
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND REAR OF 99 TO 111 ALWYN ROAD
AND 54 TO 62 PLUS 58 ST MARKS CRESCENT,
MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: SU 8665 8150	Report No: 4685
District: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: P5627
Signed:	Date: 29 September 2014

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land rear of 99 – 111 Alwyn Road, and 54 – 62, plus 58 St Marks Crescent, Maidenhead, Berkshire</i>		
<p><i>In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 99 to 111 Alwyn Road and 54 to 62 plus Number 58 St Marks Crescent, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 8665 8150). The evaluation was commissioned by Shanly Homes (Thames valley) and was undertaken in response to a planning requirement of RBWM Council (based on the advice of their archaeological advisors, Berkshire Archaeology). It is proposed to construct a new residential development of 13th houses with associated access, parking and turning facilities on the site, and the planning permission has a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (RBWM Ref.13/02792).</i></p> <p><i>The site has a potential for evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity, with a general potential for activity on the higher ground above the Thames floodplain.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and one unstratified sherd of late Saxon/early medieval date (c.10th-12th centuries).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P5627</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>vacant</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former residential gardens</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds(+dates)	<i>Unstratified sherd of late Saxon/early medieval date (c.10th-12th centuries).</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Berkshire</i>	<i>Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead</i>	<i>Maidenhead</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Berkshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SL6 6DE</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.47ha</i>		
NGR	<i>SU 8665 8150</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 52-54m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Berkshire Archaeology</i>		
Project Supervisor	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Shanly Homes (Thames Valley)</i>		
Full title	<i>Land rear of 99 – 111 Alwyn Road, and 54 – 62, plus 58 St Marks Crescent, Maidenhead, Berkshire. An archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Report no.	<i>4685</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2014</i>		

**LAND REAR OF 99 TO 111 ALWYN ROAD
AND 54 TO 62 PLUS NO 58 ST MARKS CRESCENT,
MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 99 to 111 Alwyn Road and 54 to 62 plus Number 58 St Marks Crescent, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 8665 8150). The evaluation was commissioned by Shanly Homes (Thames valley) and was undertaken in response to a planning requirement of RBWM Council (based on the advice of their archaeological advisors, Berkshire Archaeology). It is proposed to construct a new residential development of 13th houses with associated access, parking and turning facilities on the site, and the planning permission has a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (RBWM Ref.13/02792).

The site has a potential for evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity, with a general potential for activity on the higher ground above the Thames floodplain.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and one unstratified sherd of late Saxon/early medieval date (c.10th-12th centuries).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 99 to 111 Alwyn Road and 54 to 62 plus Number 58 St Marks Crescent, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 8665 8150; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Shanly Homes (Thames Valley) and was undertaken in response to a planning requirement of RBWM Council (based on the advice of their archaeological advisors, Berkshire Archaeology). It is proposed to construct a new residential development of 13th houses with associated access, parking and turning facilities on the site, and the planning permission has a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (RBWM Ref.13/02792).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the approval of RBWM Council and the requirements of Berkshire Archaeology. It was also carried out according to a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 21 May 2014). The project adhered to the requirements of the Berkshire Archaeology document *General Standards for Historic Environment Projects (2014)*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

General Aims and Objectives

- to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present; and
- to provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present.

Specific aims

- To determine or confirm the presence/absence and general nature of the remains present
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains and the effect of the development proposals on them
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present; and
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present; and
- To assess the status of the remains as regards economy, social activity and place in the generic contemporary landscape

Research Design

1.3 The site has a potential for evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity, with a general potential for activity on the higher ground above the Thames floodplain.

Planning Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring

that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings and scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE Figs.1 & 2

2.1 The sites comprises the former residential property of 58 St Marks Crescent and rear garden plots of a number of properties fronting St Marks Crescent to the south and Alwyn Road to the north, Maidenhead. The site extends to some 0.47ha. It is proposed to construct a new residential development of 13 dwellings, following the demolition of the existing building of No 58 St Marks Crescent.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies in the western part of Maidenhead, on high ground above the loop of the river Thames to the east, on deposits of Taplow Gravels.

