

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at West End, Warfield,
North Bracknell, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

Part 3

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: NBB 10/69

(SU 8670 7130)

Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Limited
Part 3**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NBB 10/69

March 2020

Summary

Site name: Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8670 7130

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 10th-11th March 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: NBB 10/69

Area of site: c.0.4 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed in this part of the evaluation.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate local museum willing to accept archive material.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 13.03.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 13.03.20

Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation, Part 3

by Andy Taylor

Report 10/69g

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8670 7130) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Safdar Hussain, of Berkeley Homes (Oxford and Chiltern) Limited, Berkeley House, Farnham Lane, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3RQ.

Planning consent (13/01007/OUT) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Borough Council to construct new housing on the site. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Statement which included information on the site's archaeological potential derived from desk-based assessment (Wallis 2010) and trial trench evaluation of proposed fixed infrastructure components (Pine and Platt 2013) as well as the majority of the development site (Taylor 2015a). The information gained was in order to produce an appropriate strategy to mitigate the effects of development on archaeology if necessary.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. Evaluation trenching of most of the site was previously completed, but one area was not then accessible for trenching. This report details the final seven trenches.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Mike Murray between the 10th and 12th March 2020 and the site code is NBB 10/69. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate local museum willing to accept archive material.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of the development area and currently consisted of an open field. It was bounded by West End Lane to the west, Forest Road to the north, further field to the south with the stream known as 'The Cut' and residential housing to the east. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS

1981), although more of a sandy clay with patches of Flood Plain gravel was observed in the trenches and the site lies at a height of *c.*5.1m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Wallis 2010). In summary the site lies in an area of moderate to high archaeological potential with significant archaeological deposits of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date being found during archaeological projects to the south (Torrance and Durden; 2003; Lowe 2013) and west (Roberts 1995). Surface finds of prehistoric flintwork and Roman/medieval pottery are also recorded for the site itself (Ford 1987). Of particular note is the presence of a Roman site to the north-west on Cabbage Hill (Mees 1989). Part of the overall proposal site, mainly to the south, has been previously evaluated (Ford 1989) with Roman and Bronze Age deposits located just to the south and flintwork of Mesolithic date also present.

Evaluation of the infrastructure of the development (Pine and Platt 2013), did not identify any archaeological deposits or finds. A second evaluation that covered the majority of the site (Taylor 2015a) identified two areas of medieval deposits, one to the east of the development area (with subsequent excavation (Taylor 2015b), the other immediately to the south of this phase of trenching, as well as a watching brief (Lewins 2016) on the SANG area that did not identify any further deposits.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific 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;
- to determine if any deposits representing late Saxon or medieval deposits are present, and if so their date and nature; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig 244 trenches, most of which was carried in 2015, although at the time seven trenches could not be opened due to access issues, which are now covered in this report. These were to measure 25m long and 2m wide and were opened using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

Seven trenches were opened (Fig. 2) measuring between 2m wide, between 24.80m and 25.50 long and between 0.33m and 51m deep.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 142 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 25.20m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil overlying 0.15m subsoil overlying sandy clay with gravel patches natural geology.

Trench 143 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW and measured 24.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 144 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 25.10m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 145

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 25.20m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 146 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.50m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying silty clay natural geology.

Trench 147 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 24.90m long and 0.38m deep. At the southern end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of brick rubble made ground overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying silty sandy clay natural geology. The remainder of the trench consisted of 0.31m of topsoil overlying 0.07m of subsoil overlying silty sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 148

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 25m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil overlying 0.04m of subsoil overlying silty, sandy clay natural geology.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were recovered from this phase of the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to present no deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed in this part of the evaluation.

