

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire
RG2 9BB**

NGR: 473087 168681



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at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire
RG2 9BB**



**NGR: 473087 168681
SU 73087 68681**

Planning Ref: F/2015/0168

**ASE Project No: 7524
Site Code: SHL15**

**ASE Report No: 2015179
OASIS id: archaeol6-211717**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Crowther Architecture Associates to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

Six trenches measuring a combined length of 80m were excavated. Two possible linear features were identified in Trench 3. No dating evidence was retrieved from either of the features, and all of the other trenches were archaeologically sterile.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location
Figure 2: Trench Location
Figure 3: Trench 3 plan, photos and sections
Figure 4: Photographs of negative trenches

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive
Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts
Table 3: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Crowther Architecture Associates to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of the redevelopment at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (centred on NGR 473087 168681), (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site occupies the eastern side of the existing landscaped garden of Lane End House and includes the footprint of the house itself. The A327 forms the eastern boundary to the site.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey indicates the underlying geology is Clay, Sand and Silt of the London Clay Formation. Superficial deposits are not mapped (BGS 2015).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent was granted by Wokingham District Council for residential development of the site (F/2015/0168). Condition 18 stated:

- No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or their successors in title, has secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition
- *Reason: The site is identified as being of high archaeological potential (or is otherwise known as being likely to contain archaeological remains). Investigation is required to allow preservation and recording of any archaeological features or artefacts before disturbance by the development. Relevant policy: National Planning Policy Framework Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB25*

1.3.2 Berkshire Archaeology subsequently confirmed that a trial trench evaluation was required.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE (2015) for the first stage of archaeological work, evaluation by trenching, and approved by Berkshire Archaeology. All work was carried out in accordance with this document in addition to the relevant Standards and Guidance (ClfA 2014).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results from the excavation carried out at Lane End House between the 18th and 19th May 2015. The fieldwork was carried out by Catherine Douglas, John Hirst and Jake Wilson. The project was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information has been summarised from the WSI (ASE 2015) with due acknowledgement

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 A small assemblage of undated struck flints was recovered during Oxford Archaeology's evaluation of 'The Manor', a modern housing estate located c. 300m south of the development site (OA 2010).

2.2.2 Evidence for Iron Age activity comprising a ditch and gully was recorded during an evaluation c.400m to the east of the development site (TVAS 2001).

2.2.3 Sherds of residual Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation at 'The Manor' (OA 2010) and in closer proximity to the development site, a ditch of possible Roman date was discovered 100m to the south-west (OA 1999).

2.2.4 A number of medieval sites exist within close proximity to the development site. A moated manorial complex with associated settlement lies c.500m to the north of the site. This has been subject to earthwork survey, geophysical survey and limited excavation (HER MWK 2616; OA 2001).

2.2.5 The probable site of a medieval farmstead was investigated by TVAS at Shinfield Glebe, c. 500m south-west of the site. Ditches and gullies dating to the 11th and 12th centuries were recorded (TVAS 2009).

2.2.6 Early Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the site was formerly an agricultural field lying to the east of Lane End Farm. Lane End House itself first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1912-13.

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The general objective was to determine as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed new development.

2.3.2 The following specific research aims are extrapolated from the Solent-Thames Research Framework for Berkshire:

- The study of settlement patterns and land use in the Roman period
- The study of medieval landscape, including settlement types and patterns

2.3.3 The evaluation also aimed to be sufficient to enable the Archaeology Officer at Berkshire Archaeology to make an informed decision on the requirement for any mitigation work that may be required.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 All excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015).
- 3.1.2 Six trenches numbered 1 - 6 measuring a combined length of 80m were excavated. The east end of Trench 1 was moved slightly further north to avoid trees and shrubbery. Trenches 2 and 5 were moved slightly to the east for the same reason. The orientation of Trench 4 was changed from east-west (as set out in the WSI) to north-south to avoid dense shrubbery and trees. Their location is shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.3 All trenches were scanned using a cable avoidance tool prior to excavation.
- 3.1.4 Excavation was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket under the supervision of ASE archaeologists. Spoil was removed in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate.
- 3.1.5 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets.
- 3.1.6 Trenches were located and tied in to the Ordnance Survey in 3D using GPS survey equipment.
- 3.1.7 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Reading museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	26
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	16
Permatrace sheets	1
Trench Record Forms	6

