



HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

County of Berkshire

Watching brief report

October 2014



**Hill Primary School
Peppard Road, Emmer Green
Reading, RG4 8TU**

Site Code BR-HPS13
NGR 472194 176131
OASIS reference molas1-192850
Planning reference 141152

Report on an archaeological watching brief

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Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by MOLA at Hill Primary School. The report was commissioned from MOLA by the client Reading Borough Council.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2014) a watching brief was carried out on the site between 29.09.14-16.10.14

The site is situated in the vicinity of previously known archaeological sites, which showed evidence of human activity stretching from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Roman period. However, no deposits or structures of archaeological nature have been identified on the site in the course of the watching brief. The recorded deposits comprised layers of natural gravel and sand, which in the larger area of the site were situated below a sequence of layers of the modern make up for the school's playground and below naturally formed soil, along the eastern edge of the excavation. The modern surface was predominantly tarmac, apart from the grass area in the narrow strip along the eastern limit of the site and a paved area to the North.

The site is characterised by natural gravels and sand truncated and sealed by various modern made ground and dumping deposits. These are most likely associated with raising and levelling the ground for its current use as a playground and recreation area for the school. As such the archaeological significance of the site is very low.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out by MOLA at The Hill Primary School ('the site') between 29.09.14-17.10.14 (see *Fig 1*). This document is the Report on that work.
- 1.1.2 A *Method Statement* (MOLA 2013a) was produced for a previous phase of watching brief on the site and should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.
- 1.1.3 Further to the condition on the planning consent a *Written Scheme of Investigation* was prepared by MOLA (2014). All archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with that WSI.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The legislative and planning framework in which the watching brief took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 1.2, MOLA 2014).
- 1.2.2 The watching brief was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by the Local Authority (Consent reference 141152).

1.3 Scope of the watching brief

- 1.3.1 An archaeological watching brief is normally a limited fieldwork exercise. It is not the same as full excavation, though individual features may be fully excavated.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for watching brief specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008).
- 1.3.3 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the watching brief (Section 2)

2 Topographical and historical background

2.1 Topography

2.1.1 The site is located in Caversham to the north of Reading. Here the ground is relatively flat and lies at a height of 82.5m AOD. The underlying geology comprises of River Gravels (BGS1946; MOLA, 2013a).

2.2 Archaeology

2.2.1 Prehistoric (c 700,000 BC–AD 43)

Twenty-three flint handaxes, three choppers, one borer, one scraper and one flake have been recovered from a gravel pit located to the south east of the site on Caversham Hill, SMR00793 (Gaz. No.11; MOLA, 2013a). These were recovered from the gravels and were dated to the Lower Palaeolithic.

At Emmer Green Primary School three socketed axes of late Bronze Age date were recovered during construction of the school SMR00785- MRD862. Later archaeological investigation on the site failed to recover any further archaeological remains. (Gaz. No.46; MOLA, 2013).

A gold stater of Iron Age date with the head of Tincommius (c.35-10BC) was recovered from St Barnabas Road SMR00786 – MRD863. (Gaz. No.20; MOLA, 2013a).

At Cedarcot, Lyefield Court (ERM657) an archaeological evaluation recovered sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, three flint flakes and fragments of burnt flint. A small terminal gully, which may have formed part of a ring gully for a house/hut, was also uncovered (Gaz. No.50; MOLA, 2013a).

An evaluation at 41-49 Grove Road (ERM776) revealed an undated struck flint scraper and possible flint flake. (Gaz. No.52; MOLA, 2013a).

A watching brief at Shipnell's Farm (ERM964) to the west of the site revealed a flint flake on the natural gravels, but no features. (Gaz. No.53; MOLA, 2013a).

2.2.2 Roman (AD 43– 410)

An iron brooch and Roman pottery of possible Belgic origin were recovered during excavation at 7 Highdown Hill Road (ERM260) SMR00819-MRD123. An irregular pit with coarse pottery, fourteen bronze coins of 4th century date and metal objects were found on the site. Two post holes and fragments of burnt wattle daub were also recorded. (Gaz. No.44; MOLA, 2013a). Fifteen pot-boilers and a fragment of hand thrown pottery of possible pre-Roman date were also noted.

