Chesnut Walk
Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Historic England Ref: SMC
00232160
Ref: 224181.03
April 2020

wessexarchaeology

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Document Information

Document title	Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire
Document subtitle	Archaeological Watching Brief
Document reference	224181.03

Client name	Reading Borough Council
Address	Civic Offices Bridge Street Reading Berkshire RG1 2LU

Site location	Chestnut Walk, Reading
County	Berkshire
National grid reference (NGR)	472085 173485 (SU 72085 73485)
Statutory designations	NHLE 1007932
Curator authority	Historic England
Curator reference	SMC 00232160
Museum name	Reading Museum
Museum accession code	To be advised
OASIS Id	392742

WA project code(s)	224181
Date(s) of fieldwork	2-3 and 16 March 2020
Fieldwork directed by	Kathryn Brook and Alistair Zochowski
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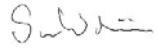
Document reviewed by	Simon Woodiwiss

Quality Assurance

Issue number & date	Status	Author	Approved by
1 27 April 2020	Issued to client	AZ	

Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

List of Tables

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Reading Borough Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire, situated within the scheduled area of Reading Abbey, central Reading, centred on NGR 472085 173485.

The watching brief follows on from an archaeological evaluation conducted by Wessex Archaeology in 2019 and comprised the monitoring of 20 pits for the replanting of trees and installation of 4 lighting columns and 1 CCTV column. The pits measured between 0.4m and 1.1m square and the depth varied between 0.50 and 1.10 m.

Out of the 20 pits excavated, only one (23) contained deposits different to a stratigraphic sequence of layers of made ground overlain by the modern topsoil, that had been established by the evaluation. This was a modern feature, whose single fill contained metal sheeting and bricks. This feature appears likely to be associated with the construction of the present footpath.

A layer of mortar identified during the evaluation was not located in the two closest pits (37 and 38) though its association with the construction of the main boundary wall of Reading Gaol is suggested.

The archaeological watching brief carried out at Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire successfully met its aims and objectives and the results add to the corpus of knowledge concerning the medieval abbey and its later history.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Reading Borough Council, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Andy Lockwood. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Alex Bellisario (Historic England) and Fiona Macdonald (Berkshire Archaeology) who monitored the project for Historic England, and to SSE for their cooperation and assistance on site.

The fieldwork was directed by Kathryn Brook and Alistair Zochowski. Lorraine Mepham produced the finds report. The report was written by Alistair Zochowski and reviewed by Simon Woodiwiss. The project was managed by Simon Woodiwiss on behalf of Wessex Archaeology

Chestnut Walk, Reading WB

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Reading Borough Council (the Client), to undertake an archaeological watching brief on works within a 0.09 ha parcel of land located at Reading Abbey, in central Reading, Berkshire, centred on NGR 472085 173485 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The scheme involved the removal of 18 horse chestnut trees and the planting of 14 new sweet chestnut trees, as well as the installation of 4 lighting columns, 1 CCTV column.

1.1.3 The ruins of Reading Abbey are scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled monument consent was obtained for these works on the 16th of December 2019 (ref. S00232160).

1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken during March 2020 over the course of 3 days.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.2.2 The watching brief was preceded by an evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and the results and test pit descriptions have been repeated here to provide a comprehensive account of recent archaeological activity in this relatively small area.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief was located immediately north of the canalised River Kennet in central Reading, adjacent to the former HMP Reading and within the ruins of Reading Abbey. Chestnut Walk comprises a broad, tree-lined walkway running parallel to the river.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels vary little in the immediate vicinity of Chestnut Walk itself and are at approximately 39 m aOD, though there is a marked slope down towards the river.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation, which is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The site is shown (BGS 2019) as within the area covered by superficial deposits relating to the Taplow Gravel Member (sand and gravel) formed 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period. There is, however, an area of alluvium close-by (clay, silt, sand and gravel).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary of historical and archaeological background is largely drawn from a brief prepared by Berkshire Archaeology (2019).

2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

Archaeological test pit evaluation

2.2.1 In October 2019 Wessex Archaeology carried out an archaeological test pit evaluation in preparation for the current works (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

2.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation by hand of 19 test pits to allow the replanting of 14 trees and the installation of 4 lighting columns and 1 CCTV column. The test pits measured 0.5 m in length and width and the depth varied between 0.45 and 0.80 m.

2.2.3 Out of the 19 test pits excavated, 6 contained deposits different to a stratigraphic sequence of layers of made ground overlain by the present topsoil.

2.2.4 The base of Test Pit 3 exposed a mortar layer or surface comprising of grey mortar with ceramic building material (CBM) and flint inclusions. This layer was undated. The relatively high level of the deposit and proximity to the canal would tend to suggest a later date and association with the canal, rather than a medieval or earlier post-medieval date and association with the abbey. Similar deposits had been found in Test Pits 9 and 10.

2.2.5 Test Pits 5, 6 and 7 uncovered a compact layer of mid brown sandy silty clay at the base of the pits. This layer was dated to the post-medieval period. Test Pits 9 and 10 produced evidence for a layer, surface or foundation deposit comprising a mixed white mortar with flint inclusions. Again, this deposit dated to the post-medieval period and tobacco pipe and earthenware pottery was recovered. These deposits are likely to have derived from the canalisation of the River Kennet and the subsequent development of the riverside during the 18th and 19th centuries.

2.3 Historical background

2.3.1 One of the earliest references to the town of Reading is in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for AD 870–871, as the site of a Danish winter camp, probably situated on or near the site of the later abbey (Astill 1978, 75–77). By the 11th century the town included a market, a mint that functioned between 1044 and 1046 and, a nunnery, that may have been founded during the reign of Edgar (AD 959–978). The nunnery; however, had ceased to function by AD 1071 when William I granted the estate to Battle Abbey (Astill 1978, 75). The reference to Reading in Domesday indicates that it had achieved borough status by the Conquest and contained a large royal estate. The likely centre of the late Saxon town is the area around St. Mary's Church and the Old Market (now St. Mary's Butts) at the crossing of major roads between Oxford and Winchester and London and Bath.