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 3 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Trench 3 was located in the south-east part of the site, on a north-east – south-west orientation. It measured a length of 30m by a width of 1.80m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m below topsoil surface level (64.84m AOD). All contexts encountered in Trench 3 have been summarised in Table 2, below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	layer	topsoil	trench	trench	0.44	65.3
3/002	layer	subsoil	trench	trench	0.07	
3/003	layer	natural	trench	trench	0.01	64.84
3/004	cut	possible gully / root channel	1	0.42	0.02	-
3/005	fill	possible gully fill	1	0.42	0.02	-
3/006	cut	Possible ditch	1.5	2.1	0.17	-
3/007	fill	fill, primary	1.5	2.1	0.17	-

Table 2: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.1.2 The London Clay Formation geology [3/003] was encountered at a consistent level of around 64.75m AOD throughout Trench 3.

4.1.3 A possible gully [3/004] was encountered on a roughly east-west orientation, with a length greater than 1.80m and a width of 0.42m. It was very shallow, with a depth of only 0.02m, and contained a single silty clay fill [3/005]. A single fragment of roof tile weighing 15g was recovered from the fill. The fragment is made in a moderately sandy fabric and measures 16.7mm thick. It is undiagnostic of date beyond a broad range of 14th-19th century.

4.1.4 A wide, shallow ditch [3/006] was located on an east-west orientation. It measured a length greater than 1.80m (extending beyond the east and west limit of the trench) with a width of 2.10m and a depth of 0.17m. It contained a single silty clay fill [3/007]. No finds were retrieved from the feature. The ditch was recut by a modern field drain, which was orientated east-west along the bottom of the feature.

4.1.5 The geology [3/003] and archaeological features were overlain by a thin layer of mid-brown silty clay subsoil [3/002]. This, in turn, was overlain by a layer of grey brown silt topsoil [3/001].

4.2 Archaeologically negative Trenches 1, 2 and 4 – 6 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 The London Clay Formation was encountered at a similar level across the site, at 64.77m AOD in Trench 1, at the north end of the site, and at the slightly higher level of 65.62m in Trench 5. All contexts encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 4-6 have been summarised in Table 3, below.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	layer	Topsoil	0.47	65.59
1	1/002	layer	Subsoil	-0.09	
1	1/003	layer	Natural	0.08	64.77
1	1/004	layer	made ground	0.1	
2	2/001	layer	Topsoil	0.25	65.2
2	2/002	layer	Subsoil	0.08	
2	2/003	layer	Natural	0.06	64.63
2	2/004	layer	made ground	0.08	
4	4/001	layer	Topsoil	0.25	
4	4/002	layer	Subsoil	0.26	
4	4/003	layer	Natural	0.15	
5	5/001	layer	Topsoil	0.25	65.25
5	5/002	layer	Subsoil	0.17	
5	5/003	layer	Natural	0.42	65.62
6	6/001	layer	Tarmac	0.07	66.21
6	6/002	layer	made ground	0.23	
6	6/003	layer	made ground	0.12 – 0.20	
6	6/004	layer	Subsoil	0.14	
6	6/005	layer	Natural	0.18	65.61

Table 3: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.2 In Trenches 4 and 5 the stratigraphic sequence was the same as in Trench 3; the geology was overlain by a layer of subsoil measuring 0.17m to 0.26m, which was overlain by a layer of topsoil measuring 0.25m.
- 4.2.3 In Trenches 1 and 2, the subsoil was overlain by a layer of made ground comprising loose gravels and silt, measuring a thickness of 0.10m, which probably functioned as a levelling layer for the overlying garden lawn. The made ground was overlain by silt topsoil measuring a thickness of 0.25m – 0.47m.
- 4.2.4 In Trench 6, the subsoil [6/004] was overlain by a layer of crushed brick and gravel made ground [6/003] measuring a thickness of 0.20m. This was overlain by a layer of made ground [6/002] comprised of yellow sandy gravel, which measured a thickness of 0.23m. The made ground was overlain by a layer of tarmac [6/001] which measured a thickness of 0.07m.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 The London Clay Formation was encountered at a consistent level across the site, from 66.52m AOD in Trench 5, to 64.84m AOD in Trench 1.
- 5.1.2 Two possible linear features were encountered in Trench 3, although no dating evidence was retrieved from either feature. Both were located on an east-west orientation, although [3/004] was very shallow and may reflect a geological variation rather than an archaeological feature. All of the other trenches were archaeologically sterile.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 The archaeological horizon appears to have remained intact; all modern made ground deposits overlay the subsoil rather than the geology. Therefore the sparsity of archaeological features across the site appears to reflect a true lack of archaeological activity, rather than the truncation or removal of any such features.

