

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 1 DUNDAS CLOSE,
BRACKNELL,
BERKSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 866 682 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2015
Report No. 1086



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

In September 2015 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 1 Dundas Close, Bracknell (NGR: SU 866 682 - centred). The project was commissioned by Dale Wade of Carwade Homes Limited.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of two trenches across a proposed development area.

The natural substrates, which comprised a root disturbed yellow sand, were present at an average depth of 0.45m (81.78m OD) below the Modern ground surface. In Trenches 1 and 2 the natural deposits were directly sealed beneath a dark grey brown topsoil (101)/(201).

Patches of grey brown sand were present in both trenches and these appeared to cut through the natural sands. Upon investigation these were interpreted as natural root disturbance.

No archaeological finds or deposits were present within either of the two evaluated areas.

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 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in September 2015 on land to the rear of 1 Dundas Close, Bracknell (NGR: SU 866 682 - centred). The project was commissioned by Dale Wade of Carwade Homes Limited.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2015) along with Cifa *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2014) and discussions with Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, who was acting as the archaeological advisor to Bracknell Forest Council.
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission under application number **14/00813/FUL** has been granted for the erection of two residential dwellings on the site.
- 2.2 Roland Smith, the archaeological advisor to Bracknell Forest Council has determined that the following condition should be attached to the planning consent: *No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works (which may comprise more than one phase of work), in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.*
- 2.3 In his Planning Consultation Response, the archaeological advisor to Bracknell Forest Council identified that there were some potential archaeological implications with regard to the proposed construction of the dwellings.
- 2.4 The site is located in an area with known Prehistoric monuments as recorded on the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record. A well-preserved Bronze Age (1,800 – 800 BC) barrow or burial mound is known 225m to the northeast on Bill Hill and is a nationally important Scheduled Monument (1012921). Barrows are frequently found in groups or cemeteries and other such monuments, no longer visible as upstanding monuments, may be present in the vicinity. The presence of other Prehistoric activity locally is demonstrated by the identification of a ‘flint working floor’, the site of the manufacture of flint tools, some 230m to the north of Dundas Close. Other Bronze Age remains, such as the settlements and fields, associated with the Bill Hill barrow, are also likely to occur nearby.

- 2.5 The site itself is located within a residential area of Bracknell. The underlying geology is recorded as *Bagshot Formation* - Sand. Sedimentary Bedrock (BGS – online viewer).
- 2.6 The study area therefore contained potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Prehistoric period. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of finds or features associated with other periods.

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. This would allow informed planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 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 on the site;
 - iii) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
 - v) To establish the relationship of any remains to the surrounding contemporary landscape.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, as shown in Figure 2, due to on-site constraints both trench locations were amended slightly. The trenches were located within available areas in order to provide a representative sample of the site.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use

of a 360° 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.
- 5.2 The natural substrates, which comprised a root disturbed yellow sand, were present at an average depth of 0.45m (81.78m OD) below the Modern ground surface. In Trenches 1 and 2 the natural deposits were directly sealed beneath a dark grey brown topsoil (101)/(201).
- 5.3 Patches of grey brown sand were present in both trenches and these appeared to cut through the natural sands. Upon investigation these were interpreted as natural root disturbance.
- 5.4 No archaeological finds or deposits were present within either of the two evaluated areas.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological finds or deposits were present within either of the two evaluated areas.
- 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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Reading.

