

**LAND AT 5-21 TUDOR ROAD,  
READING,  
BERKSHIRE**

**NGR: SU 7123 7380 (centred)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Quality Assurance**

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Report No. 783

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## **SUMMARY**

**Site Name:** Land at 5-21 Tudor Road, Reading

**Grid Reference:** NGR SU 7123 7380 (centred)

**Site Activity:** Evaluation

**Date of Project:** 15th February 2012

**Project Manager:** Roy King

**Site Supervisor:** James Vessey

**Site Code:** TRR11

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at 5-21 Tudor Road, Reading (NGR: SU 8654 7062 - centred). The project was commissioned Linden Homes

The project comprised the excavation and recording of one 25m x 2m evaluation trench within the proposed development area.

The evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological deposits in the evaluated area. The presence of modern disturbance to a depth of 1.20m indicates a high degree of truncation to the stratigraphic sequence, although no evidence was recovered to indicate whether this truncation had affected the top of the natural deposits. No archaeological features or finds were present within the evaluated area.

## GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

### CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

### Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

### Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

### NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum)

### OS

Ordnance Survey

### Post Medieval

The period after 1500 AD

### Roman

The period between AD 43 and AD 410.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 on land at 5-21 Tudor Road, Reading (NGR: SU 7123 7380). The project was commissioned Linden Homes.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (2011), based upon the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (rev. 2008), and *General Standards for Fieldwork Projects* (Berkshire Archaeology n.d.).

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted by Reading Borough Council for the development of land at 5-21 Tudor Road Reading (Planning Reference 11/00625/FUL).
- 2.2 The site covers an area of approximately 890m<sup>2</sup> at NGR: SU 7123 7380. The site was previously occupied by 19<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing, which has been recently demolished.
- 2.3 The geological sequence within the site area consists of Alluvium over River Terrace Gravel, which in turn overlies Upper Chalk. Modern deposits, possibly including made ground of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century date was expected to comprise the latest element in the stratigraphic sequence. An archaeological evaluation (Foundations 2009) at Garrard Street revealed terrace gravels interleaved with alluvial clays at a minimum depth of 1.2m from the modern ground surface. The minimum depth of non-significant overburden in one of the trenches, however, was only 0.45m. The stratigraphic sequence identified within the trench sondages was broadly in keeping with that detailed by BGS (2000) and from the results of boreholes in the general vicinity, although no clean deposits of chalk were identified. Peat deposits were also recorded west of Caversham Road in 1999, although the NGR suggests these may have been in the general vicinity of Brigham Road.
- 2.4 The archaeological background to the site is given in a desk based assessment prepared by CgMs (2008), which concludes that the potential of the site is very low and that the site remained undeveloped until the construction of terraced houses between 1861 and 1879. The recently demolished terraced houses are characteristic of late 19<sup>th</sup> century residential development in this part of Reading and are similar in character to the terraced houses on the north side of Stanshawe Road. More recent assessment and evaluation works by Foundations Archaeology for the proposed Station Hill development highlighted the potential for utilisation of the wetlands during earlier periods and that a consideration of archaeological significance should not be restricted to settlement.

- 2.5 The Site lies within an area of high archaeological potential and also contains the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits. In particular the site may contain information relating to Saxon/Viking, Medieval and Post Medieval activity, particularly related to the utilisation of wetlands. There is moderate potential for waterlogged and other environmentally sensitive data to be preserved within the site area.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the location, date, character, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains in order to provide mitigation through preservation by record. The works also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.
- (ii) To attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present within the site.
- (iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples, including an assessment of the environmental potential.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The WSI required the excavation of one 2m x 25m trench comprising a 6% sample of the area.
- 4.2 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

### **5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 The trench was located parallel to, and mid-way between Tudor Road and Stanshawe Road, NGR SU 7123 7380 (Figure 2). Natural plastic grey clay with orange mottling and root disturbance was identified at an average depth of c 1.20m below modern ground. The clay was overlaid by a dark brown humic clay silt containing much modern brick, glass and general rubble, this

layer was c 0.90m thick. This was in turn overlain by a dark humic clay silt topsoil up to 0.30m thick. No archaeological finds or features were present in the trench.

- 5.2 The presence of a thick layer of rubble filled clay silt overlying the natural suggests that the site has been reduced at some point and made up again. No evidence was recovered to indicate whether this activity would have truncated the top of the natural deposits.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological deposits in the evaluated area. The presence of modern disturbance to a depth of 1.20m indicates a high degree of truncation to the stratigraphic sequence, although no evidence was recovered to indicate whether this activity would have truncated the top of the natural deposits. Despite the identification of peat deposits in the vicinity in 1999, and more recently during the Station Hill development, no peat deposits or waterlogged ground was identified within the study area.
- 6.2 No archaeological features or finds were present within the evaluated area.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Reading Museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