Evidence of late Roman occupation by the Old Tythe Barn at Grove House was found during building of new houses in 1966 SMR00819 – MRD868. A shallow pit or part of a ditch was found and produced a large amount of Roman pottery and sixteen coins (some of which were forgeries). (Gaz. No.21; MOLA, 2013a).

2.2.3 Archaeological watching brief

An archaeological watching brief was held in 2013 during the construction of another classroom immediately to the south of the present site (MOLA 2013b). This produced only modern soil and make-up deposits above the natural sand and gravel.

3 The watching brief

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 The slab/ground/turf was broken out and cleared by contractors under MOLA supervision. Pad holes and a pit for a sewage pump were excavated by machine by the contractors, and monitored by a member of staff from MOLA.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological excavation of features was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2014) and the Archaeological Site Manual (Museum of London, 1994).
- 3.1.3 The pad holes and sewage pump pit were plotted on plans provided by the client using an 'offset methodology' and subsequently tied to the OS grid by MOLA Geomatics.

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2014). The pad hole numbers continued the sequence used during the 2013 watching brief. Those for this phase of the watching brief therefore start at 29.

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	29
Number of overall location plans	0
Number of Context (SU) sheets	0
Number of photographs	33
Number of Plan sheets	0
Number of Sections	0

4 Results of the watching brief

For pad hole locations see *Fig 2*

4.1 Pad Hole 29

Location	SE corner of new building
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.85m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.70mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.70mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

- 4.1.1 The lowest deposit was that of the natural, a mid yellow orange mixture of sand and gravel. Above this was 0.65m of a mid grey brown sand silt make up layer with root disturbance. The ground surface was 0.15m of another sandy silt layer with moderate stones which formed a grassy area to the east of the playground. No archaeology or archaeological features were found.

4.2 Pad Hole 30

Location	West of PH 29, North of PH 27
Dimensions	0.95m by 0.90m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.65mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.65mOD
Level of base of trench	81.60m OD

- 4.2.1 A small amount of natural gravel and sand was observed under a 0.20m thick dark brown sandy silt with occasional CBM inclusions. Above this was 0.30m of a mid grey brown gravel with occasional CBM inclusions under a thin 0.10m layer of concrete and mortar rubble. The ground surface was a 0.20m thick layer of tarmac sitting on orange bedding sand in order to form the playground surface. No archaeology was observed.

4.3 Pad Hole 31

Location	East of PH 3, North of PH 26
Dimensions	0.95m by 0.95m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.50mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.50mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.3.1 The natural was just scraped at the base of the pad hole. Above this was the same sequence of deposits observed in PH 30. However the darker gravel was thicker at 0.40m and the rubble had slimmed down to 0.05m. No archaeology discovered.

4.4 Pad Hole 32

Location	SW corner of new building, North of 25
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 0.85m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.73mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.73mOD
Level of base of trench	81.65m OD

- 4.4.1 Above the sand and gravel natural was 0.37m of the mid grey brown gravel previously observed with additional inclusions of occasional plastic. Above this was 0.15m of the concrete and mortar rubble which in turn was under 50mm of bedding sand which provided the base for the playground tarmac. No archaeology seen.

4.5 Pad Hole 33

Location	North of 32, West of 34
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.90m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.65mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.65mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.5.1 No archaeology or archaeological features were discovered. The base of the post pad was the mid orange sand and gravel observed over the whole of the area. 0.40m of the same mid grey gravel deposit as seen in pH 30 was beneath a compact 0.20m thick mid grey clay with frequent stones only observed in this pad hole. Above this were the layers associated with the playground surface.

4.6 Pad Hole 34

Location	North of 31, East of 33
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.90m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.75mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.75mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.6.1 Above the natural sand and gravel layers was 0.50m of the mid grey brown make up gravel common to the whole area. Sealing this was the sand which provided bedding for the tarmac surface of the playground. There was no archaeology found.

4.7 Pad Hole 35

Location	North of 30, West of 36
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 1.10m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.70mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.70mOD
Level of base of trench	81.40m OD

- 4.7.1 The natural sand and gravel was beneath 0.30m of the mid grey brown sandy silt gravel. This in turn was beneath almost the same amount of a darker sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions and occasional CBM. This was capped with bedding sand and tarmac. No archaeology was found in this pad hole.