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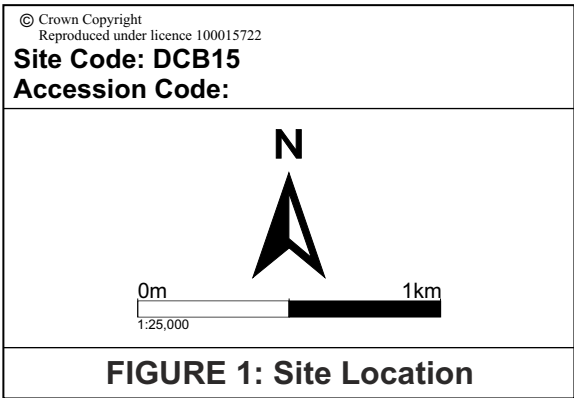
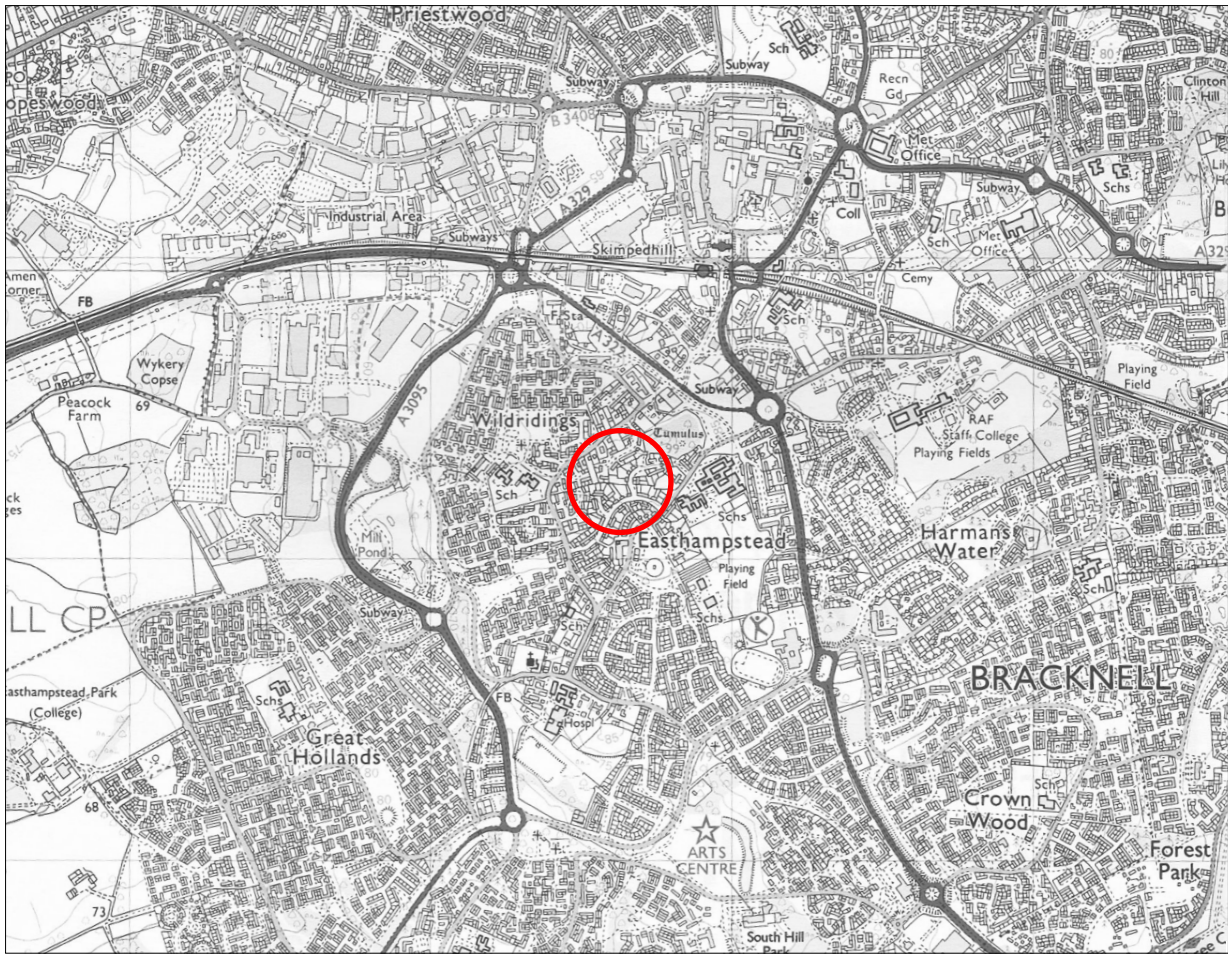
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

