

**Land at Water Oakley  
Bray  
Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**CgMs**

*on behalf of*

**Farmglade Limited**

**Planning Ref: 13/02719/OUT**

CA Project: 770142

CA Report: 14525


November 2014

Land at Water Oakley  
Bray  
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Planning Ref: 13/02719/OUT

CA Project: 770142  
CA Report: 14525

prepared by	Oliver Good Project Leader
date	5 November 2014
checked by	Damian De Rosa– Project Manager
date	19 December 2014
approved by	Richard Greatorex
signed	
date	19 December 2014
issue	03

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<b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	<b>Milton Keynes</b> 41 Burners Lane South Kiln Farm Milton Keynes MK11 3HA t. 01908 564660	<b>Andover</b> Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>		

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	4
1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
<i>The site</i> .....	5
<i>Archaeological objectives</i> .....	7
<i>Methodology</i> .....	8
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4).....	9
3. DISCUSSION.....	10
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	10
5. REFERENCES.....	10
<b>APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....</b>	<b>14</b>

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and Trench 15 detail (1:2000)
- Fig. 3 Photo of Post Hole 803 and photo of Post Hole 1002
- Fig. 4 Trench 15: section and photograph of Ditch 1503

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land at Water Oakley  
**Location:** Bray, Berkshire  
**NGR:** SU 491890, 177795  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> of October to the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2014  
**Planning Reference:** 13/02719/OUT  
**Location of Archive:** Cotswold Archaeology - Andover  
**Site Code:** WOB 14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2014 at Water Oakley. The work was undertaken to inform outline planning permission (application reference 13/02719/OUT) that has been granted for the residential development of the site

Seventeen trenches were excavated across the site and revealed a low potential for the presence and survival of archaeological features and deposits. Only three trenches revealed the presence of archaeological features comprising a ditch and two post holes likely to be post medieval to modern in date but no dateable artefacts were recovered or present.

With large amounts of modern disturbance occurring across parts of site, particularly in the north as a result of gravel extraction, there is a strong likelihood that any archaeology that may have been present has been truncated and removed. There was in particular no evidence of any Roman features or deposits relating to extensive Roman activity identified in previous work undertaken to the west of the site prior to gravel extraction in the 1960s. However, although modern truncation was less evident in the southern and eastern parts of the site no significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed. This suggests that there is a low potential for the presence or survival of archaeological features and deposits at the site.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October and November 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs on behalf of Farmglade Limited on Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire (centred on NGR: SU 491890, 177795; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform condition 20 in relation to archaeology of outline planning permission (application reference 13/02719/OUT) that has been granted for the residential development of the site by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead the Local Planning Authority (LPA). In order to inform the archaeological potential of the site a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Waterman 2013) was undertaken prior to the carrying out of the evaluation.
- 1.3 Following consultation with Roland Smith, the Archaeological Planning officer at Berkshire Archaeology (BA) acting on behalf of the LPA, it was agreed that a programme of trial trench evaluation should be undertaken to further inform condition 20 of the outline planning permission (application reference 13/02719/OUT) for the site.
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2014) and approved by Roland Smith. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), Berkshire Archaeology (BA) *General Standards for Historic Environment Projects*, the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). The evaluation fieldwork was monitored by Roland Smith of BA, including a site visit on 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

### ***The site***

- 1.5 The site is approximately 9.7ha in size and is located at Water Oakley, which lies between Bray and Windsor. It is bordered to the south by the Windsor Road (A 308) and to the north by the River Thames beyond which lies the rowing centre at Eton Dorney. The site is now mainly in use by a range of businesses, with a number of modern buildings arranged on the eastern and western parts of the Site with areas of hard-standing and grassland. It is divided by a lane which leads from the main road to the River Thames and is bounded on its eastern boundary by Down Close.

- 1.6 The Site slopes down gently northwards towards the Thames, with a difference in level of approximately 3.5 m from the main access at Windsor Road at c.25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) down to the waterfront.
- 1.7 The geology beneath the Site was established from the British Geological Survey (BGS) as alluvium, comprising Kempton Park Gravels, overlaying London Clay.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.8 A heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken (Waterman 2013), which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site. A very brief summary of this is presented below and the DBA should be consulted for more specific detail:
- 1.9 Initial assessment suggested that a Roman site may lie within the development area. The Berkshire HER also suggests that other archaeology may survive. A cropmark feature is recorded within the Site and worked flint has been recovered in or very close to it. The surrounding area has produced a large amount of material which points to the whole area having seen human activity since the Mesolithic period, which would be expected given the fertile, well-drained soils of the river terrace. Many of the sites documented within the vicinity of the site have been recorded as a result of gravel extraction and include an *in situ* Neolithic burial at the north end of Hoveringham Gravel Pit, some 500 m to the north-west of the Site along with plentiful evidence of prehistoric settlement and artefacts dating from the Bronze Age through to the Iron Age periods. Approximately 530 m to the south-east of the Site, an evaluation at Manor Nursery revealed two areas with pits and linear features suggesting Iron Age activity, a spread of burnt flint which could be a Bronze Age feature, and residual flint suggesting Mesolithic or Neolithic activity nearby.
- 1.10 However, the archaeological potential of the Site varies depending on the more recent land use. Any archaeological deposits may have been truncated by later building foundations, ploughing or gravel extraction. All archaeological potential is likely to have been removed from some areas in the west of the Site, given gravel extraction including the Roman site in this area. Archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1969 ahead of gravel extraction revealed a Roman site with five separate phases of activity, dating to the later Roman period (c.320 – early fifth century AD) and a number of cremation and inhumation burials were recorded,

together with evidence for metal working. Further observations dating back to the Victorian period also document Roman material being recovered on or near to the site.