4.8 Pad Hole 36

Location	North of PH 29, East of PH 35
Dimensions	1.05m by 1.00m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.70mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.70mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.8.1 Above the natural gravel and sand was a 0.70m thick mid grey brown gravel sealed by 0.10m of the same turf and topsoil observed in PH 29. No archaeology was found.

4.9 Pad Hole 37

Location	North of 36, East of 38
Dimensions	1.00m by 1.00m by 1.10m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.70mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.70mOD
Level of base of trench	81.40m OD

- 4.9.1 The exact same sequence of deposits was observed in this pad hole as in PH 36. The turf/topsoil becomes slightly thicker here to 0.20m, which is compensated for by slightly less of the grey brown gravel. No archaeology was found.

4.10 Pad Hole 38

Location	North of 35, west of 37
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.85mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.85mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

- 4.10.1 The natural gravel and sand was overcut by 0.30m and was overlaid by the mid grey brown gravel which seems to be a consistent make up layer throughout the site. Above this was the 0.25m of bedding sand and tarmac. There was no archaeology or archaeological features observed.

4.11 Pad Hole 39

Location	North of 34, West of 38
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.90m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.60mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.60mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.11.1 The natural gravel and sand deposits were sealed by 0.30m of the mid grey brown gravel. Above this was 0.35m of a dark grey brown sandy silt gravel under the tarmac of the playground. No archaeology was found.

4.12 Pad Hole 40

Location	North of 33, West of 39
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.90m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.60mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.60mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

- 4.12.1 A thin layer of natural was seen beneath 0.30m of the mid grey brown gravel. This was sealed by 0.20m of a darker grey brown gravel and 0.15m of the same concrete and mortar rubble seen in PH 31. Above this was the tarmac and bedding sand combination. There was also no archaeology.

4.13 Pad Hole 41

Location	North of 40, West of 42
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.85mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.85mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

- 4.13.1 The natural sand and gravels were much higher here than previously and were overcut by 0.30m. Above this was 0.40m of mid grey brown gravel before 0.25m of bedding sand and tarmac. No archaeology was seen.

4.14 Pad Hole 42

Location	East of 41, North of 39
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.90m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.80mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.80mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

- 4.14.1 Over the orange gravel and sands was the mid brown grey sandy silt gravel which was 0.45m thick. Sealing this was the playground tarmac. There was no archaeology found.

4.15 Pad Hole 43

Location	North of 38, East of 42
Dimensions	0.90m by 0.90m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.80mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.80mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.15.1 Pad hole 43 imitated pad hole 42 exactly in both stratigraphical sequence and in dimensions. Additionally no archaeology was observed.

4.16 Pad Hole 44

Location	North of 37, East of 43
Dimensions	1.00m by 1.00m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.90mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.90mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.16.1 The natural was overcut by 0.40m and was sealed by 0.45m of mid grey brown gravel with frequent root disturbance. Above this was 0.15m of a mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil with moderate stone inclusions.

4.17 Pad Hole 45

Location	North of 44, East of 46
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.95m by 0.90m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	82.00mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	82.00mOD
Level of base of trench	81.60m OD

- 4.17.1 The natural gravels continue to rise to the north, peaking here at 82.00mOD. Above this is the same sequence seen in pad hole 44 to the south. There is 0.35m of mid grey brown gravel beneath 0.15m of topsoil.

4.18 Pad Hole 46

Location	North of 43, West of 44
Dimensions	1.00m by 1.00m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.85mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.85mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

- 4.18.1 Over mid orange gravel and sand was 0.40m of root disturbed mid grey brown gravel. This was sitting under 0.25m of tarmac and bedding sand. No archaeology or archaeological features were observed.

4.19 Pad Hole 47

Location	North of 42, West of 46
Dimensions	0.95m by 0.95m by 0.90m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.90mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.90mOD
Level of base of trench	81.60m OD

- 4.19.1 The same sequence as seen in pad hole 46 could be seen in this pad hole. Over the natural was 0.35m of root disturbed gravel sealed by tarmac. There was no archaeology.

