
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BEECH LODGE SCHOOL, HENLEY ROAD,
NR STUBBINGS, MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: SU 84720 81340	Report No: 5287
District: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	Site Code: AS1864
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3646
Signed:	Date: 18 January 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, Nr Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire</i>		
<i>In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, Near Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 84720 81340). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new school with associated access and car parking.</i>			
<i>The site had a potential for archaeological remains, especially for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular close to the south and south-west within the Stubbings House and Farm site. Significant archaeological remains are also recorded in Maidenhead Thicket to the west and include two scheduled monuments: the Late Iron Age enclosure of Robin Hood's Arbour and a Bronze Age bowl barrow.</i>			
<i>The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and finds. The site contained substantial levels of modern made ground likely deposited during the construction of A404 road to the north of the site.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	12/01/2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	6907	Site code	AS1864
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Greenland</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of new school</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Berkshire</i>	<i>Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead</i>	<i>Bisham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Berkshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>c.33000m²</i>		
NGR	<i>SU 84720 81340</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>65/69m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Requirement of RBWM (Berkshire Archaeology)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Sorbon Estates Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, Nr Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5287</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>January 2017</i>		

BEECH LODGE SCHOOL, HENLEY ROAD, NR STUBBINGS, MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, Near Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 84720 81340). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new school with associated access and car parking.

The site had a potential for archaeological remains, especially for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular close to the south and south-west within the Stubbings House and Farm site. Significant archaeological remains are also recorded in Maidenhead Thicket to the west and include two scheduled monuments: the Late Iron Age enclosure of Robin Hood's Arbour and a Bronze Age bowl barrow.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and finds. The site contained substantial levels of modern made ground likely deposited during the construction of A404 road to the north of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, near Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 84720 81340; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Kevin Scott Consultancy on behalf of Sorbon Estates Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new school with associated access and car parking (Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) Council Planning Ref. 14/01581/FULL).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a planning requirement of RBWM Council (based on the advice of their archaeological advisor, Berkshire Archaeology (BA)), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by Archaeology Collective (dated 12/2016) and approved by RBWM and BA. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also followed the requirements of the Berkshire Archaeology document *General Standards for Historic Environment Projects* (2014).

1.3 The evaluation aims were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;
- To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site; and
- To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.

It was also important to establish level of modern truncation and depth of made ground on the site.

Planning policy 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, 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

2.1 The site is located c.1.5km to the west of Maidenhead and immediately south of the A404, the main road from Maidenhead to Marlow and High Wycombe. The small village of Stubbings is located to the north of A404. Stubbings House and nursery are situated to the south of the site and the

National Trust area at Maidenhead Thicket lies to the east. The site comprises sub-rectangular plot of c.3.3ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated between 65 and 69m AOD¹. The solid geology comprises (Cretaceous Upper) Seaford and Newhaven Chalk (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils are those of Sutton 2 association, composed of a well-drained fine and coarse loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3.2 Two geotechnical surveys were undertaken in 2014 and 2016 (Archaeology Collective 2016) and these revealed that material deposited during the 1990's A404 construction was largely present on the site and varied with a depth of up to 3m. No superficial geology was recorded.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Maidenhead Thicket to the east and south-east of the site contains two sites of national importance. The Late Iron Age Robin Hood's Arbour is situated c.500m to the east-south-east and consists of a rectilinear enclosure (SM 95; HER 00584.00.000). Nearby is a Bronze Age bowl barrow (SM 19024; HER 00448.00.000). The Thicket contains numerous prehistoric and Roman finds related to the two monuments.

4.2 Investigations at Stubbings House and Farm 150 – 200m south-west and south of the site (Wessex Archaeology 1991) revealed numerous features of multi period occupancy. Bronze Age struck flints and prehistoric pottery were found (HER 04200.00.005). Spreads of burnt flint and stone adjacent to watercourses were recorded immediately to the south of the site. Romano-British pottery sherds were also recovered (HER 04200.00.006). Three large features were recognised as 18th – 19th century marl or chalk pits (HER 04200.00.001). In addition a possible palaeochannel was also recorded (HER 04200.00.002).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Six trenches were excavated using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were located in the area where modern made ground was judged to be less significant. The trenches locations were also adjusted to avoid a public footpath crossing the site, and Trench 6 was only partially excavated for safety reasons.

