

**LAND AT LEDGERS ROAD,  
SLOUGH,  
BERKSHIRE**

**NGR: SU 9688 7995**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

April 2015  
Report No. 1052



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES**

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**Quality Assurance**

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Author: R.King BA MCIfA

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015

Approved: A. Hood BSc MCIfA

QA Checked: D. King BA MCIfA

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## **SUMMARY**

In March 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Ledgers Road, Slough (NGR: SU 9688 7995). The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of six trenches in the area of a proposed residential development.

The evaluation revealed sandy gravel deposits sealed beneath either topsoil, or tarmac and concrete. No archaeological finds or features were present within the trenches.

## **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 AD 1066 and 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 between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

### **Prehistoric**

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

### **Roman**

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

### **Saxon**

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In March 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Ledgers Road, Slough, Berkshire (NGR: SU 9688 7995). The project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* (2015), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2011) and discussions between Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting and Berkshire Archaeology.
- 1.3 The *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 It is proposed to construct a new residential development at the site.
- 2.2 The geology of the site comprises Lambeth Group Clay, Silt and Sand overlain by Taplow Gravel Formation. The site is located within a generally flat topography, at approximately 29m OD. At the time of the works the site formed part of a car park.
- 2.3 The evaluation area lies approximately 200m to the east of the scheduled Montern Mound motte (Ref. 1007928), which was possibly constructed to control a fording point. The mound is roughly circular in shape with a diameter of 28m and remains up to 6m high around the best preserved northwestern half. The southeastern part of the mound is less well-preserved, having the appearance of being unfinished. The site has historical associations with Eton College as the focus of the Montern celebration, which was observed triennially between 1561 and 1846. The ceremony, peculiar to Eton, is reported to date from the foundation of the college. It consisted of a procession of scholars, dressed either in military or fancy costume, to a small mound at Salt Hill, on the south side of the bath road. Here they extracted money for salt from those present and from passers-by. The festival was abolished in 1846.
- 2.4 The evaluation was requested to assess whether any remains associated with the mound were present within the site area. This did not prejudice the evaluation against finds and features relating to other periods.
- 2.5 This report presents the findings of the evaluation works.

### **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 nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i/ To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
  - ii/ To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
  - iii/ To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered;
  - iv/ To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
  - v/ To establish the potential for significant environmental deposits;
  - vi/ To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
  - vii/ To inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
  - viii/ To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Berkshire HER.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 Six trenches were excavated within the site, as shown in Figure 2. Due to on-site constraints, Trench 1 was shortened from 20m to 13m. All amendments to the approved trench layout were agreed via CgMs Consulting.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results of the fieldwork is given below.
- 5.2 The natural gravel substrates were present between 29.6m and 28.9m OD and were tested with a sondage in each trench to a depth of 0.4m. The gravels were sealed immediately beneath a clay silt topsoil in the grass areas, which varied in thickness between 0.2m and 0.25m and beneath a 0.1m thick tarmac surface above a 0.2m thick concrete hardstanding in the car parking areas. The shallow overburden and absence of a subsoil strongly indicated that the site had been reduced at some time in the past. It was not clear as to whether these works penetrated into the natural gravels, or if the site was stripped down on top of the gravels.
- 5.3 There were no archaeological features or finds present in any of the trenches. Modern service trenches were present within Trenches 2 and 5.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The evaluation has indicated that there is a low potential for archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area, which appeared to have been previously reduced. It was not clear as to whether these works penetrated into the natural gravels, or if the site was stripped down on top of the gravels.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with an appropriate 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**

CgMs Consulting Ltd. 2015. *Land at Ledgers Road, Slough: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2011. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Reading.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Fiona Macdonald and Roland Smith from Berkshire Archaeology and Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting for their help during the course of the project.