2.3.2 Expansion of the town during the medieval period was due largely to the influence of the Cluniac, and subsequently Benedictine, abbey that was founded by Henry I in AD 1121. The abbey was built in the Romanesque style and many architectural fragments in this style survive, re-used within later structures.

2.3.3 The abbey became one of the principal religious foundations in the country by virtue of large endowments, royal patronage and collections of relics. The whole area of the abbey, approximately 12 ha, was enclosed by a gated boundary wall and the interior was divided

between an outer court, the Forbury, and the separately enclosed inner precinct. The inner precinct backed onto the River Kennet and the Holy Brook and several of the industrial elements of the abbey, such as a mill, wharf and stables were located here. The abbey gave the town an increased impetus to urban development, which continued until Reading had become established as the major town in Berkshire by the 15th century.

2.3.4 At the Dissolution in 1539, although some of the abbey buildings were retained as a royal residence, occupation of the precinct effectively ended with the dispersal of the monks. By 1549, documents recorded that the buildings were being robbed and most of the church and cloisters had probably been razed by 1642, when the abbey precinct wall was fortified, and a substantial defensive ditch and rampart were dug across the remains of the abbey (Cram 2001). Since then, the site had been used not only as a source of building stone, but as a source of gravel.

2.4 Archaeological background

2.4.1 The readily available information relating to the abbey indicates that the most likely structure to be encountered by the trial pits was the toilet block (reredorter or necessarium), and a related inflow and outflow channel linked to the River Kennet.

2.4.2 Archaeological investigations in the vicinity have encountered abbey remains as little as 0.55 m below the present ground level. However, there is evidence that these have been subject to considerable disturbance, including during the construction of Civil War defences and gravel quarrying. Much of the site was excavated, though poorly recorded, in around 1857 to provide work for the unemployed. This excavation appears to have recovered much of the ground plan of the abbey as “the entire area of the site was excavated to a depth varying from two to five feet” (Slade 2001, 65).

2.4.3 A long programme of archaeological excavations and watching briefs was undertaken within the abbey precinct between 1964 and 1986. These were principally to the west and south-west of the standing abbey remains, with excavations of the cloister and refectory area, which included the identification of numerous gravel pits, dating from the 17th to the 19th century (Vince *et al* 1982)., the abbey mill (Slade 1976), the abbey stables (Hawkes 1991), the abbey wharf (Hawkes and Fasham 1997) and a small area within the east end of the abbey church (Slade 1976).

2.4.4 Of particular relevance are two recent pieces of fieldwork by Wessex Archaeology and Foundations Archaeology, which were both undertaken immediately adjacent to, or within, the proposed fieldwork locations.

2.4.5 Foundations Archaeology undertook a watching brief along Chestnut Walk during the installation of gates, a wall, foundations for benches and 43 fence posts (Foundations Archaeology 2001) for structures that are still extant on the walk. Although the small-scale excavations were relatively shallow (a maximum depth of 0.93 m though all but two were up to 0.5 m deep) and no medieval archaeological deposits or structures were identified. Natural (orange brown clay flint gravel) was observed in holes for gate posts at the Forbury Road entrance to the Walk, though no depths were provided. Attention was drawn to three large river pebbles (15–20 mm^3) from one of the bench foundations (400), which were similar to those used in construction for the abbey. The earliest artefacts were of 17th century date, though most were of later date.

2.4.6 Wessex Archaeology undertook an evaluation, watching brief and building recording within the ruins of Reading Abbey and Forbury Garden as part of the Forbury Gardens Restoration Project (Wessex Archaeology 2005). A number of trenches were located within the area of

the dormitory and reredorter, immediately to the north-west of Chestnut Walk. A medieval mortar floor, probably that of a cellar or undercroft was recorded approximately 2.25 m below the present ground level in the dormitory, at the same level as the present ground surface within the reredorter. Other works within the dormitory area showed that most of the buried archaeological remains have been very badly disturbed or completely destroyed by two large air-raid shelters. Trench 12 within the toilet block had the following sequence of deposits; 38.68–38.18 m OD modern concrete surface and overburden; 38.18–36.38 m OD pale grey sandy loam with abundant ceramic building material and white glazed transfer printed pottery, interpreted as demolition rubble and ; lower than 36.38 m OD mid greyish brown sandy silt loam with sparse gravel inclusions, interpreted as a possible buried soil.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and as defined in the CIfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

3.3 Site specific objectives

3.3.1 A specific objective of the watching brief, in addition to the listed above, is to take any opportunity to further investigate the deposits recorded during the evaluation in Test Pits 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 and attempt to confirm (or otherwise) their date and association with construction or maintenance of the canal.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The works monitored during the course of the archaeological watching brief comprised the mechanical excavation of 15 test pits and the excavation by hand of a further 5 pits. These pits were roughly square and ranged in size from roughly 400 mm square (pits 36–40), to roughly a 1 m square (pits 20–35) with a depth varying from 0.5 m to 0.9 m.

4.2.2 The soil resulting from these pits was visually inspected by the attending archaeologist and any artefactual evidence was recovered.

Recording

4.2.3 The test pits followed on from the numbering sequence utilised in the evaluation and therefore the next number was 20.

4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.5 Survey was accomplished primarily by offsets from the gaol wall located to the north of the site

4.2.6 A photographic record was made using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 Berkshire Archaeology and Historic England were informed of the start of the watching brief and its progress. Reasonable access was arranged for the Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, and Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Historic England) to make site visits in order to inspect and monitor the progress of the evaluation and watching brief. Monitoring visits were may on 4 October 2019 (Berkshire Archaeology) and on 2 March 2020 (Historic England).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The results of the evaluation are included here to provide a comprehensive account of the most recent works in this area.

