

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Peerland House, Chapel Street,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Site Code: PCM12/48

(SU 8505 8678)

**Peerland House, Chapel Street,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Peter Bradley Developments**

by Susan Porter
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code PCM 12/48

November 2012

Summary

Site name: Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SU 8505 8678

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 6th November 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: PCM 12/48

Area of site: c.200 m sq

Summary of results: A trench was excavated in two halves to an linear extent of 10m within the footprint of the proposed development. This encountered a substantial amount of made ground and no deposits of archaeological interest were observed, and no finds recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 09.11.12 Steve Preston ✓ 08.11.12
---------------------------	---

Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 12/48

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SU 8505 8678 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Bradley of Peter Bradley Developments, The Old Barrel Store, Draymans Lane, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 2FF.

Planning permission (11/06402/FUL) has been gained from Wycombe District Council to construct a new house on land to the rear of Peerland House. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. Peerland House itself is to be converted from offices to houses for residential use and is subject to a conservation area consent (11/06408/CAC).

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Council's policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) has superseded PPS5. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Eliza Alqassar, Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer of Buckinghamshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The work was monitored by Dr Bill Boismier Archaeological Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Jackie Pitt on 6th November 2012 and the site code is PCM 12/48. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the rear of Peerland House on the south side of Chapel Street in central Marlow. Marlow lies on the north bank of the River Thames (Fig. 1). The site comprises a flattish parcel of land at c. 34m above Ordnance Datum located to the rear of Peerlands House and was previously used as a car park (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is recorded as Shepperton Gravel (BGS, 2005) and this was observed during excavation.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of Marlow to the rear of Chapel Street. The town has been studied as part of Buckinghamshire's Historic Towns Project (English

Heritage nd) and Chapel Street is one of the original main streets of Marlow. Marlow has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002), though it was not until medieval times that it became an urban centre. It is, however, suggested that the site lies within the extent of the Saxon settlement (English Heritage nd. fig. 12). The site also lies within the projected extent of the medieval and post-medieval town and as such, would be expected to lie within the back plots of medieval tenements. Peerlands House is a listed building of 18th century date. It is considered likely that medieval and post-medieval backland activity, may have survived on the site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine whether archaeological deposits relating to late Saxon, medieval, and early post-medieval settlements are present.

It was proposed to dig one trench 10m long and 1.6m wide to coincide with the new house footprint. Dependent on access this was to be excavated by a JCB-type or Kubota-type machine equipped with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. If archaeological features were present they were to be cleaned and excavated using appropriate hand tools. Spoilheaps were to be searched for artefacts.

Results

Due to the presence of modern drains and soakaways on site, and a requirement for vehicular access, it was necessary to split the trench into two parts (Fig. 3). Trench 1A was 7.80m in length and trench 1B was 2.30m in length, both within the area designated for the new build. Tarmac was removed by a Kubota-type machine equipped with a toothed bucket. The overburden was then removed with a ditching bucket to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. The spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

Details of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1A (Pl 1, Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 1A was aligned SE–NW and was 7.80m long and 1.07m deep at the north-western end rising to 0.60m at the south-eastern extent.. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac and 0.07m scalpins, overlying 0.41m of made ground comprising firm mid grey/brown clayey silt with brick and chalk fragments and medium/large pebble inclusions. This in turn overlay 0.39m of mid red/brown soft sandy clay with moderate pebbles and chalk nodules subsoil. Finally this overlay a mid red/brown sandy clay with coarse gravel natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 1B (Pl 2, Fig 3)

Trench 1B was aligned SE–NW and was 2.30m long and 1.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac, and 0.21m scalpins, overlying 0.18m of dark grey silty clay made ground with brick and assorted modern rubbish. This in turn overlay 0.73m of made ground comprising firm mid grey/brown clayey silt with brick and chalk fragments and medium/large pebble inclusions. This finally overlay the mid brown gravel natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the proximity of the site to Chapel Street and the historic core of Marlow, no deposits of archaeological interest were observed within the area of the trenches. A substantial amount of made ground was observed and several drains and large soakaways were noted within close proximity to the excavated areas. As such if any evidence for Saxon or medieval activity had been present on the site it is likely that the installation of the services would have disturbed this. The archaeological potential of the site is much therefore lower than previously anticipated due to the presence of these services and a substantial amount of made ground.

