

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**150A and B, Coppermill Road,  
Wraysbury, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andrew Weale**

**Site Code: CWB09/109**

**(TQ 0182 7468)**

**150A and B, Coppermill Road,  
Wraysbury, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for First Property Finance**

by Andrew Weale  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code CWB09/109

**November 2009**

## Summary

**Site name:** 150A and B, Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** TQ 0182 7468

**Site activity:** Field Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 26th November 2009

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Weale

**Site code:** CWB09/109

**Area of site:** c. 0.4ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits or artefacts were recorded in the evaluation trenches

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 1.12.09
	Steve Preston✓ 1.12.09

# 150A and B, Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Weale

Report 09/109

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 150A and 150B, Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire (TQ 0182 7468) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Phil Robson of Robson Associates, 1 Chestnut Drive, Windsor, Berkshire on behalf of First Property Finance, Maple House, High Street, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 5BS.

A planning consent (09/01028) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of two new houses. The consent was subject to a condition (2) relating to archaeology, in accordance with the Department of the Environment's *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. However this condition was not implemented at the time of the groundworks. As a consequence of the non-compliance with the planning condition and the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site, a field evaluation has been requested to rectify this situation retrospectively.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist of Berkshire Archaeology, the Royal Borough's advisers on archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale on the 26th of November 2009 and the site code is CWB09/109. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located between the villages of Horton and Wraysbury, north-west of Staines (Fig. 1). It borders the Colne Brook, a tributary of the River Thames with a confluence at Hythe End 2km to the south. Currently the site is occupied by two houses with associated areas of hard standing and gardens (Fig. 2). The site is generally flat at approximately 17m above Ordnance Datum, with an underlying geology of Quaternary Alluvium (BGS 1981), with sand and gravel observed within all trenches.



## **Archaeological background**

The lower Colne Valley including the Colne Brook, in which the site is located, is known to be rich in prehistoric and later archaeological sites (Ford 1987, Gates 1975). A neolithic causewayed enclosure lies in the Colne delta at Staines to the south (Robertson-Mackay 1987) and to the east is a Neolithic cursus monument at Stanwell (O'Connell 1990; Lewis et al 2006). On the opposite bank of the Colne Brook immediately to the west of the site fieldwork in advance of, and during a flood alleviation scheme examined an early Neolithic C-shaped ring ditch complex with late Iron Age and Roman agricultural complex including a probable pit alignment (Ford and Pine 2003). Subsequent fieldwork in this zone in advance of gravel extraction has revealed a wide range of deposits including prehistoric occupation and land use, and Roman occupation (WA 2006). Finally to the south in Wraysbury evaluation followed by excavation revealed Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation, a triple ditched Roman enclosure and Saxon occupation (Pine 2003).

## **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. This work was carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in-situ*, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels have survived on this site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

It was proposed to dig three trenches 5m long and between 1.4–1.6m wide. Two of the trenches were to be located in the rear gardens of the properties and one trench in the front. Restricted access to the rear of the properties necessitated that topsoil and overburden was to be removed by a 360° mini-digger. This was to be fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and the work take place under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient archaeological features and deposits were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief where encountered. Stripped areas and spoil heaps were monitored for artefacts.

## **Results**

The mini-digger had a 0.70m wide toothless bucket, necessitating the excavation of each trench in two side by side pulls. This made a constant width of trench difficult to achieve. The trenches were extended beyond 5m to

compensate for the loss of area caused by the variable width. The trenches varied in length between 5.50m and 6.40m and in depth from 0.90m to 1.30m. The trenches were excavated in the intended places (Fig. 3).

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

#### Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was located in the rear garden of 150A and aligned SW–NE. Trench 1 was 5.50m long, between 1.2 and 1.5m in width, and a maximum of 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.30m of dark humic loamy topsoil. Beneath the topsoil was a layer 0.26m thick of loose grey gravel with occasional sand which contained no artefacts. Beneath this was a layer 0.29m thick of black humic loam that contained occasional modern ceramic building material and fragments of plastic, this appeared to be buried topsoil. Beneath this was a layer 0.03m thick of loose grey gravel, grey sand and dark brown silt which overlay clean whitish grey sand and gravel natural geology. A test pit was excavated 0.10m deep by machine into the latter to confirm that this was the correct interpretation. No archaeological features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered within Trench 1.