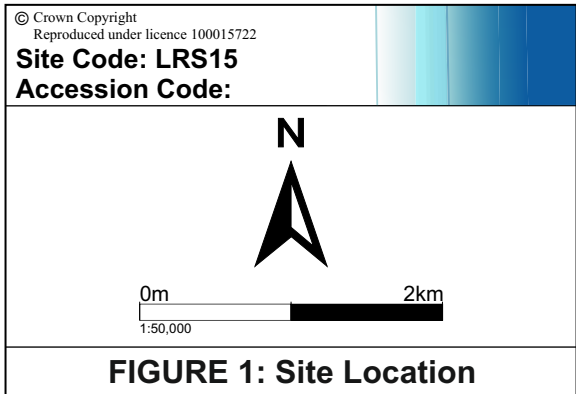
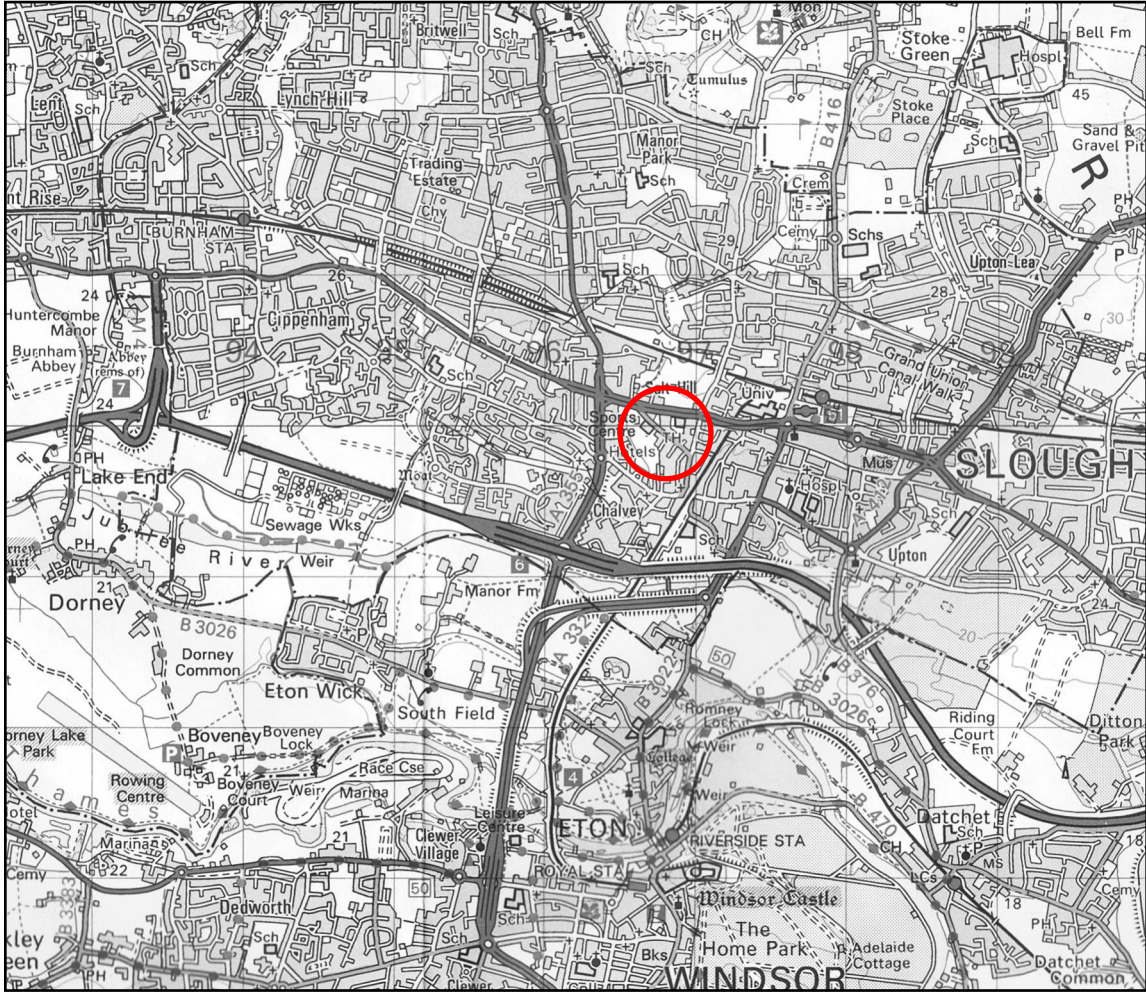
**Land at Ledgers Road, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation**