¹ Above Ordnance Datum

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 1-2)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 3)</i> <i>0.00 = 65.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid to dark brownish grey, soft, clayey silt.
0.54m+	L1001	Natural mid yellow, compact, silty clay with moderate small stones.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 4)</i> <i>0.00 = 65.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.48m +	L1001	Natural clay. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 5-6)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 7)</i> <i>0.00 = 65.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.62m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.62m+	L1001	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 8)</i> <i>0.00 = 66.48m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.49m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.49m +	L1001	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2, DP 9)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 10)</i> <i>0.00 = 66.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.34 – 0.62m	L1002	Made ground. Mixed and compact, mid yellow clay and white chalk.
0.62 – 1.09m	L1003	Made ground. Re-deposited white, compact, chalk.
1.09m+	L1004	Natural. White with some pale yellow, compact, chalk.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 11)</i> <i>0.00 = 66.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.38 – 0.74m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.74 – 1.15m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
1.15m +	L1004	Natural chalk. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2, DP 12-13)

<i>Sample section 4A (DP 14)</i> <i>0.00 = 66.74m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.36m+	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.

<i>Sample section 4B (DP 15)</i> <i>0.00 = 65.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.41 – 0.69m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
0.69 – 1.07m	L1003	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
1.07 – 1.16m	L1005	Made ground. Mid to dark greyish yellow, silty clay with some chalk.
1.16m +	L1004	Natural chalk. As above, Trench 3.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2, DP 16)

<i>Sample section 5A (DP 17)</i> <i>0.00 = 67.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.34 – 0.63m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
0.63 – 1.33m	L1003	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
1.33m+	L1004	Natural chalk. As above, Trench 3.

<i>Sample section 5B (DP 18)</i> <i>0.00 = 67.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.42 – 0.75m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
0.75 – 1.02m	L1003	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
1.02m +	L1004	Natural chalk. As above, Trench 3.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2, DP 19)

<i>Sample section 6A (DP 20)</i> <i>0.00 = 67.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.41 – 0.66m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
0.66 – 1.20m+	L1003	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.

<i>Sample section 6B (DP 20)</i> <i>0.00 = 67.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.35 – 0.53m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
0.53 – 1.49m	L1003	Made ground. As above, Trench 3.
1.49m +	L1004	Natural chalk. As above, Trench 3.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid to dark brownish grey, soft, clayey silt (0.30 – 0.40m thick). Across the majority of the site it overlay deposits of made ground, in particular L1002 and L1003. The upper layer L1002, was a mixed and compact, mid yellow clay and white chalk (0.20 – 0.30m thick). The lower and more substantial layer L1003, was a re-deposited white chalk (0.60 – 1.20m+ thick).

8.2 In the south-eastern corner of the site (Trenches 1 and 2) the topsoil overlay L1001, the natural, a mid yellow, compact, silty clay with moderate small stones. Mostly the natural geology, L1004, was a white compact, chalk. The latter was present at 1.00 – 1.50m below existing ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular close to the south and south-west within the Stubbings House and Farm site. Significant archaeological remains are also recorded in Maidenhead Thicket to the west and include two scheduled monuments: the Late Iron Age enclosure of Robin Hood's Arbour and a Bronze Age bowl barrow.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were present. The site, as suggested by the geotechnical surveys, contained substantial levels of modern made ground, likely deposited in the 1990s during construction of the A404 road to the north of the site. The recorded stratigraphy suggests that the entire development area was mechanically stripped to the level of natural chalk (clay in the south-eastern corner of the site). The materials extracted from the construction site were deposited across the site and topsoil reinstated above. The maximum depth of the made ground in the area of the site investigated was c.1.50m.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at a suitable local repository, when such a facility is available. It will be held by AS pending this. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Sorbon Estates Ltd for funding the project and for assistance (in particular Mr Des McGuckin) and Kevin Scott Consultancy for their assistance (in particular Ms Ros Gall).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	6
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	32

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, Nr Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire
County: Berkshire	District: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Village/Town:	Parish: Bisham
Planning application reference:	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) Council Planning Ref. 14/01581/FULL
Client name/address/tel:	Sorbon Estates Ltd
Nature of application:	Construction of a new school
Present land use:	Green field
Size of application area: c.33000m ²	Size of area investigated 350m ²
NGR (8 figures):	SU 84720 81340
Site Code:	
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Trial trench evaluation
Date of work:	12/01/2017
Location of finds/Curating museum:	TBC
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Beech Lodge School, Henley Road, Near Stubbings, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 8473 8135). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new school with associated access and car parking.</i></p> <p><i>The site had a potential for archaeological remains, especially for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular close to the south and south-west within the Stubbings House and Farm site. Significant archaeological remains are also recorded in Maidenhead Thicket to the west and include two scheduled monuments: the Late Iron Age enclosure of Robin Hood's Arbour and a Bronze Age bowl barrow.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and finds. The site contained substantial levels of modern made ground likely deposited during the construction of A404 road to the north of the site.</i></p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: January 2017

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Trench 1. Looking north-west.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking east-south-east.