#### Trench 2 (Plate 2)

Trench 2 was located at the front of 150A as close to the boundary with 150B as possible and was aligned WNW–ESE. Trench 2 was 6.40m long and between 1.0 and 1.4m wide and a maximum of 1.30m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.10m of chalk rubble overlying a layer of made ground between 0.70 to 0.90m thick, which again contain modern ceramic building material, concrete, plastic and wood. This overlay the gravel natural geology. At 2.4m from the NW end the natural gravel had been truncated to a depth of 1.2m deep. This truncation was filled from beneath the made ground with 0.10m of mixed grey gravel with modern brick/tile. No archaeological features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered within Trench 2.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 4 and Plate 3)

Trench 3 was located in the rear garden of 150B and aligned W - E. Trench 3 was 6.20m long and between 1.2 and 1.3m wide and a maximum of 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.25m of topsoil above a layer of up to 0.07m thick of mixed gravel and topsoil. Beneath this was a layer up to 0.58m thick of mixed topsoil and building rubble with modern vessel glass, the quantity of rubble decreased with depth. The bottom 0.10m of this layer consisted of topsoil and matted vegetation. Beneath this layer was clean gravel and sand natural geology. No archaeological features or pre-modern artefacts were encountered with Trench 3.

## Conclusion

No archaeological features were encountered within any of the trenches nor any artefacts of archaeological interest recovered. The trenches within the rear gardens of 150A and 150B show a similar profile of made ground above the original topsoil on top of natural sand and gravels, without any notable subsoil. This topsoil has been buried with a variable thickness of redeposited gravel which in turn was buried by the current topsoil. The buried topsoils in both trenches contained modern artefacts which would suggest that this build up of redeposited gravel and topsoil is very recent. The area of Trench 2 at the front of 150A revealed only modern made ground and modern truncation of the natural gravels beneath. This truncation and made ground may be related to the demolition of the former 150 Coppermill Road prior to the construction of the new houses.

