lower fill of 906	0.69-0.74m
908	fill	Of 906. Mid grey brown silty clay with rare sub-angular flints moderately compacted, distinct horizon	0.40-0.64m

Trench 10		Dimensions: 0.50m x 28.20m Machine dug trench	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
1001	Layer	Topsoil-made ground. Very dark brown/black sandy loam with roots throughout and rare sa flint gravels. Modern artefacts noted (CBM, brick, clay pipes)	0-0.75m
1002	Layer	Subsoil. Light greyish brown sandy loam with rare sa flint gravels	0.75-0.95m
1003	Layer	Natural (Alluvial deposit?). Dark brown sandy loam with very dark brown/black lenses of organic material	0.95m+



Trench 11		Dimensions: 0.50m x 9.40m Machine dug trench	
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m bgl)
1101	Layer	Topsoil-made ground. Dark brown loose and friable sandy loam with rare sa flint gravel and roots throughout. Rare modern artefacts (brick, CBM, clay pipes).	0-0.22
1102	Layer	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey sandy loam with rare sa flint gravels.	0.22-0.30m
1103	Layer	Alluvium (?). Very dark brown, sandy clay loam with roots throughout and rare sa flint gravels. CBM noted. Distinct horizons.	0.30-0.76m
1104	Layer	Natural. Light grey sandy clay with moderate small sa gravels and darker lenses of clay.	0.76m+



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