5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the summary tables (**Appendix 1**). The location of test pits excavated during the course of both the archaeological evaluation and watching brief is shown on **Figure 1**.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The soil sequences observed within all except those described below followed a similar stratigraphic sequence. The present topsoil overlay deposits of made ground consisting of a mixture of red brown and greyish brown gravels.

5.3 Test Pit 3

5.3.1 Test Pit 3 was located towards the western limit of the site (**Figure 1**). A mortar layer or surface (303) comprising of a light grey mortar mixed with gravel was observed at the base of the test pit. This was overlain by a layer of dark reddish-brown sand (302), this had an average thickness of 0.06 m and was overlain by the present topsoil (**Plate 1**).

5.4 Test Pits 5, 6 and 7

5.4.1 Test Pits 5, 6, and 7 were located within the centre of the site (**Figure 1**) and had a similar stratigraphic sequence. This sequence comprised turf and topsoil over a layer of dark reddish-brown sand, itself over a dark greyish brown silty sandy clay observed at the base of the test pits. This deposit (503=603=703) has been interpreted as a deliberately compacted surface likely to be an earlier ground surface dating to between the construction of the canal and before the creation of Chestnut Walk (**Plates 2 and 3**).

5.5 Test Pits 9 and 10

5.5.1 Test pits 9 and 10 were located toward the eastern limits of the site (**Figure 1**). The earliest deposit encountered in Test pit 9 was a layer, surface or foundation deposit (905) that was highly compacted and composed of grey/white mortar with ceramic building material and flint cobbles as inclusions. This deposit was overlain by a thick deposit of light greyish brown sandy silt (904) this layer had a thickness of 0.29 m and produced clay tobacco pipe stems and pottery dating to the post-medieval period (**Plate 4**).

5.5.2 Overlying this was a buried soil horizon (903) comprising a mid-greyish brown sandy loam and is likely to represent the original topsoil. A layer of dark reddish-brown sand (902) sealed this buried topsoil. The final deposit observed within Test Pit 9 was the present topsoil and turf (**Plate 5**).

5.5.3 The same foundation or surface layer observed within Test Pit 9 was the earliest deposit encountered within Test Pit 10. The surface (1005) again comprised a mixture of flint, CBM and chalk gravel, the layer had minimum thickness of 0.02 m (**Plate 6**). The remaining soil sequence observed within Test Pit 10 comprised a series of made ground deposits finally overlain by a thin layer of present topsoil and turf.

5.6 Pit 23

5.6.1 The lowest deposit observed was made ground comprising of a mid-greyish brown sandy loam (2305). This was overlain by a layer of made ground (2302), comprising of a dark reddish-brown sand, itself overlain by the present topsoil (2301).

5.6.2 Cutting through layers (2302 and 2305) was a vertical cut for a modern intrusive feature. Filling this cut was a dumped deposit of brick and metal sheeting. Modern pottery and ceramic building were recorded from this fill. The cut feature is modern in date and is likely to be associated with the construction of the modern footpath located to the south (**Plate 7**).

5.7 Pits 37 and 38

5.7.1 Pits 37 and 38 were located near to the locations of Test Pits 9 and 10, excavated during the evaluation.

5.7.2 The soil sequence observed within both Pits 37 and 38 comprised a thick deposit of made ground, comprising of mixed grey brown silty clay with numerous gravel and flint inclusions, overlain by the present topsoil.

5.7.3 Pits 37 and 38 were excavated to a depth of 0.9 m below ground level and the mortar deposit seen in Test Pits 9 and 10 (**Plate 4**) was absent. Rather than an association with the construction of the canal, as expressed in the evaluation report (Wessex Archaeology 2019) it appears more likely this deposit was associated with the marginally closer gaol wall.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation and watching brief yielded a small assemblage of finds, of which most if not all is of post-medieval/modern date with a chronological focus in the 19th to 20th centuries. There is nothing here that can be linked to the medieval Abbey.

6.1.2 Finds came from contexts in 20 of the test pits excavated. A few finds came from possible buried soil horizons (in Test Pits 7, 20 and 24), but otherwise contexts producing finds included topsoil, made ground, and deliberately dumped layers. Finds from these contexts therefore are likely to represent redeposited material.

6.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

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

TP	Context	CBM	CTP	Iron (No.)	Pottery	Other Finds
1	104		1/2			2 animal bone
4	405		2/9		7/33	1 animal bone
6	601				2/4	1 glass
7	701			2		
7	703			1		2 shell
7	705		2/7	2	4/26	2 glass
8	801			1	1/4	
9	901				2/9	
9	904		2/6		6/64	
10	1004		6/19		2/10	
15	1501				1/7	
15	1502	1/89				
15	1503	1/59				
16	1602	1/64				
17	1703		1/1		1/6	
18	1802	1/63			4/27	
20	2003	1/111				
20	2004	1/74			1/7	
21	2102				1/24	
23	2304	1/178			2/38	1 shell
24	2403			1		
28	2802	2/52			2/10	
30	3001				1/8	
31	3103				1/1	
33	3301				1/8	
33	3302	9/693			1/24	2 glass
35	3501	3/70				
36	3602	3/198				
	Totals	**24/1651**	**14/44**	**7**	**41/311**	

CBM = ceramic building material; CTP = clay tobacco pipe

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 41 sherds (weighing 311 g), all of post-medieval/modern date. The assemblage is very fragmentary; sherds are small, but levels of surface and edge abrasion are relatively low (probably because most sherds are in hard-fired fabrics). Only two sherds conjoin. Mean sherd weight is 7.6 g.