5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 5.3.1 Given the lack of any substantial archaeological findings during the evaluation, it is considered that the site has a very low archaeological potential.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

- 5.4.1 There was no scope to further understand the Roman or medieval activity of the area.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Crowther Architecture Associates for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Berkshire Archaeology for their guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Catherine Douglas.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	SHL 15					
Identification Name and Address	Land End House, Shinfield, Berkshire, RG2 9BB					
County, District &/or Borough	Berkshire					
OS Grid Refs.	466379 135067					
Geology	Clay, sand and silt of the London Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7524					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 18 th – 19 th May 2015	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Crowther Architecture Associates					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other NONE		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Crowther Architecture Associates to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire, in advance of the redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>Six trenches measuring a combined length of 80m were excavated. Two possible linear features were identified in Trench 3. No dating evidence was retrieved from either of the features, and all of the other trenches were archaeologically sterile.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-211717

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological evaluation at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Crowther Architecture Associates to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Lane End House, Shinfield, Berkshire, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Six trenches measuring a combined length of 80m were excavated. Two possible linear features were identified in Trench 3. No dating evidence was retrieved from either of the features, and all of the other trenches were archaeologically sterile.
Project dates	Start: 18-05-2015 End: 19-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	MOATED MANOR Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM SHINFIELD Lane End House, Shinfield
Postcode	RG2 9BB
Study area	100.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 466379 135067 50.9185832221 -1.33644843594 50 55 06 N 001 20 11 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 64.84m Max: 66.52m

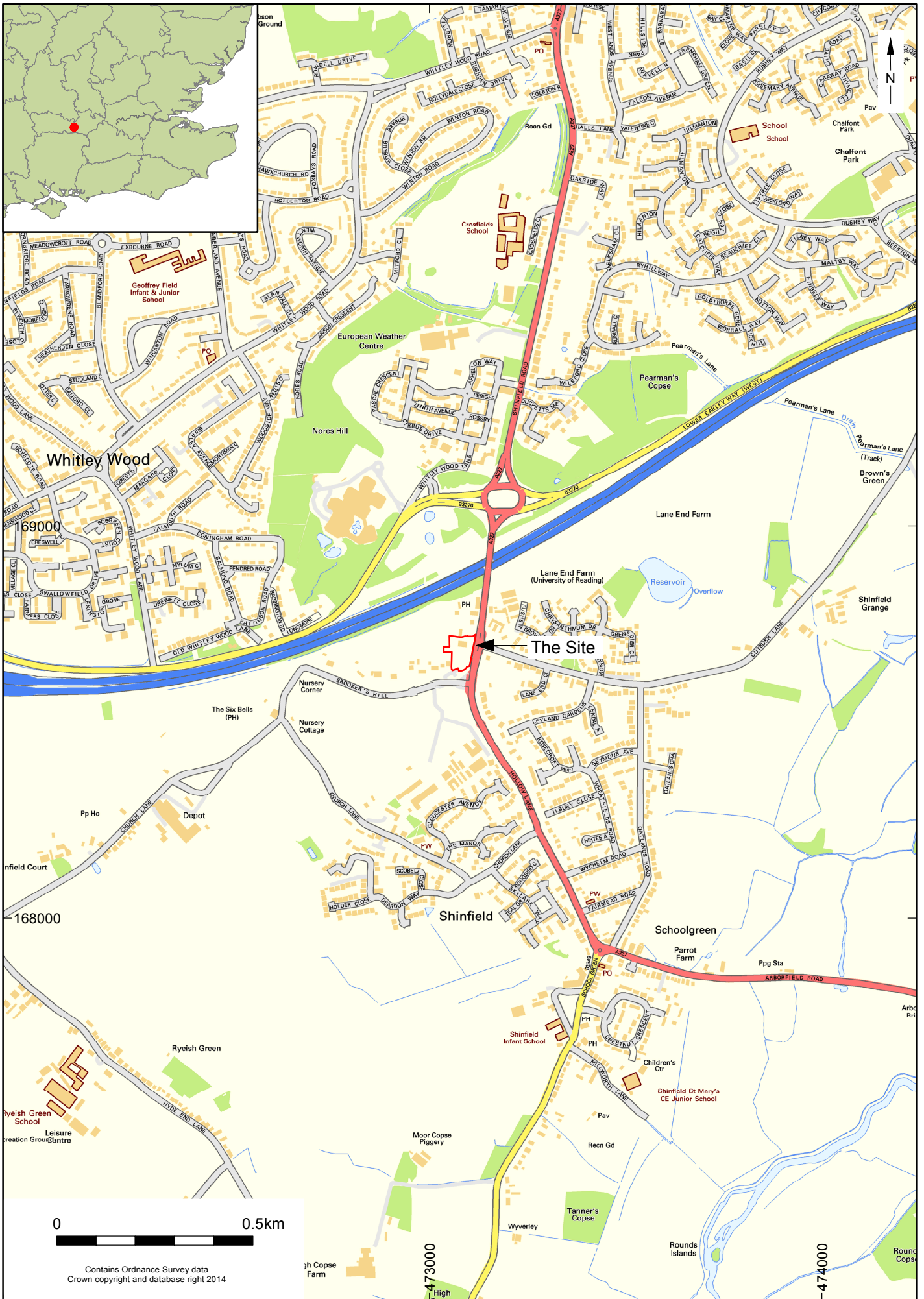
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Crother Architecture Associates