DP 3. Trench 1, west end. Sample section 1A. Looking north-north-east.



DP 4. Trench 1, east end. Sample section 1B. Looking south-south-west.



DP 5. Trench 2. Looking south.



DP 6. Trench 2. Looking north-north-east.



DP 7. Trench 2, north end. Sample section 2A. Looking west-north-west.



DP 8. Trench 2, south end. Sample section 2B. Looking east-south-east.



DP 9. Trench 3. Looking north-north-east.



DP 10. Trench 3, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking west-north-west.



DP 11. Trench 3, south end. Sample section 3B. Looking east-south-east.



DP 12. Trench 4 before further excavation. Looking east-south-east.



DP 13. Trench 4. Looking north-north-west.



DP 14. Trench 4, north-west end before further excavation. Sample section 4A. Looking north-east.



DP 15. Trench 4, south-east end. Sample section 4B. Looking south-west.



DP 16. Trench 5. Looking south-south-west.



DP 17. Trench 5, north end. Sample section 5A. Looking west-north-west.



DP 18. Trench 5, south end. Sample section 5B. Looking east-south-east.



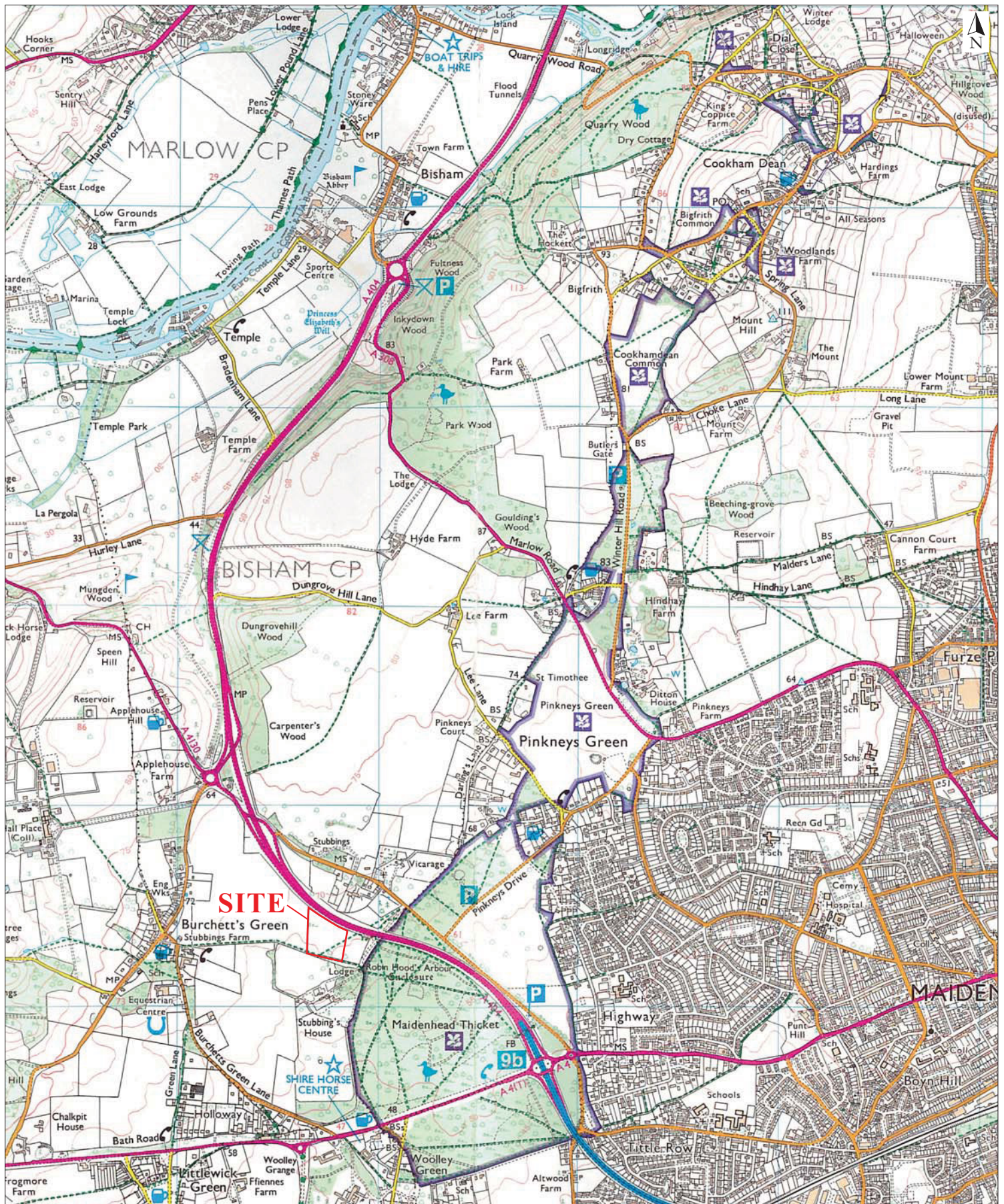
DP 19. Trench 6. Looking north-north-east.