6.2.2 Wares represented include coarse red earthenwares (both glazed and unglazed), tinglazed earthenware, Staffordshire-type mottled ware, white salt glaze, other salt-glazed English stoneware, porcelain, creamware, pearlware, whiteware and yellow ware. Tinglazed earthenware, mottled ware, white salt glaze and creamware all date to the 18th century, and the porcelain is probably also of this date. The other refined wares (pearlware, whiteware and yellow ware) are 19th century or later. The red earthenwares are not susceptible to close dating, although sherds of unglazed flowerpots from Pits 21, 23, 28 and 31 can be dated as 19th-/20th-century. The remaining redwares, all glazed, would be consistent with a date range of 18th century or later. Overall, there is little in the way of diagnostic material, but the majority of the assemblage seems to consist of tablewares, with the red earthenware and salt-glazed stoneware providing more utilitarian kitchen wares.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

6.3.1 Twenty-four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. One of these, from Test Pit 18, is from a glazed plain floor tile of medieval or post-medieval date.

6.3.2 There are seven post-medieval brick fragments, none preserving any original dimensions. The remaining 16 pieces are from post-medieval roof tiles, including one pantile and 15 flat (peg) tiles.

6.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.4.1 All 14 of the clay pipe fragments found are plain stems which are difficult to date more closely, although stem and bore diameters suggest that these potentially range in date from 17th to 19th/early 20th century.

6.5 Metalwork

6.5.1 All seven of the metal objects recovered are iron and include one possible knife blade and four nails; other objects remain unidentified. None of these objects are closely datable.

6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise two fragments of bottle glass and one piece of reinforced window (all 19th-/20th-century); three fragments of oyster shell and three pieces of animal bone (all probably sheep/goat).

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The archaeological watching brief carried out at Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire successfully met the aims and objectives set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). It also met the site-specific objective, namely to clarify whether the mortar layer or surface found in evaluation Test Pits 9 and 10 was indeed a surface associated with the post-medieval period and the canalisation of the River Kennet.

7.1.2 A total of 35 test pits were excavated along Chestnut Walk and only 1 of these test pits produced any archaeological features. Test pit 23 produced evidence for a modern cut feature, filled with a mixed deposit of bricks and metal sheeting. This has been interpreted as a feature associated with the construction of the current day footpath.

7.1.3 Test pits 37 and 38, dug to investigate the mortar layer discovered during the evaluation did not encounter the deposit and further consideration led to the interpretation that the deposit was more likely to be associated with the construction of the main wall of Reading Gaol, rather than the canal as suggested in the report on the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

7.1.4 No remains or deposits were encountered that directly related to the abbey.

8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The site falls within the collecting area of Reading Museum; the museum has been contacted regarding potential archive deposition, but will confirm this only when the results of the project are known. The Museum is likely only to accept the

archive (and to issue an accession number) if there are finds which merit long-term curation. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

8.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

8.2.1 The physical archive, which currently includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, if accepted for museum deposition will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Reading Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011). The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard box of artefacts and ecofacts;
- 1 document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

8.2.2 The digital archive includes context data and finds data in spreadsheet format, survey data, reports and photographs and will follow appropriate standards (ADS 2013).

8.3 Selection strategy

8.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

8.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993) and follows CIfA's 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.3 In this instance, given the small scale of the project, and the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below.

8.3.4 These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.5 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

8.3.6 Given the quantity of finds recorded, their nature and date range (commonly occurring types of relatively recent date) and provenance (probably largely redeposited), retention for long-term curation is not warranted. These finds have no archaeological significance (there is nothing that can be linked to Reading Abbey) and no further research potential.

Documentary records

8.3.7 Any paper records (site records, hard copies of site reports) will be offered to the Museum, but may be refused on the grounds of negative results.

Digital data

8.3.8 Given the largely negative results of the fieldwork, it is recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

8.4 OASIS

8.4.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by Berkshire Archaeology on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