3.2 The gravel landscape that the site is situated upon has been a rich source for prehistoric archaeological remains, particularly Palaeolithic flint artefacts and bones from gravel extraction pits, and for Bronze Age barrows and cremations known mainly from cropmarks.

3.3 The former Cannoncourt and Coopers gravel pits, located in the area of the modern Kinghorn Park and Switchback Road to the north comprise one of the most prolific sites for Palaeolithic remains in Britain (HER 00634.00, 00634.02, 00634.03). Evidence for Neolithic activity in

the vicinity is sparse, but includes a ground axe found in gravels (HER 00593.00), while an archaeological evaluation recovered a small group of flint flakes from to the west (HER RW15525). The Bronze Age landscape surrounding Maidenhead has largely been defined by cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. Bronze Age pits and settlement evidence are known from Switchback Road and a Bronze Age bowl barrow is known from Pinkneys Green. Late Iron Age enclosures have been recorded at maidenhead Thicket.

3.4 Sparse evidence for Roman occupation in the area is known from scatters of Roman pottery. In the medieval period, the area remained in the agricultural hinterland, but scatters of medieval pottery are known from the area.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A sample of area of the footprint of the proposed new development was required to be subject to trial trenching. The Berkshire Archaeology advised that the site should be subject to trial trenching, to comprise a c.4% sample of the c.0.47ha site focussing on the new build footprints and new access. Four trial trenches of 30m x 1.6m were excavated within the areas of least anticipated previous ground disturbance, where new development is proposed (Fig.2).

4.2 The trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.3 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 1A: 0.00m = 54.20 m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, loose, silty sand with frequent modern debris and CBM
0.20 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional small stones and flint
0.36m +	L1002	Natural. Mid – dark brownish orange, firm, clay silt with patches of chalk

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> <i>0.00m = 54.25 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.37m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> <i>0.00m = 54.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.27m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i> <i>0.00m = 54.38m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.22 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.37m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Figs.2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 3A:</i> <i>0.00m = 54.33m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i> <i>0.00m = 53.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.34m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 4A:</i> <i>0.00m = 53.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.37m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 4B:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.

0.36m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.
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Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a mid grey brown, loose, silty sand with frequent modern debris and CBM (c.28m thick). Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional small stones and flint (c.0.10m thick).

7.2 L1001 directly overlay the natural geology, L1002, a mid – dark brownish orange, firm, clay silt with patches of chalk; recorded below the current ground surface c.0.35m,

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site had a potential for evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity, with a general potential for activity on the higher ground above the Thames floodplain.

8.2 In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features and one unstratified sherd of late Saxon/early medieval date (c.10th-12th centuries). Scatters of medieval pottery are known from the area.

8.3 No archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation, and the ground was undisturbed.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at a suitable local depository. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Stuart Hammond of Shanly Homes (Thames Valley) for commissioning the evaluation and for assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1991 *East Anglia Sheet 52°N-00° 1:250,000 Series Quaternary Geology*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*.

APPENDIX 1 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered a single unstratified sherd of lightly abraded pottery weighing 11g of probable Saxo-Norman date. The fabric contains abundant sub-rounded quartz of 0.1-0.5mm diameter. There are also occasional rounded red iron stone mineral inclusions and smaller rounded black particles, as well as rare white calcareous inclusions. The core and inner surface is pale orange brown and the outer surface is more orange and contains scoring, and the sherd is quite well fired. Such scoring, which is sometimes found on late Iron Age pottery, is also known on early medieval wares from South Bucks, Berkshire and Surrey (McCarthy and Brooks 1988). The fabric is consistent with a late Saxon/early medieval date (c.10th-12th centuries).