Project archives

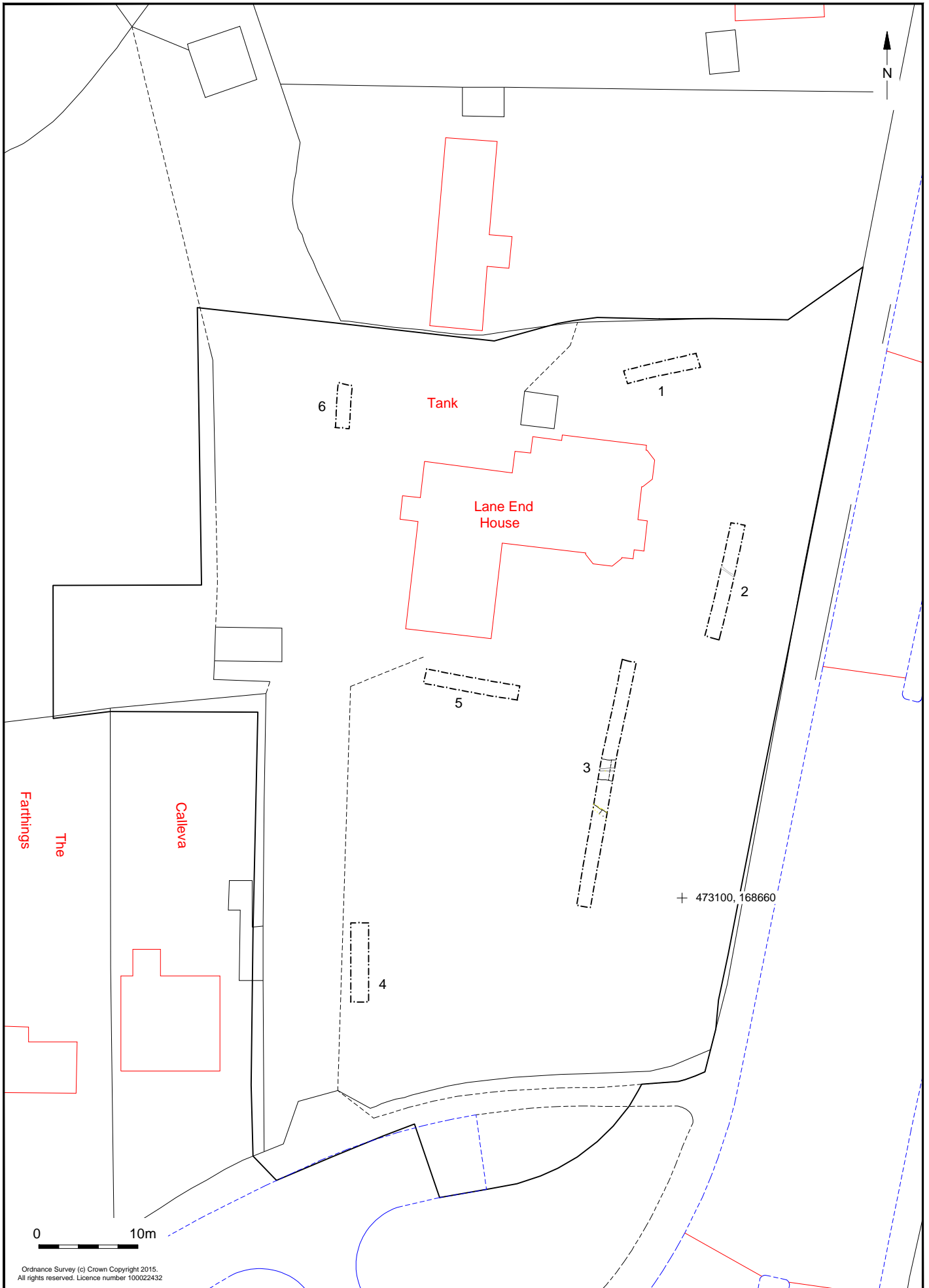
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Reading Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Entered by	Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	21 May 2015