9 COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive and report copyright

9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

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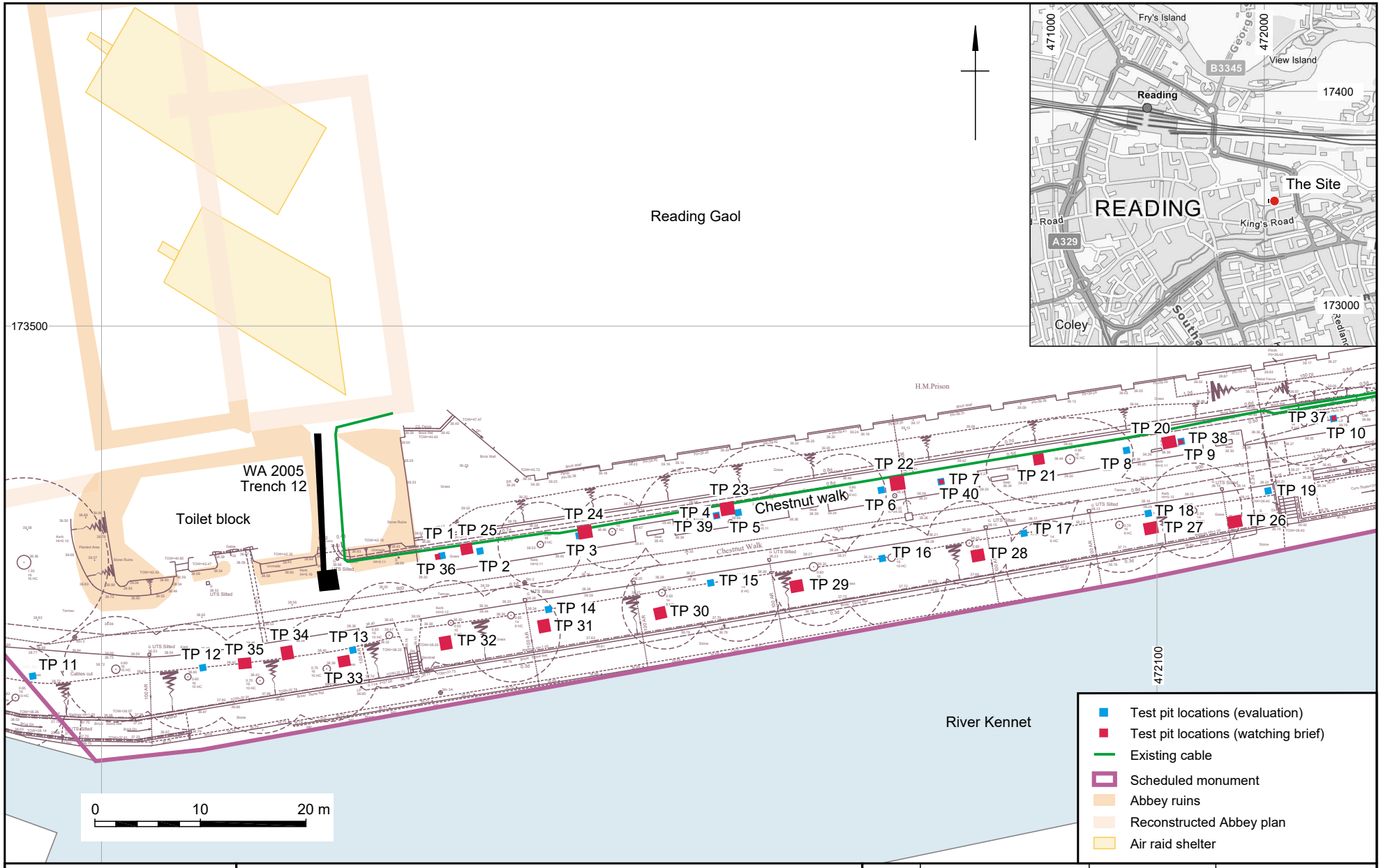

Coordinate system:
OSGB36
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

Base plan provided by the client.

Date:	08/04/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:25 000 & 1:500 @ A4	Illustrator:	RG/ND/KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\224181\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2020_04_08		

Site location and test pit location

Figure 1

Plate 1: Test pit 3, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Plate 2: Test pit 5, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Date:	10/10/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KMN
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\224180\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2019_10_10		

Plate 3: Test pit 6, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Plate 4: Test pit 7, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Date:	10/10/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KMN
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\224180\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2019_10_10		

Plate 5: Test pit 9, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Plate 6: Test pit 10, 0.5 m scale, looking south

Date:	10/10/2019	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KMN
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\224180\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2019_10_10		

Plate 7: Pit 23, 0.5m scale, looking west.

Date:	20/03/2020	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\224181\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2020_03_20		

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Appendix 1 TEST PIT SUMMARIES

Test pit from the watching brief (Test Pits 1–19) and evaluation (Pits 20–40) have been presented here to provide a comprehensive account of recent archaeological works.

Test Pit No 1	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.80 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.56**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
101		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam, imported topsoil. Small sized sub-angular stones, chalk and flints. Fine rooting throughout.	0-0.26
102		Made ground	Made ground. Reddish brown coarse sand with well sorted gravels, imported material, related to landscaping of area.	0.25-0.5
103		Layer	Mix of loose mortar and stone, only appears in southern half of test pit.	0.5-0.6
104		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mud brown sandy loam with cbm fragments, small to medium stones and rooting throughout.	0.5-0.8+

Test Pit No 2	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.42 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
201		Topsoil/turf	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. No inclusions evident. Represents thickness of turf only.	0-0.07
202		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: light pinkish grey sand. 30% common fine to coarse gravel sized angular hardcore type light grey stone. No finds	0.07-0.18
203		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 1% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. 3% sparse fine gravel to whole brick sized CBM.	0.18-0.28
204		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.28+

Test Pit No 3		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.36 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
301		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM and tarmac	0-0.30
302		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.30-0.36
303		Mortared surface	Base of test pit delimited by apparent light grey mortar mixed with gravel forming a compact surface.	0.36+

Test Pit 4		Length 0.70 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.80 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.37	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
401		Modern topsoil	Imported topsoil, dark brown sandy loam with patchy turf and rooting throughout. Occasional small to medium sub-angular stones and CBM.	0-0.2
402		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid to dark brown sandy clay loam with frequent sub-angular stones. Fine rooting throughout and CBM frags.	0.2-0.35
403		Made ground	Made ground. Reddish brown coarse sands and well sorted travels.	0.35-0.45
404		Buried soil	Mid to dark brown sandy loam. Fine rooting throughout and rare small rounded inclusions.	0.45-0.55
405		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid to dark brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sized sub-angular stones, chalk and CBM.	0.55-0.75
406		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish light yellow. Mix of loose mortar and stones.	0.75-0.8+

Test Pit 5	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM and 1 piece of faced stone c.20x20cm that may relate to abbey construction.	0-0.36
502		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.36-0.42
503		Hard standing?	Dark greyish brown sand clay SILT, 25% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Very compact layer at base of TP, appears to be a deliberately compacted surface possibly relating to creation of path or canal.	0.42+

Test Pit 6	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.44 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM concrete pottery and glass	0-0.36
602		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.36-0..44
603		Hard standing?	Dark greyish brown sand clay SILT, 25% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Very compact layer at base of TP, appears to be a deliberately compacted surface possibly relating to creation of path or canal.	0.44+