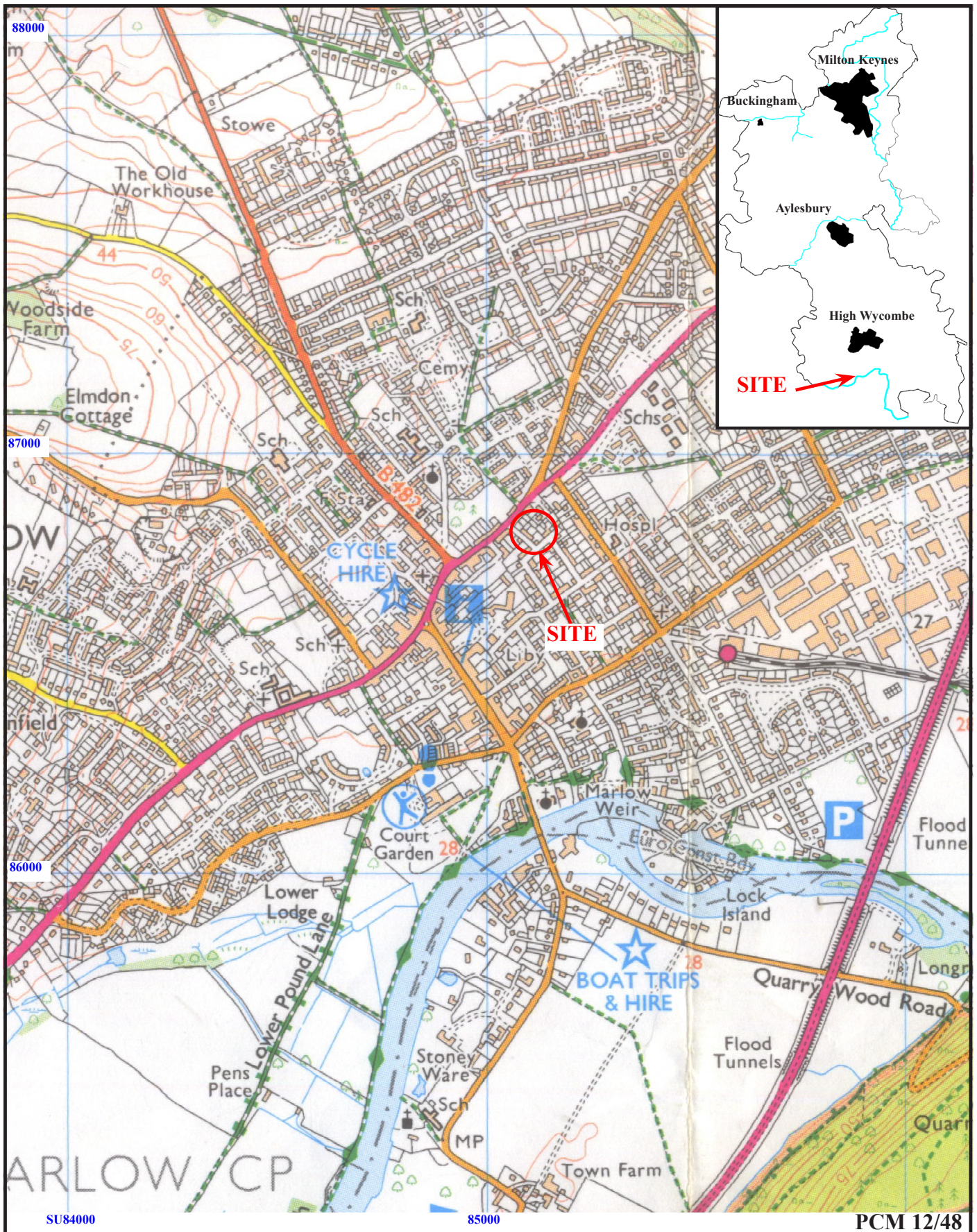
References

- BGS, 2005, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50, 000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- English Heritage nd, Great Marlow, Historic Town Assessment consultation draft, English Heritage, London. (2011?)
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
- Williams, A and Martin, G, H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SE end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1A	7.80	1.60	1.07	0–0.8m Tarmac, 0.08-0.15m scalpings; 0.15-0.56m firm grey/brown clayey silt made ground with brick and chalk fragments and medium/large pebble inclusions; 0.56-0.95m mid red/brown soft sandy clay with moderate pebbles and chalk nodules subsoil; 0.95+m mid red/brown sandy clay with coarse gravel natural geology. [Pl. 1]
1B	2.30	1.60	1.20	0–0.8m Tarmac, 0.08-0.29m scalpings; 0.29-0.47m dark grey made ground silty clay with brick and assorted modern rubbish; 0.47-1.20m firm grey/brown clayey silt made ground with brick and chalk fragments and medium/large pebble inclusions; 0.95+m mid brown sandy gravel natural geology. [Pl. 2]



**Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 1. Location of site within Marlow and
Buckinghamshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 172 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



PCM 12/48



**Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Chapel Street.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:1250