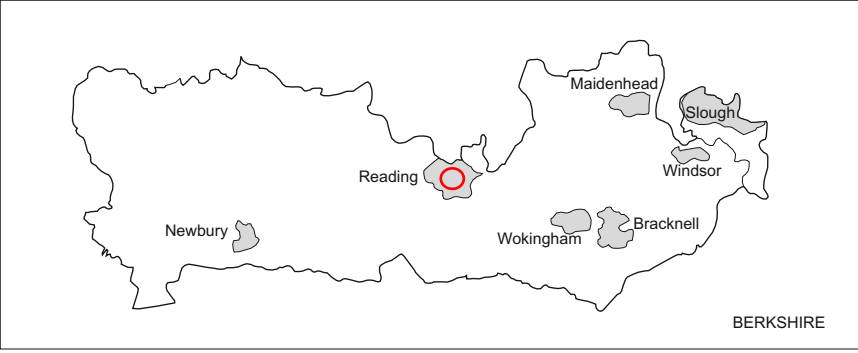
## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Foundations Archaeology. 2011. *Land at 5-21 Tudor Road, Reading: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Unpublished.


## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to Mary Neale of Berkshire Archaeology and Linden Homes for their assistance during the course of this project.



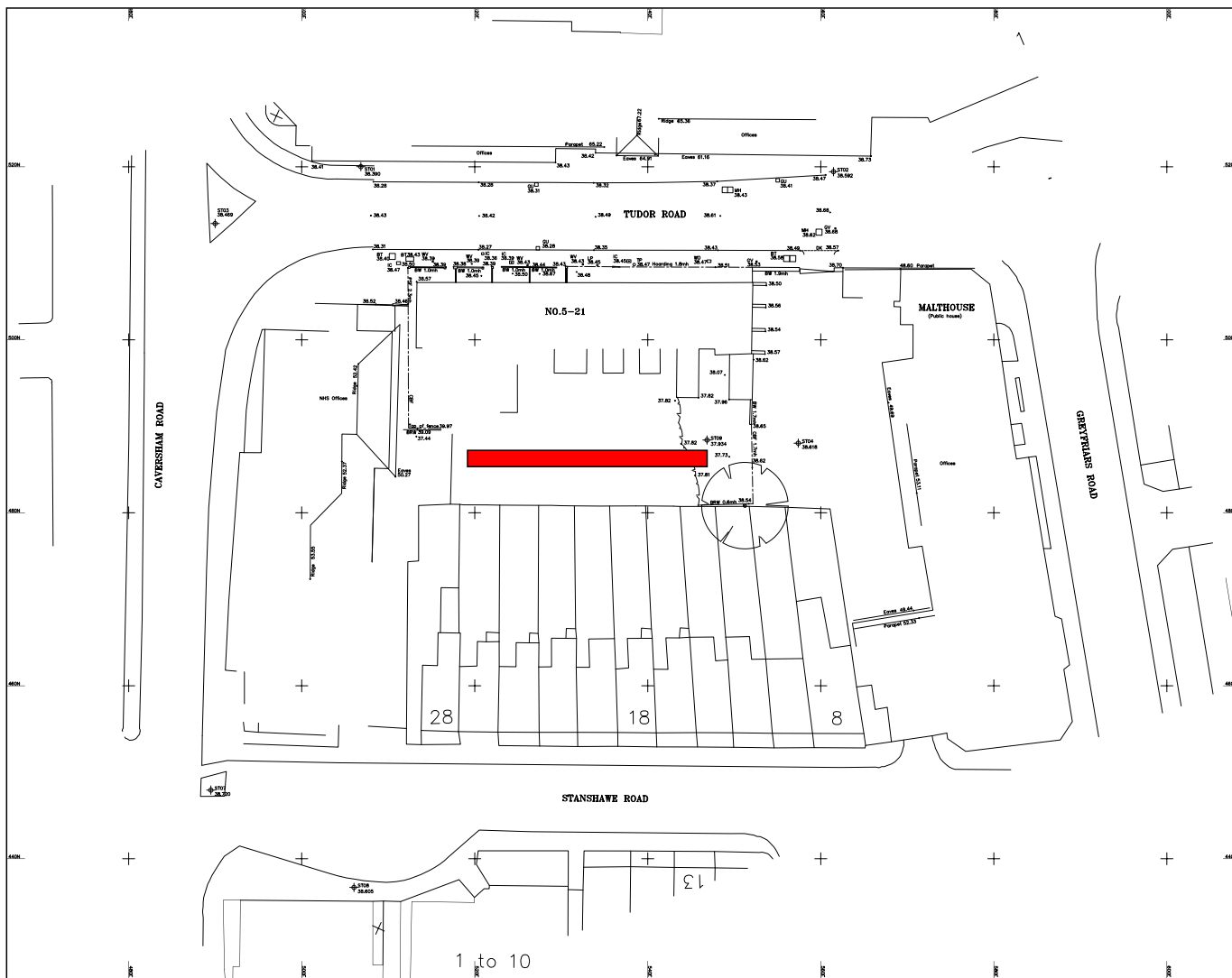
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**FIGURE 1: Site Location**





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**FIGURE 2: Site Location**