Test Pit 7		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.80 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
701		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. FE nails.	0-0.26
702		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.26-0.31
703		Buried soil horizon	Dark black brown sandy loam. ,1% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. Oyster shell CBM and FE nails.	0.31-0.40
704		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 7% rare fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.40-0.51
705		Dump deposit/made ground	3% sparse fine gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint, 1% sparse medium to coarse gravel sized sub rounded chalk. CBM, pottery, clay pipe stems and FE nails.	0.51+
706		Mortared rubble layer	Compact mid grey sandy mortar. 25% common medium gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint 7% rare fine to coarse gravel sized sub rounded chalk. No finds. NB only visible in base of test pit, appears to cease circa 5cm from recorded section, probably relates to canalisation of river or possibly construction of the walkway.	0.80+

Test Pit 8	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.42 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 5% rare fine to coarse gravel sized sub-angular flint. Pottery and FE artefact	0-0.22
802		Made ground/dump deposit	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds	0.22-0.30
803		Buried soil horizon	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds.	0.30-0.39
804		Rubble	Rubble layer: highly compact mid grey sandy silt with 50% abundant fine gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint and 25% fine to medium gravel sized sub rounded chalk. CBM throughout.	0.39+

Test Pit No 9	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.77 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 5% rare fine gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint. White glazed post IR pot	0-0.26
902		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: dark reddish brown sand. 10% common fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No fins	0.26 - 0.32
903		Buried soil horizon	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 1% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds	0.32-0.41
904		Deliberate dump	Dump deposit: light greyish brown sandy silt. 10% common coarse gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint,7% fine to medium gravel sized sub rounded chalk. CBM, glazed ceramic and clay pipe stems. Post med rubble layer.	0.41-0.70
905		Foundation/dump deposit	Highly compacted layer of very light grey / white mortar with CBM, ceramic and 25% coarse gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint. Glazed ceramic in mortar.	0.70+

Test Pit No 10		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.80 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.49	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1001		Topsoil	Thin modern topsoil with thin turf. Dark brown sandy loam.	0-0.1
1002		Made ground	Greyish light brown sandy loam with frequent small flints, CBM and occasional rooting.	0.1-0.25
1003		Made ground	Yellowish mid brown well sorted gravels and sands. Very little rooting.	0.25-0.4
1004		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small sub angular stones, CBM, and heavily rooted throughout.	0.4-0.78
1005		Surface	Mortared mix of flint CBM and chalk gravel.	0.78-0.8+

Test Pit No 11		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1101		Topsoil	Dark / mid greyish brown sandy loam. 3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. No finds	0-0.24
1102		Subsoil	Mid / light greyish brown sand silt loam. 3% sparse fine to coarse gravel sized sub-angular flint. CBM	0.24+

Test Pit No 12		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.33	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1201		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam with small to medium sized common sub rounded to sub-angular stones. Rooting throughout and patchy turf above.	0-0.4
1202		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish light yellow. Mix of loose mortar and small sub-angular stones. Possible debris from abbey building / demolition.	0.4-0.45

Test Pit No 13	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.14**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1301		Imported garden soil	Very modern. Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to backfill modern disturbance. common sub round gravel ≤10mm. Very heavy rooting. Clear horizon with made ground. Moderate compaction	
1302		Made ground	Comprising of a layer of geotextile covered by crushed stone with fine pink powdery sand from crushed CBM. Very loose compaction. Clear horizon. Likely used as a recent layer to make up ground level.	
1303		Made ground	Layer of large flint nodules 100-200mm with some evidence of facing, probably were part of the abbey at some point but definitely now just a dump to build up ground. Also, with some Lumps of mortar but definitely not forming any sort of structure. All very loose with voids between nodules. Clear horizon	

Test Pit No 14	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.19**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1401		Imported garden soil	Very modern. Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to backfill modern disturbance. Abundant sub round gravel ≤10mm, large flint nodules at base 100-200mm, probably were part of the abbey at some point but definitely now just a dump to build up ground. heavy rooting. Clear horizon with made ground. Moderate compaction	0-0.3
1402		Made ground	Comprising of a layer of geotextile covered by crushed stone with fine pink powdery sand from crushed CBM. Very loose compaction. Likely used as a recent layer to make up ground level. No service beneath as far as test pit has been dug, no signal on service location equipment	0.28-0.38
1403		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Common sub round gravel. Clear horizon. Moderate rooting.	0.38-0.45+

Test Pit No 15	**Length 0.50 m**	**Width 0.50 m**	**Depth 0.45 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD 38.14**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1501		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM flecks, small pot sherd. heavy rooting. Clear horizon with made ground.	0-0.28
1502		Made ground	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. firm compaction. Higher soil content than in test pit 16. Assumed used to build up ground surface from canal. Contained common round chalk fragments, common sub round gravel, occasional CBM. Heavy rooting. Clear horizons.	0.23-0.45
1503		Made ground	Light greyish brown sandy loam. Largely comprising of chalk fragments, gravel, mortar, and CBM. Assumed to be another layer to build up bank next to canal. Very firm compaction. Moderate rooting. Clear horizon.	0.4-0.45+

Test Pit No 16	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting	Northing	m OD 38.07	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1601		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Very heavy rooting as test pit 0.3 m from base of trunk. Clear horizon with made ground.	0-0.18
1602		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Very firm compaction. Assumed used to build up ground surface from canal. Contained common round chalk fragments, common sub round gravel, occasional CBM. Numerous large roots as test pit 0.3 m from base of tree trunk. Not able to dig to 0.45 across entire test pit due to these roots.	0.18-0.45+

Test Pit No 17	Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting	Northing	m OD 38.05	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1701		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam imported topsoil. Patchy turf and fine rooting throughout.	0-0.1
1702		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid brown sandy loam with common small sub-angular stones throughout and occasional irregular medium sized CBM frags.	0.1-0.3
1703		Made ground	Made ground. Greyish mid brown sandy loam with an orange hue, small to medium sized stones and flints.	0.3-0.45