## References

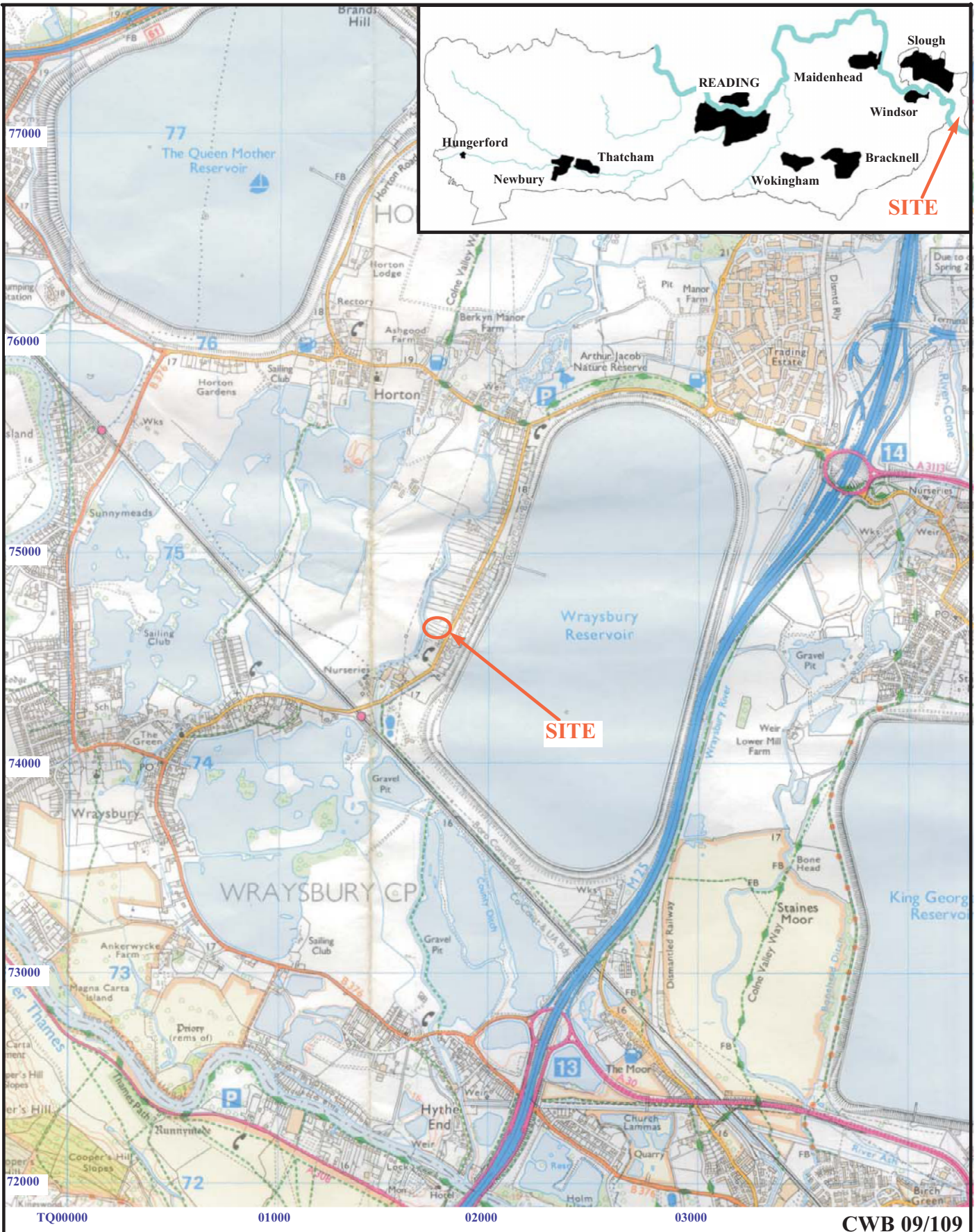
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south-west, north-west or west end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	5.50	1.2-1.5	0.90	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.56m redeposited gravel, 0.56-0.85m buried topsoil, 0.85-0.88m subsoil, 0.88m+ sand and gravel natural geology. <b>[Plate 1]</b>
2	6.40	1.0-1.4	1.30	0-0.10m chalk rubble, 0.10-0.90m made ground. 0.90-1.00m redeposited gravel, 1.00-1.20m brown clay, 1.20m+ sand and gravel natural geology. Modern truncation. <b>[Plate 2]</b>
3	6.2	1.2-1.3	0.90	0-0.25 topsoil, 0.25-0.32 redeposited gravel with topsoil, 0.32-0.90m buried topsoil, 0.88m+ sand and gravel natural geology. <b>[Plate 3]</b>





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Figure 1. Location of site within Wraysbury and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site off Coppermill Road, showing site before construction.

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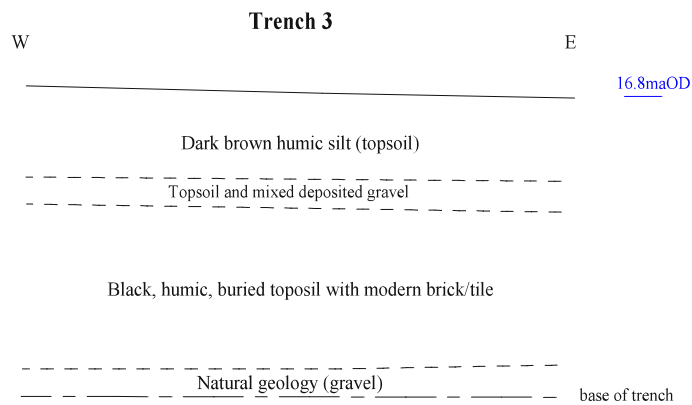
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative section from Trench 3.







Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north west, horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking east, horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.