4.20 Pad Hole 48

Location	North of 41, East of 47
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.80mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.80mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.20.1 Again the stratigraphic sequence seen previously continues with 0.45m of mid grey brown gravel sealing the natural and in turn being sealed by bedding sand and tarmac. No archaeology found.

4.21 Pad Hole 49

Location	North of 48, West of 50
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.95m by 0.90m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.90mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.90mOD
Level of base of trench	81.60m OD

- 4.21.1 Above the mid orange gravel and sand was 0.50m of the mid grey brown sandy silt gravel with moderate CBM inclusions. At this point the tarmac of the playground ends and is replaced with a paved area. The gravel was thus sealed by 50mm of cement and 50mm thick paving slabs.

4.22 Pad Hole 50

Location	North of 47, East of 49
Dimensions	1.00m by 1.00m by 0.90m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.90mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.90mOD
Level of base of trench	81.60m OD

4.22.1 The same sequence of stratigraphy with the same dimensions was observed here as in pad hole 49. No archaeology was seen.

4.23 Pad Hole 51

Location	North of 46, East of 50
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 0.95m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.95mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.95mOD
Level of base of trench	81.55m OD

4.23.1 Over the natural was 0.35m of mid grey brown gravel with moderate root disturbance. This was sealed by 0.20m of brick crush caused by the removal of the previous slab surface. No archaeology or archaeological features were found.

4.24 Pad Hole 52

Location	North of 45, East of 51
Dimensions	1.10m by 0.95m by 1.10m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.70mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.70mOD or
Level of base of trench	81.40m OD

4.24.1 Above the natural gravel and sand was 0.60m of mid grey brown gravel with root disturbance. Over this was 0.20m of brick crush.

4.25 Pad Hole 53

Location	North of 52, East of 54
Dimensions	1.00m by 1.00m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.80mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.80mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.25.1 Above the natural sand and gravels was 0.50m mid grey brown gravel with root disturbance and moderate CBM inclusions. Above this was 0.20m of brick crush. No archaeology was found.

4.26 Pad Hole 54

Location	North of 51, West of 53
Dimensions	1.00m by 0.90m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.80mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.80mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.26.1 The same sequence of stratigraphy with the same dimensions was observed here as in pad hole 53. No archaeology was seen.

4.27 Pad Hole 55

Location	North of 51, East of 56
Dimensions	1.10m by 1.00m by 1.10m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	Not found
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	Smallest trace at base of trench
Level of base of trench	81.40m OD

- 4.27.1 The natural gravels and sand were only just exposed in the SW corner of the pad hole. It is likely a truncation runs through this area of the site, as the natural is much higher in surrounding pad holes, but hasn't been fully exposed here. The possible truncation is filled with a similar mid grey brown sandy silt gravel with a higher quantity of CBM and mortar inclusions and root disturbance. It is sealed with 0.20m of a mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil. No archaeology found.

4.28 Pad Hole 56

Location	North of 49, West of 55
Dimensions	1.10m by 1.00m by 1.00m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	82.00mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	82.00mOD
Level of base of trench	81.50m OD

- 4.28.1 The mid orange gravel and sand natural was overcut by 0.50m in this pad hole. Above this only one deposit could be observed which was the mid grey brown sandy silt gravel.

4.29 Sewage Pump

Location	Between and to the East of PH 36 and 37
Dimensions	1.70m by 1.70m by 1.70m depth
Modern ground level/top of slab	82.50mOD
Base of modern fill/slab/turf	81.75mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural	None found
Level of base of lowest features or deposits	None found
Top of surviving natural observed at	81.75mOD
Level of base of trench	81.35m OD

- 4.29.1 The mid orange sand and gravel natural was exposed by 0.40m. This was sealed by 0.50m of mid grey brown sandy silt gravel with root disturbance. Above this was 0.25m of a mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil with moderate stone inclusions and root disturbance. No archaeology or archaeological features were observed.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

- What was the level of natural topography?
 - The height of the natural varied over the site. However it generally could be seen to rise to the north, with the lowest point at 81.50mOD and the highest 82.00mOD (excepting the possible truncation in PH 55).
- What are the earliest deposits identified?
 - The earliest deposits identified are represented by a sequence of layers of natural gravel and sand. No archaeological deposits or structures were identified on site.
- What are the latest deposits identified?
 - The latest deposits were all modern activity associated with the creation of the playground.
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric human activity?
 - There was no evidence of prehistoric human activity.