Test Pit No 18		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.45 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.11	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1801		Imported garden soil	Layer of dark brown sandy loam used to build up ground surface. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting as test pit between two trees. Clear horizon with made ground.	0-0.22
1802		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Very firm compaction. Assumed used to build up ground surface from canal. Contained common round chalk fragments, common sub round gravel, occasionally CBM - brick fragments. Moderate fine rooting.	0.22-0.45+

Test Pit 19		Length 0.50 m	Width 0.50 m	Depth 0.46 m
Easting		Northing	m OD 38.02	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
1901		Imported garden soil	Turf topped dark brown silty loam. Abundant fine and large roots. Sparse surround gravel. Clear horizon.	0-0.3
1902		Deliberate dump	Of rubble, concrete, brick, plastic rubbish. With some mid greyish brown sandy loam. Bricks appear to be same as bricks in adjacent wall. Clear horizons. Heavy rooting.	0.15-0.37
1903		Deliberate dump	Of broken tarmac or Possibly was layer of tarmac now broken up by rooting. Clear horizons. Heavy rooting.	0.37-0.44
1904		Deliberate dump	Layer of light yellowish brown coarse sand with common sub round gravel. Assumed to be levelling layer to lay tarmac or possibly to build up area.	0.44-0.46+

Pit 20		Length 1.20 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2001		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. 5% rare fine to coarse gravel sub-angular sized flint.	0 - 0.25
2002		Made Ground/ bedding layer	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% fine to medium gravel sub angular. No finds. possibly the remains of a former foot path or associated with the landscaping for the current walkway.	0.25 - 0.3
2003		Buried soil horizon	Mid greyish brown sandy loam 1% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint	0.3 - 0.54
2004		Deliberate dumping	Light greyish brown sandy silt. 10% common coarse gravel to cobble sized sub-angular flint. 10% crushed mortar / mortar lumps. Possibly associated with the construction of teh canal or possibly associated with the construction of the prison.	0.54 - 0.6+

Pit 21		Length 0.90 m	Width 0.90 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2101		Topsoil	Mid Greyish brown sandy loam.3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint.	0 - 0.23
2102		Made ground / Dumped Deposit	Brick rubble with sheet metal. Voids between bricks, no consistent pattern to brick positions. Not structural	0.23 - 0.6+

Pit 22		Length 1.25 m	Width 1.20 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting		Northing	m OD	
Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
2201		Topsoil	Mid Greyish brown sandy loam.3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint.	0 - 0.24
2202		Made Ground/ bedding layer	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% fine to medium gravel sub angular. No finds	0.24 - 0.44
2203		Buried soil horizon	Mid greyish brown sandy loam 5% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Rare fragments of brick / CMB. Moderate tree rooting. No Finds.	0.44 - 0.6+

Pit 23	Length 1.20 m	Width 1.10 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2301		Topsoil	Mid Greyish brown sandy loam.3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint. 23	0 - 0.24
2302		Made Ground/ bedding layer	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% fine to medium gravel sub angular. No finds. Cut by 2030.	0.24 - 0.36
2303		Cut of Dumped deposit	Vertical cut base unexcaved. Only northants side of cut seen. Cuts 2302 and 2305.	0.24 -0.6+
2304		Deliberate dump	Dumped deposit. Brick and metal sheeting inter mingled. Void between bricks not structural. Possible associated with construction of the current footpath. Pot and modern CBM.	0.24 - 0.6+
2305		Buried soil horizon	Mid greyish brown sandy loam 10 % sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Occasional CBM inclusions. Cut by 2303	0.36 - 0.6+

Pit 24	Length 1.20 m	Width 1.10 m	Depth 0.65 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2401		Topsoil	Mid Greyish brown sandy loam. 5% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint.	0 - 0.24
2402		Made Ground/ bedding layer	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% fine to medium gravel sub angular. No finds. Possibly former footpath predating the current one or associated with construction of current footpath	0.24 - 0.42
2403		Buried soil horizon	Mid greyish brown sandy loam 15% sparse fine to medium gravel sized sub-angular flint. Rare brick fragment inclusions.	0.42 - 0.65+

Pit 25	Length 0.90 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.51 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2501		Topsoil	Mid Greyish brown sandy loam.3% sparse fine gravel sized sub-angular flint and rear cobble sizes sub round chalk lumps.	0 - 0.26
2502		Made Ground/ bedding layer	Dark reddish brown sand. 10% fine to medium gravel sub angular. No finds	0.26 -0.39
2503		Made ground	Mid brown coarse gravel flint with 10% sand. No evidence of a service but pit not dug below gravel layer. No finds	0.39 - 0.51

Pit 26	Length 1.20 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2601		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional surrounded gravel, rare CBM fragments. Moderate rooting sparse .	0-0.22
2602		Made ground	Plastic sheeting mixed with flint boulders, with concrete fragments. Possible for stabilizing of canal bank. No Finds	0.22 -0.60+

Pit 27	Length 1.20 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.65 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2701		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting as tree pit dug in vicinity of recently cut down tree.	0 - 0.26
2702		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up canal bank. Contained common sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Rare chalk and CBM inclusions. Very heavy rooting associated with recently cut down trees. No Finds	0.26 - 0.65 +

Pit 28	Length 1.10 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.55 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2801		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Moderate rooting as tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree.	0 - 0.26
2802		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up canal bank. Contained common sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Common CBM inclusions. Moderate rooting associated with recently felled trees. Pot and CBM recovered.	0.26 - 0.60+

Pit 29	Length 1.10 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.67 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
2901		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree.	0 - 0.24
2902		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up canal bank. Contained common sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Common CBM inclusions. Moderate rooting associated with recently felled tree. No Finds	0.24 - 0.67+