Bibliography

McCarthy, M. R. and Brooks, C. M. 1988 Medieval Pottery in Britain, AD 900-1600 Leicestershire Uni Press

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking south-west



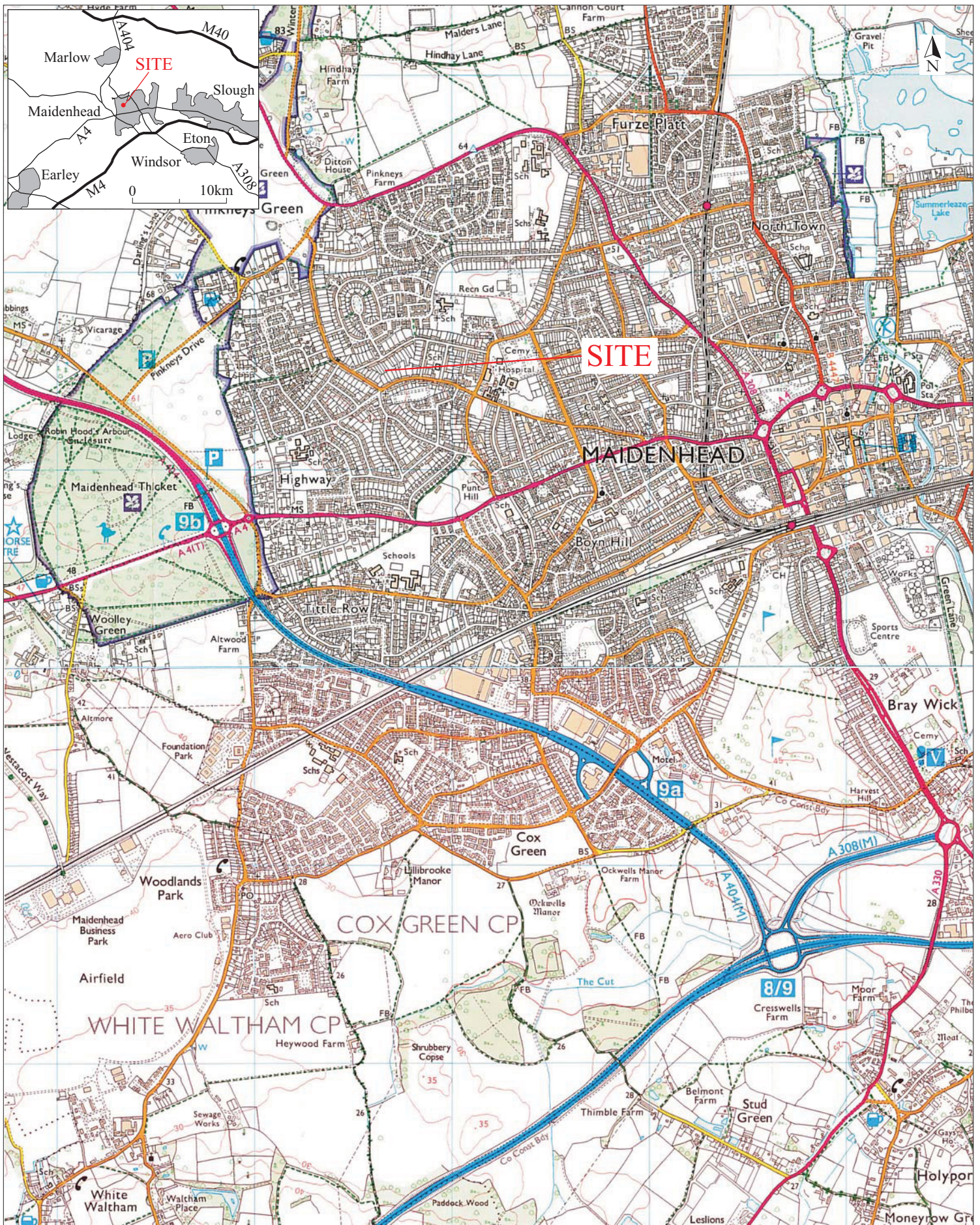
2
Trench 2 looking north-east



3
Trench 3 looking south-east



4
Trench 4 looking north-west



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 75m

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



0 75m

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Fig. 3 Proposed development plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4