5.2 Significance of the data

- 5.2.1 The site is characterised by natural gravels and sand truncated and sealed by various modern made ground and dumping deposits. These are most likely associated with raising and levelling the ground for its current use as a playground and recreation area for the school. As such the archaeological significance of the site is very low.

6 Publication and archiving

- 6.1.1 The results of the watching brief will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of Berkshire.
- 6.1.2 The site archive containing original records will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA 2014) within 12 months of the end of the watching brief.
- 6.1.3 In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 5) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 5.2) it is suggested that:
- 6.1.4 A short note on the results of the watching brief should appear in the annual round up of the Berkshire Archaeological Society Journal.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: Paul Scott-Munden of Hampshire County Council for providing plans and survey data, Sue Parcell Reading Borough Council for commissioning the report and the McAvoy group for their help on site.

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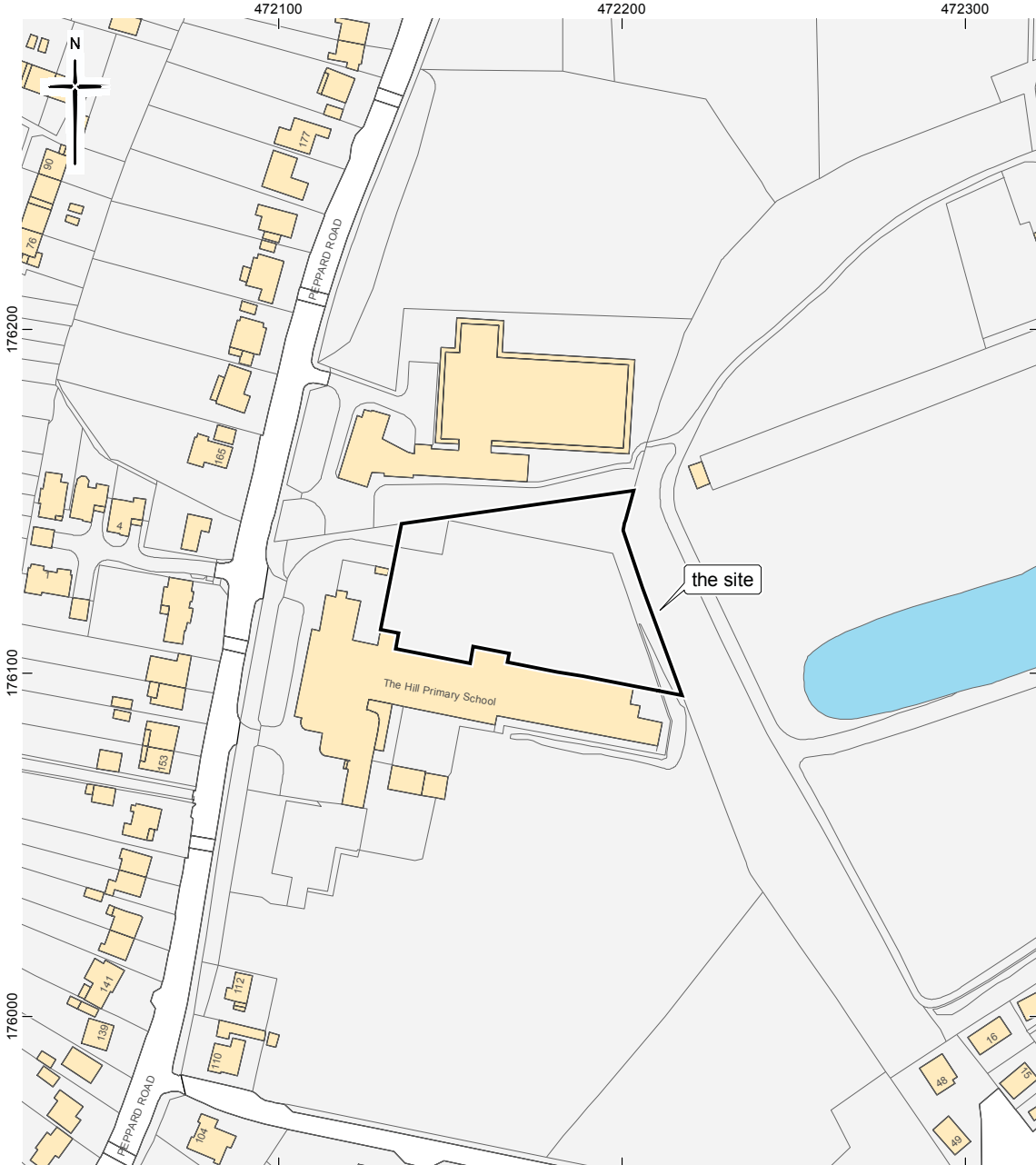
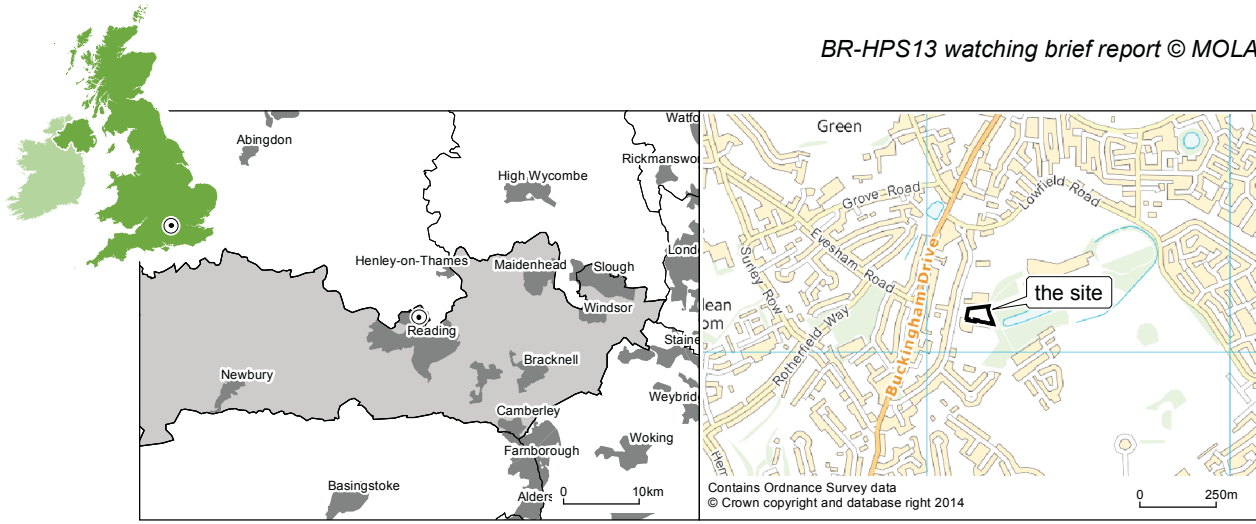
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scale 1:2,000 @ A4