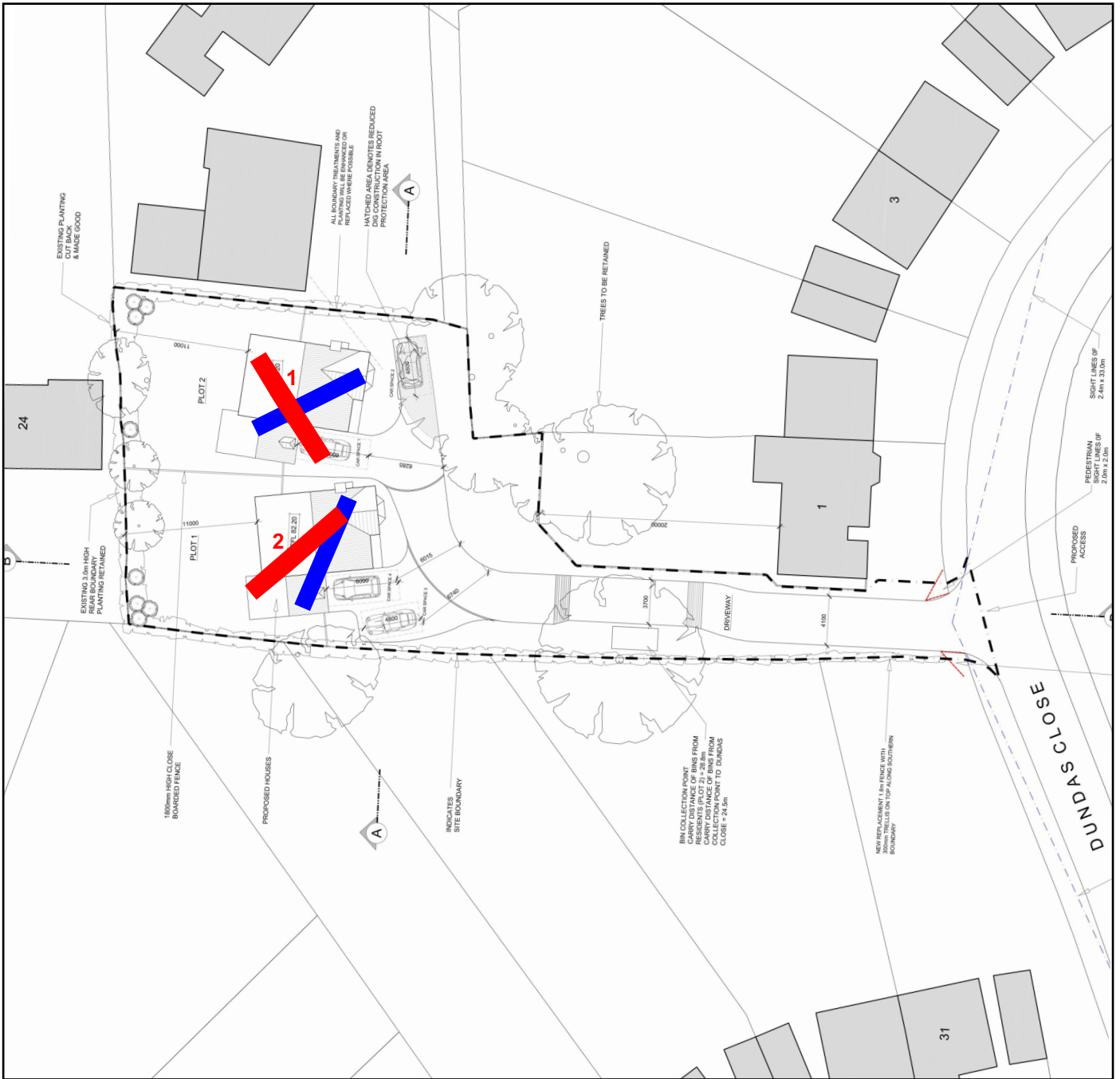
Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology and Dale Wade of Carwade Homes Limited for their help during the course of the project.

Land to the Rear of 1 Dundas Close, Bracknell: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data


CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 1: 10m by 1.6m. Natural = root disturbed yellow sand at average 81.82m OD.		
101	na	na	0.44	Topsoil; dark grey brown sand. Contained occasional Modern detritus.	natural	na
				No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.		
				TRENCH 2: 10m by 1.6m. Natural = root disturbed yellow sand at average 81.73m OD.		
201	na	na	0.45	Topsoil; dark grey brown sand. Was heavily root disturbed and contained frequent Modern detritus.	natural	na
				No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.		






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Site Code: DCB15
Accession Code:

N

 Proposed Trench Location

 Final Trench Location


0m  20m
 1:500

FIGURE 2: Trench Locations



PLATE 1: TRENCH 1



PLATE 2: TRENCH 2

Site Code: DCB15 Accession Code:
FIGURE 3: Photographs