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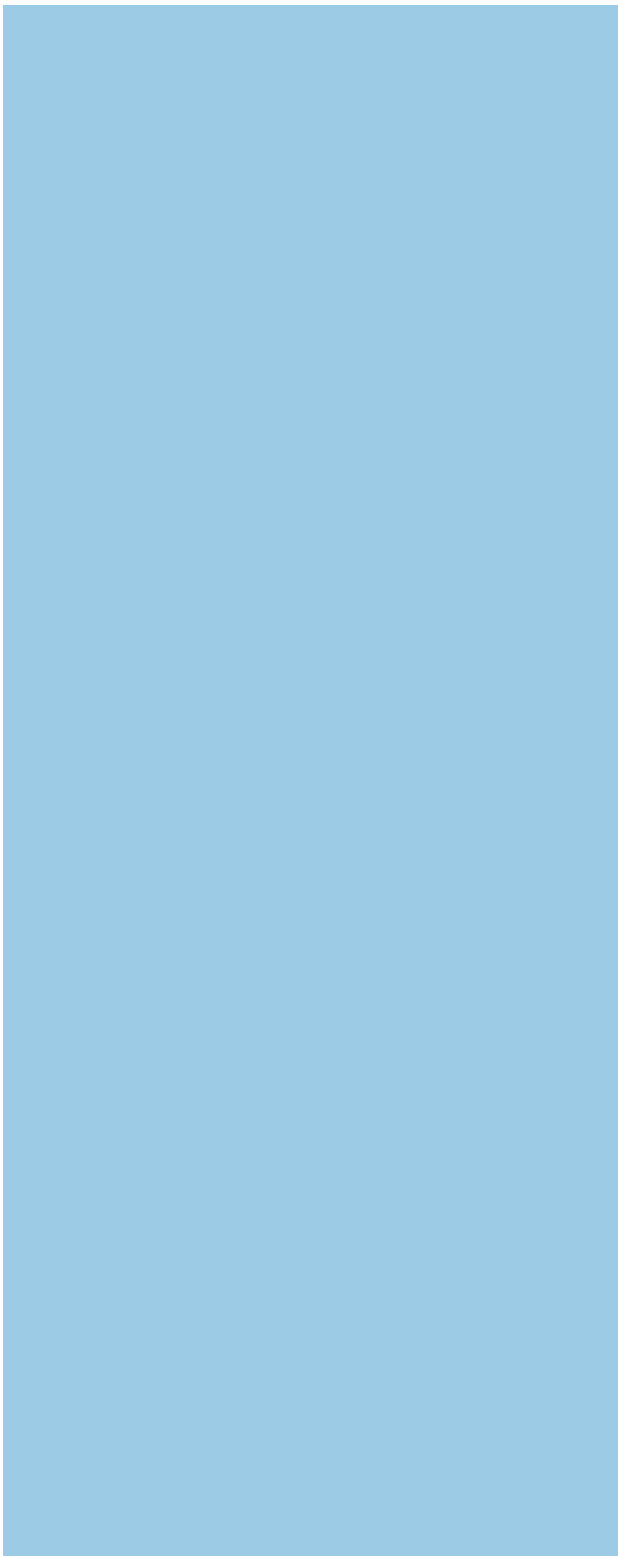
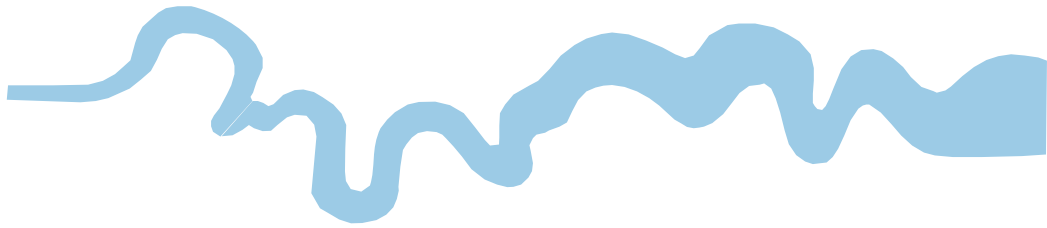
Plates 1-3.

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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
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





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