DP 20. Trench 6, north end. Sample section 6A. Looking west-north-west.

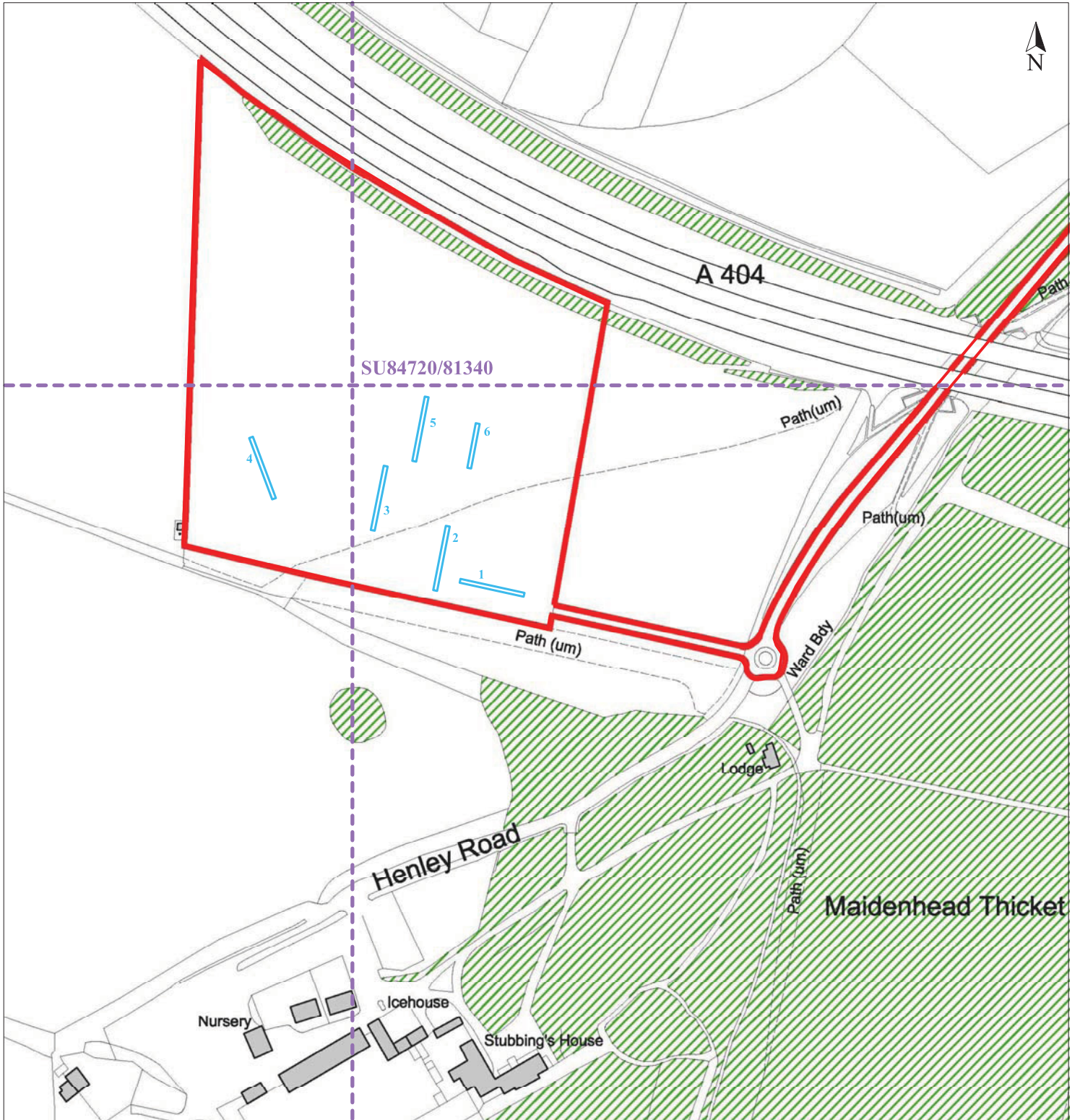


DP 21. Trench 6, south end. Sample section 6B. Looking east-south-east.



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Beech Lodge School, Maidenhead, Berkshire (P6907)



— Trial Trench

0 150m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2500 at A4
Beech Lodge School, Maidenhead, Berkshire (P6907)