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© Archaeology South-East		Lane End House, Shinfield		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7524	May 2015	Site location		
Report Ref: 2015179	Drawn by: JC			

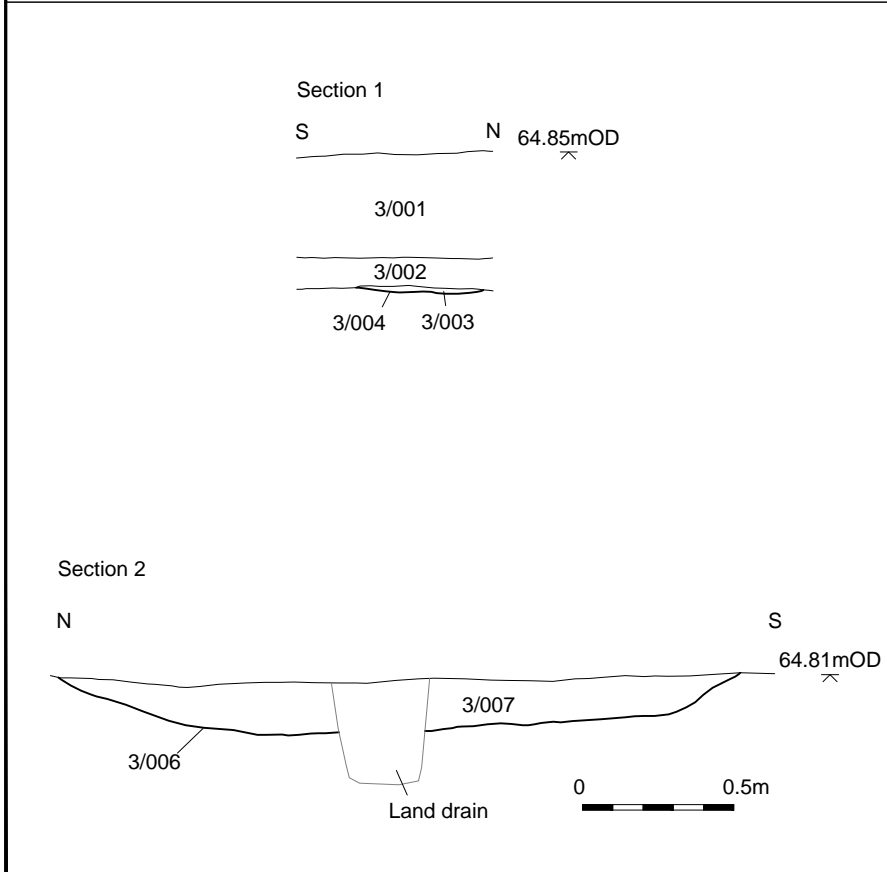


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© Archaeology South-East		Lane End House, Shinfield	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7524	May 2015	Trench location and existing survey	
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Trench 3 looking south



Feature 3/004 looking west



Feature 3/006 looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Lane End House, Shinfield	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7524	May 2015	Trench 3 plan, photographs and sections	
Report Ref: 2015179	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 1 looking west



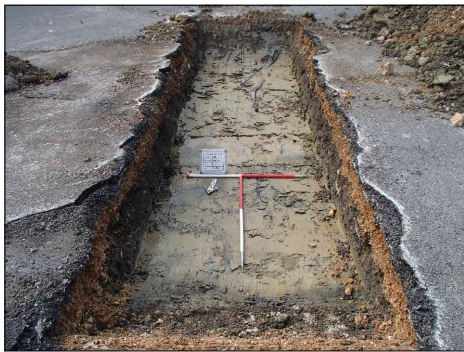
Trench 2 looking west



Trench 4 looking north



Trench 5 looking east



Trench 6 looking south

© Archaeology South-East		Lane End House, Shinfield	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7524	May 2015	Photographs of negative trenches	
Report Ref: 2015179	Drawn by: JC		

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