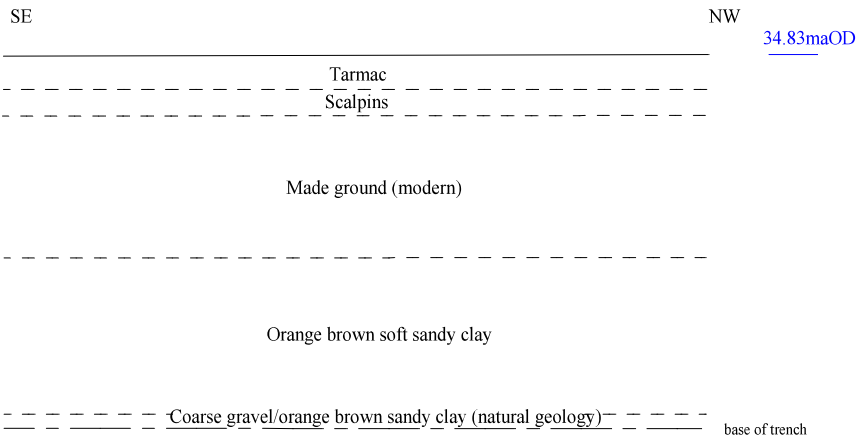
PCM 12/48

**Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of Trench 1.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



PCM 12/48

**Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Trench 1a, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 1b, looking south, Scales: horizontal scales 2m and 0.5m, vertical scale 1m.

PCM 12/48

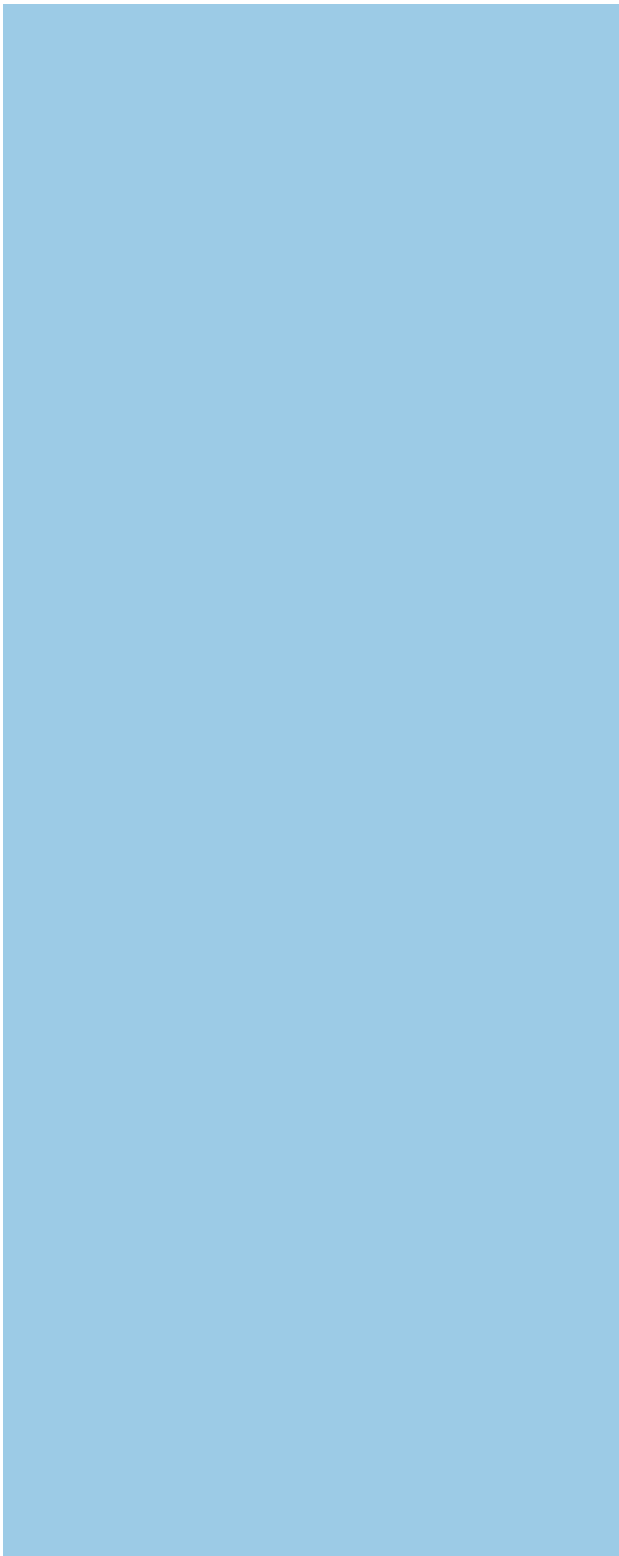
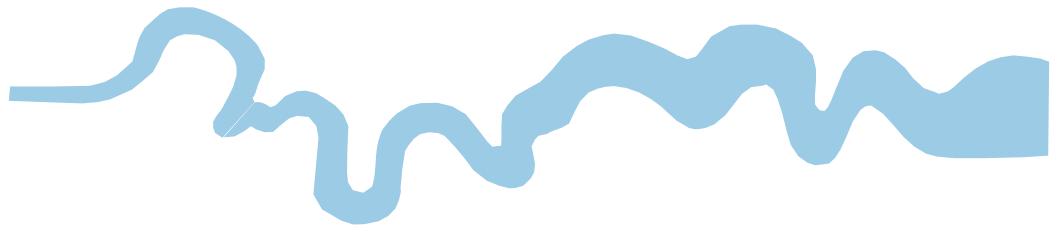
Peerland House, Chapel Street, Marlow,
Buckinghamshire, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC
↓	↓



**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**