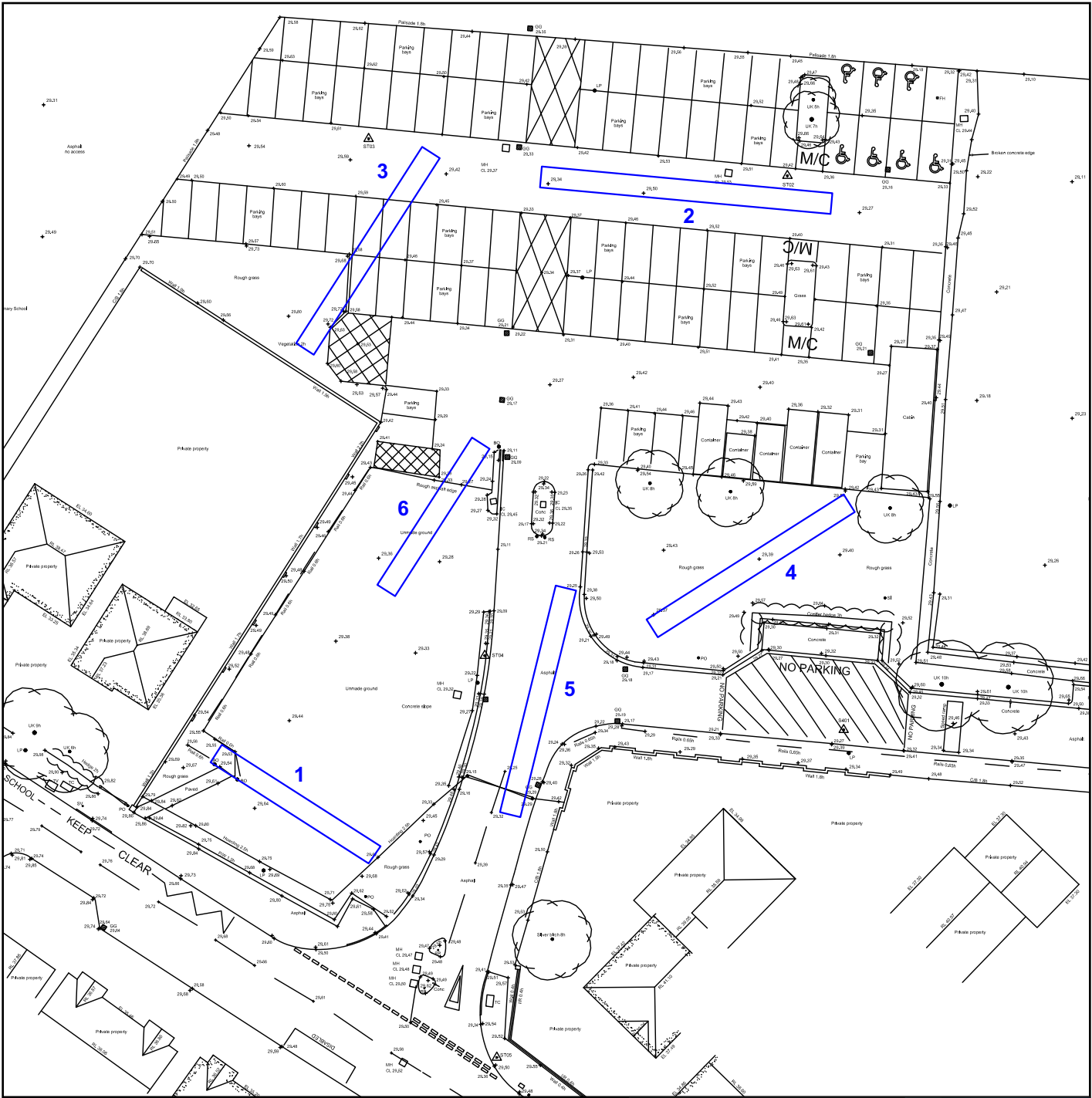
**APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data**

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>TRENCH 1; 13m by 2m. Natural = gravel at average 29.40m OD.</b>		
101	na	na	0.2	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt.	natural	na
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>TRENCH 2; 25m by 2m. Natural = gravel at average 29.15m OD.</b>		
201	na	na	0.1	Tarmac.	202	na
202	na	na	0.2	Concrete.	natural	201
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>TRENCH 3; 20m by 2m. Natural = gravel at average 29.55m OD.</b>		
301	na	na	N end: 0.1	Tarmac	302	na
302	na	na	N end: 0.2	Concrete		
303	na	na	S end 0.2	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt	natural	301
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		

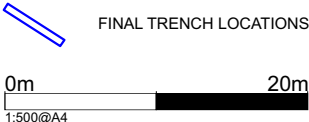
**Land at Ledgers Road, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation**

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>TRENCH 4; 25m by 2m. Natural = gravel at average 29.30m OD.</b>		
401	na	na	0.2	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt, which contained frequent tree roots.	natural	na
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>TRENCH 5; 18m by 2m. Natural = gravel at average 28.95m OD.</b>		
501	na	na	0.1	Tarmac	502	na
			0.2	Concrete	natural	501
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		
				<b>TRENCH 6; 20m by 2m. Natural = gravel at average 29.30m OD.</b>		
601	na	na	N end: 0.1	Tarmac	602	na
602			N end: 0.2	Concrete	natural	601
602	na	na	S end: 0.2	Topsoil; mid brown grey clay silt	natural	na
				No archaeological finds or features were present within the trench.		





Site Code: LRS15  
Accession Code:



**FIGURE 2: Trench Locations**



Trench 1, Looking Southeast



Southern End of Trench 5 looking South



Trench 3, Looking Northeast



Detail of Trench 6 Section

Site Code: LRS15

Accession Code:

**FIGURE 3: Photographs**