0 100m

Fig 1 Site location

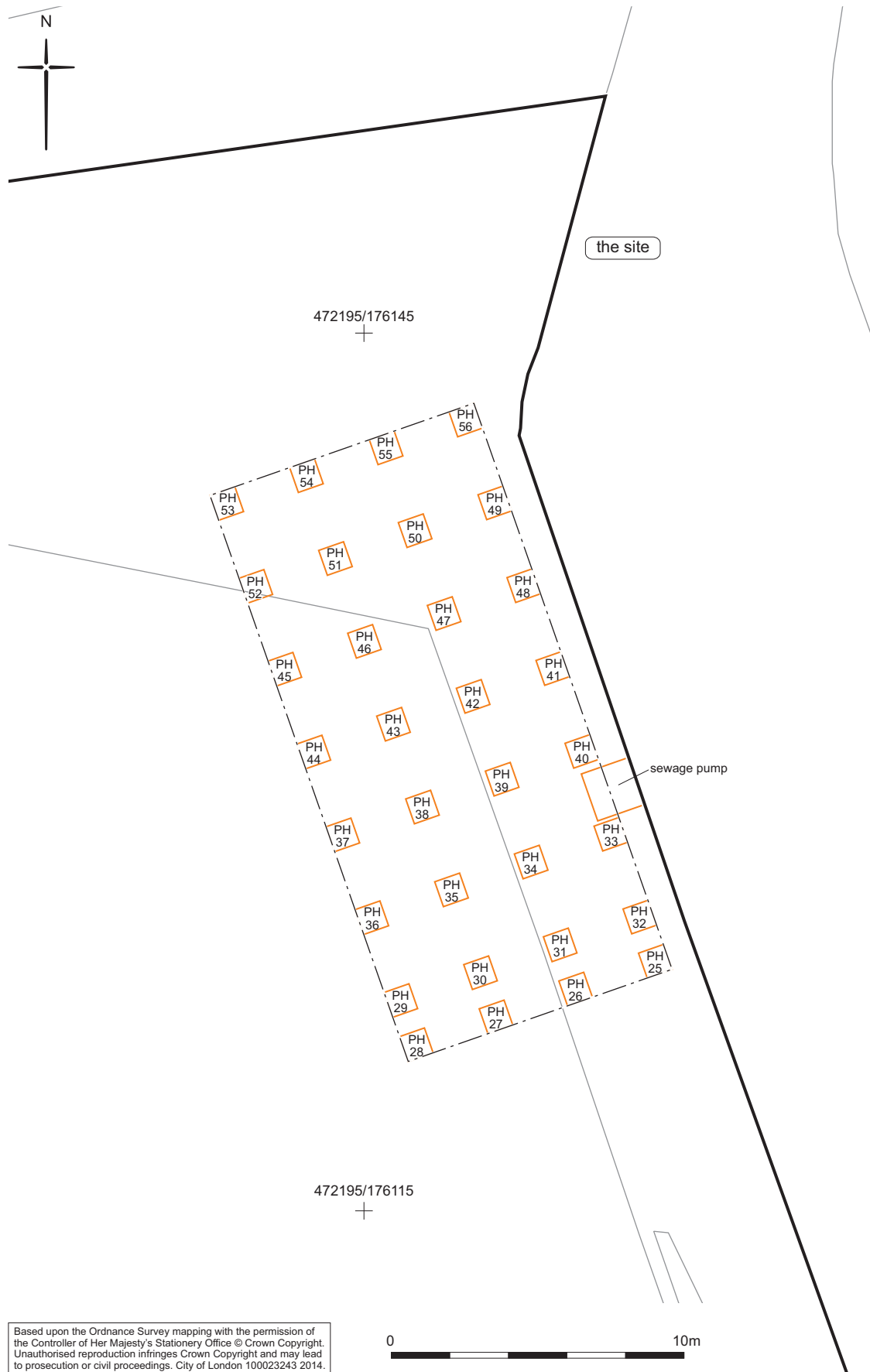


Fig 2 Pad Hole locations



Fig 3 Example of a Pad Hole. PH 33 facing north



Fig 4 Excavation for the Sewage Pump facing east

9 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

9.1 OASIS ID: molas1-192850

Project details

Project name	Hill Primary School
Short description of the project	A watching brief was carried out on the site between 29.09.14-16.10.14. The site is characterised by natural gravels and sand truncated and sealed by various modern made ground and dumping deposits. These are most likely associated with raising and levelling the ground for its current use as a playground and recreation area for the school. No deposits or structures of archaeological nature have been identified on the site in the course of the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 29-09-2014 End: 16-10-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BR-HPS13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	REDMG:2013.339 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE READING READING Hill Primary School
Postcode	RG4 8TU
Study area	153.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 72194 76131 51.4790368844 -0.96029577397 51 28 44 N 000 57 37 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 81.50m Max: 82.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council
Project design	MOLA

originator

Project director/manager Michael Smith

Project supervisor Helen Vernon

Type of sponsor/funding body Local Authority

Name of sponsor/funding body Reading Borough Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Reading Museum

Digital Archive ID REDMG:2013.339

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Reading Museum

Paper Archive ID REDMG:2013.339

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Hill Primary School, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Watching Brief Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Vernon, H

Date 2014

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Entered on 17 October 2014