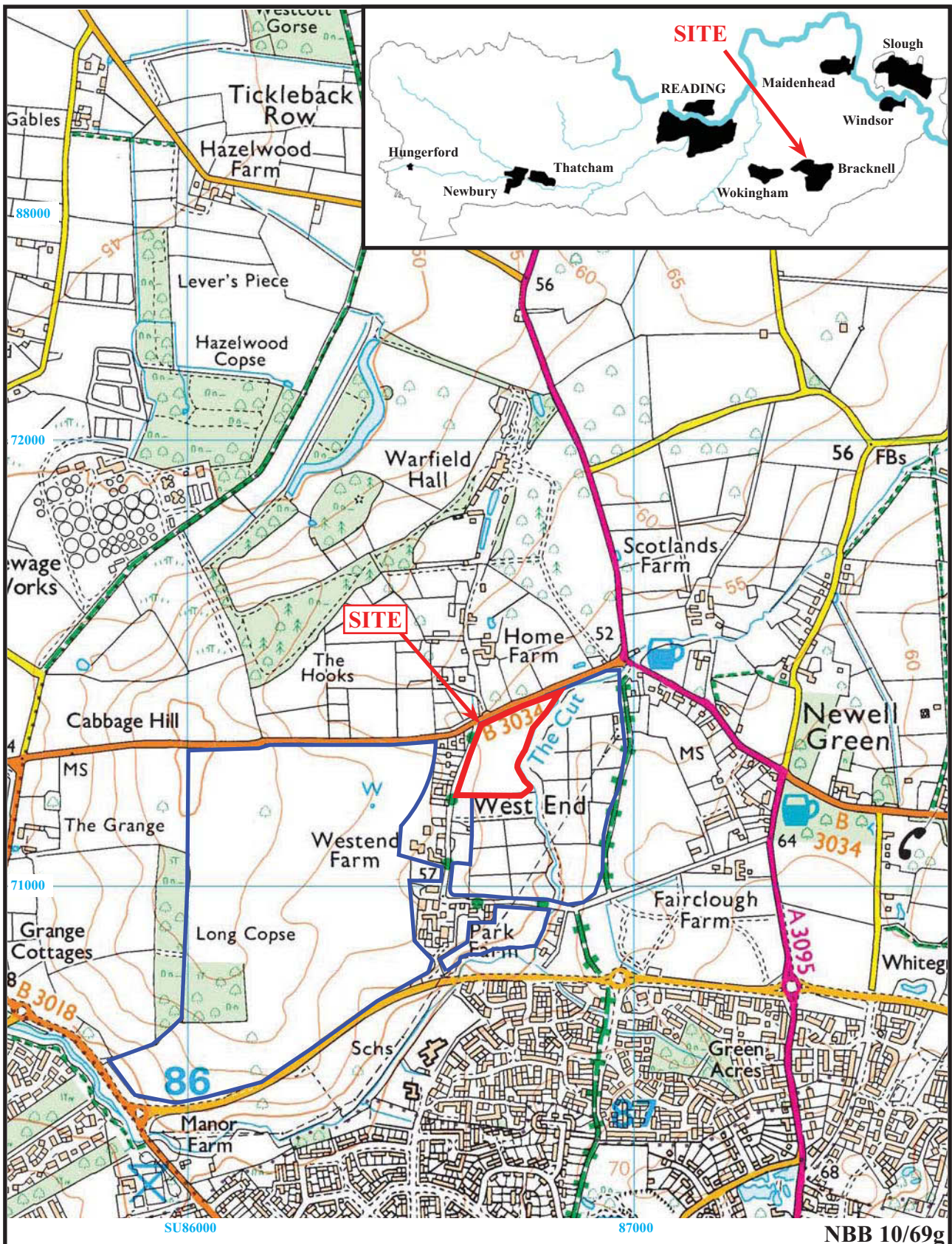
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- Lewins, L, 2016, SANG Infrastructure, West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **10/69f**, Reading
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- Taylor, A, 2015a, 'Land at West End Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **10/69c**, Reading
- Taylor, A, 2015b, 'Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire (School Site), an archaeological excavation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **10/69d**, Reading
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
142	25.20	2.00	0.51	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36m-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ sandy clay with gravel patches natural geology.
143	24.80	2.00	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 1]
144	25.10	2.00	0.37	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 2]
145	25.20	2.00	0.33	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ sandy clay natural geology.
146	25.50	2.00	0.37	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ silty clay natural geology. [Pl. 3]
147	24.90	2.00	0.38	N End-0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ silty clay natural geology. S End-0-0.22m brick rubble made ground; 0.22m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ silty clay natural geology. [Pl. 4]
148	25.00	2.00	0.42	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ silty clay natural geology.



**Land at West End, Warfield,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Bracknell and Berkshire.

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**Land at West End, Warfield.
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Archaeological Evaluation- part 3**

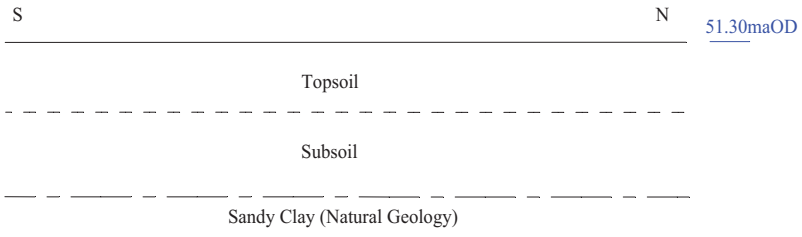
Figure 2. Location of trenching (2020 area).



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Trench 142



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Figure 3. Representative section from Trench 142.



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Plate 1. Trench 143, looking East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 144, looking West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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**Land at West End, Warfield,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 146, looking South West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 147, looking North, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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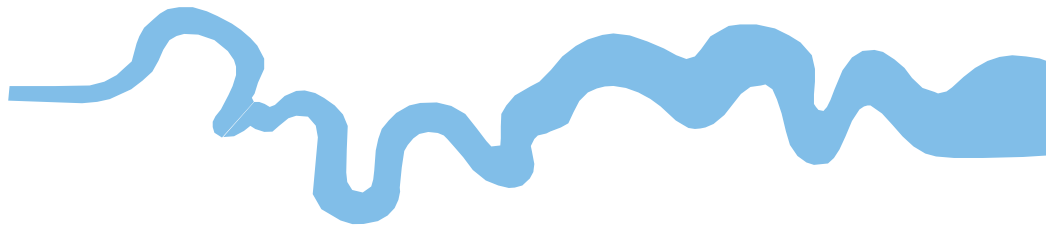
**Land at West End, Warfield,
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Archaeological Evaluation- part 3
Plates 3 and 4.**

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





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