Pit 30	Length 1 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3001		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree. Defused horizon with made ground. Pottery recovered.	0 - 0.27
3002		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up canal bank. Contained common sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Common CBM inclusions rare lumps of gravel sized chalk, patches of yellowish crushed mortar. Heavy rooting associated with recently felled tree. Pottery recovered.	0.27 - 0.6+

Pit 31	Length 1.10 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3101		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree.	0 - 0.24
3102		Made ground	Comprising layer of geotextile covered by crushed stone with fine pink crushed CBM. Very loose compaction. No service beneath as far as tree pit has been dug. Likely used as a recent layer to build up the ground level. No Finds	0.24 -0.35
3103		Made ground	Mid greyish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up canal bank. Contained common sub-rounded gravel and sub-angular flint. Common CBM and rare mortar inclusions. Some larger cobbled size flints had mortar adhering to them. Heavy rooting associated with recently felled trees. CBM and possible fragment of pottery recovered.	0.35 - 0.6+

Pit 32	Length 1.15 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.60 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3201		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree.	0 - 0.26
3202		Made ground	Mid yellowish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up ground level next to the cannal. Contained common sub-rounded gravel 40% and occasional gravel sized chalk 10%. Occasional CBM fragments and mortar inclusions. Rare lcobbled size flints had mortar adhering to them. Heavy rooting associated with recently felled trees. Mortar and large flints possibly dumped rubbles that was once part of the abbey. Disturbed to South by tree rooting. No finds	0.22 -0.6+

Pit 33	Length 1.15 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.51 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3301		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree.	0 - 0.26
3302		Made ground	Mid yellowish brown sandy loam. Assumed used to build up ground level next to the canal. Contained common sub-rounded gravel 40% and occasional gravel sized chalk 10%. Occasional CBM fragments and mortar inclusions. Heavy rooting associated with recently felled trees. Disturbed to South by tree rooting. CBM and mortar recovered.	O.26 - 0.39
3303		Made ground	Mid greyish brown with pink huge sandy loam. Contained 40% sub-rounded gravel and occasional gravel sized flint and chalk. Clear horizon with upper made ground layer. Disturbed to the southern by tree rooting. No Finds	O.39 - 0.51

Pit 34	Length 0.90 m	Width 1 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3401		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel, rare CBM. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree.	0 - 0.3
3402		Made ground	Crushed stone with fine pink crushed CBM. Very loose compaction. Full depth of layer not reached. Likely used as a recent layer to build up the ground level / landscaping. No finds	0.3 - 0.5+

Pit 35	Length 0.90 m	Width 1.10 m	Depth 0.50 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3501		Imported garden soil	Dark brown sandy loam. Occasional sub round gravel. Heavy rooting, tree pit dug in vicinity of recently felled tree. Imported soil here deeper than the rest of the monitored pits. Possibly due to landscape of this area in the 20th century. Contained plastic bottle tops and tin foil wrappers and rare brick fragments.	0 - 0.50+

Pit 36	Length 0.34 m	Width 0.40 m	Depth 1.10 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3601		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay. Numerous roots and occasional flints	0-0.15
3602		Gravel make up layer	Mid to light brown gravel, with occasional fragments of CBM not retained	0.15-1.10

Pit 37	Length 0.30 m	Width 0.30 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3701		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown black silty clay. Numerous roots	0-0.20
3702		Made ground	Mixed dark brown silty clay with numerous CBM , flints as inclusions.	0.20-0.90

Pit 38	Length 0.30 m	Width 0.30 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting	Northing	m OD	

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
3801		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay.	0-0.20
3802		Made ground	Mixed grey brown silty clay with gravel and flint inclusions	0.20-.0.90

Pit 39	**Length 0.30 m**	**Width 0.30 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
3901		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay. Numerous roots as inclusions	0-0.25
3902		Made ground	Mixed dark brown silty clay with numerous gravel, flint and CBM fragments	0.25-0.90

Pit 40	**Length 0.30 m**	**Width 0.30 m**	**Depth 0.90 m**
Easting	**Northing**	**m OD**	

Context Number	**Fill Of/Filled With**	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth BGL**
4001		Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay. Numerous roots and flints as inclusions	0-0.20
4002		Made ground	Mixed dark brown silty clay and occasional gravel. Flints roots as inclusions.	0.20-0.90

Appendix 2 OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: wessexar1-392742

Project details	
Project name	Chestnut Walk, Reading, Reading watching brief
Short description of the project	The watching brief follows on from an archaeological evaluation conducted by Wessex Archaeology in 2019 and comprised the monitoring of 20 pits for the replanting of trees and installation of 4 lighting columns and 1 CCTV column. The pits measured between 0.4m and 1.1m square and the depth varied between 0.50 and 1.10 m. Out of the 20 pits excavated, only one (23) contained deposits different to a stratigraphic sequence of layers of made ground overlain by the modern topsoil, that had been established by the evaluation. This was a modern feature, whose single fill contained metal sheeting and bricks. This feature appears likely to be associated with the construction of the present footpath. A layer of mortar identified during the evaluation was not located in the two closest pits (37 and 38) though its association with the construction of the main boundary wall of Reading Gaol is suggested. The archaeological watching brief carried out at Chestnut Walk, Reading, Berkshire successfully met its aims and objectives and the results add to the corpus of knowledge concerning the medieval abbey and its later history.
Project dates	Start: 02-03-2020 End: 16-03-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	224181 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	GAOL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE READING READING Chestnut Walk, Reading Berkshire watching brief
Postcode	RG1 3JA
Study area	0.09 Hectares

Site coordinates	SU 7208 7348 51.45521608305 -0.962478026172 51 27 18 N 000 57 44 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Simon Woodiwiss
Project supervisor	Kathryn Brook and Alistair Zochowski
Type of sponsor/funding body	Local Government
Name of sponsor/funding body	Reading Borough Council
Entered by	Simon Woodiwiss (s.woodiwiss@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	27 April 2020

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