- 1.11 A number of sources confirm that the earliest known references to Water Oakley date to the fourteenth century. Since the post- medieval period the site has seen considerable development. Historic mapping indicates the development of the site from farmland centred around Water Oakley Farmhouse to the development of the site as it exists today. The lane from the main [Windsor] road to the river is shown on early maps, as is Down Place and, in the north, the Site boundary is likely to reflect earlier land ownership divisions.
- 1.12 Geotechnical investigations, undertaken across the Site, which were archaeologically monitored were able to identify possible in situ archaeological deposits and provided further evidence of more recent ground disturbance associated with gravel extraction and land fill.

#### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.13 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.
- 1.14 Specific aims were to assess the impact that gravel extraction and post-medieval to modern development at the site have had on the archaeological resource. In particular to identify whether any remains of the significant Roman site and other periods, which the HER indicated were present or survive within the site.
- 1.15 In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Berkshire Archaeology acting on behalf of the LPA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### ***Methodology***

- 1.16 The evaluation comprised of the excavation of 17 no 30m x 1.8m trial trenches. The number and layout of the trenches follows consultation with BA. The trenches were spread across the site within areas considered not to have been impacted upon by modern disturbance and development. Two trenches (Tr 4 and 5) had to be significantly shortened due to underground services, and were monitored as such by BA at the site visit.
- 1.17 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual (2012)*.
- 1.18 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which the archaeological features were exposed. Where archaeological features were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual (2013)*.
- 1.19 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites (2003)*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (1995)*.
- 1.20 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Currently there is no museum or store that is receiving archaeological archives from within the Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor. Reading Museum used to fulfil this role but no longer does so. Cotswold Archaeology will therefore temporarily retain the project archive until a suitable solution has been found. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.
- 1.21 Upon completion of the evaluation all trenches were backfilled by mechanical excavator with the excavated arisings.



## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts from the site can be found in Appendix A. Of the seventeen trenches only trenches **8**, **10** and **15** contained archaeological features the remaining trenches were blank.
- 2.2 The natural substrate generally comprised of unsorted alluvial gravels with dark orange-brown sandy clay exposed at depths of between 0.25m and 0.93m below the present ground level (BGL). The average depth at which the natural was exposed was 0.57m BGL. A subsoil was identified in some parts of site and was made up of a mid brown sandy clay which was covered by a dark brown sandy loam topsoil. Modern disturbance and made ground was revealed within trenches **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **8**, **9**, **11** and **13**.
- 2.3 Modern impact and truncation partly as a likely result of gravel extraction and modern buildings was more evident in the northern part of the site. It is possible that this may have removed any archaeological features and deposits that may have been present. However, although modern truncation was less evident in the southern and eastern parts of the site no significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed in this part of the site either.

### ***Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 2.3 Trench **8** contained one post hole (**803**) located in the eastern end of the trench, it measured 0.51 in diameter and 0.12m in depth and produced modern brick and CBM.

### ***Trench 10 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 2.4 One post hole (**1002**) was identified within trench **10**, it was located centrally within the trench and measured 0.43m in diameter and 0.12m in depth and only produced modern brick and CBM.

### **Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 4)**

- 2.5 Trench **15** contained one north-south aligned ditch (**1503**) positioned centrally in the trench. The ditch produced fragments of post-medieval/modern ceramic building material and measured 1.40m in width and 0.37m in depth.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The majority of the trenches were blank with only trenches **8**, **10** and **15** containing archaeology. The archaeology consisted of two post holes and one ditch, which contained modern brick and CBM, and It is probable therefore that these are post medieval to modern in date. The ditch is likely to be part of a former post-medieval field boundary. With large amounts of modern disturbance occurring across parts of site, particularly in the north as a result of gravel extraction, there is a strong likelihood that any archaeology that may have been present has been truncated and removed. There was in particular no evidence of any Roman features or deposits relating to the extensive Roman activity identified in previous work undertaken to the west of the site prior to gravel extraction. However, although modern truncation was less evident in the southern and eastern parts of the site no significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed in this part of the site either. This suggests that there is a low potential for the presence or survival of archaeological features and deposits at the site.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Oliver Good, assisted by Tony Brown and Colin Forrestal. The report was written by Oliver Good. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Hartley. The archive has been compiled by Adam Howard, and will be prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

## **5. REFERENCES**

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Document Reference: EED13198-102\_R\_3\_1\_3\_SP

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

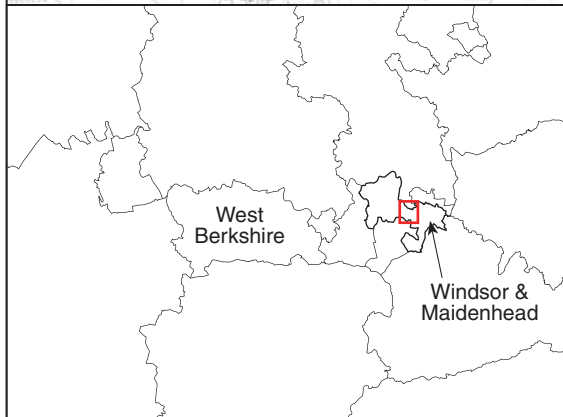
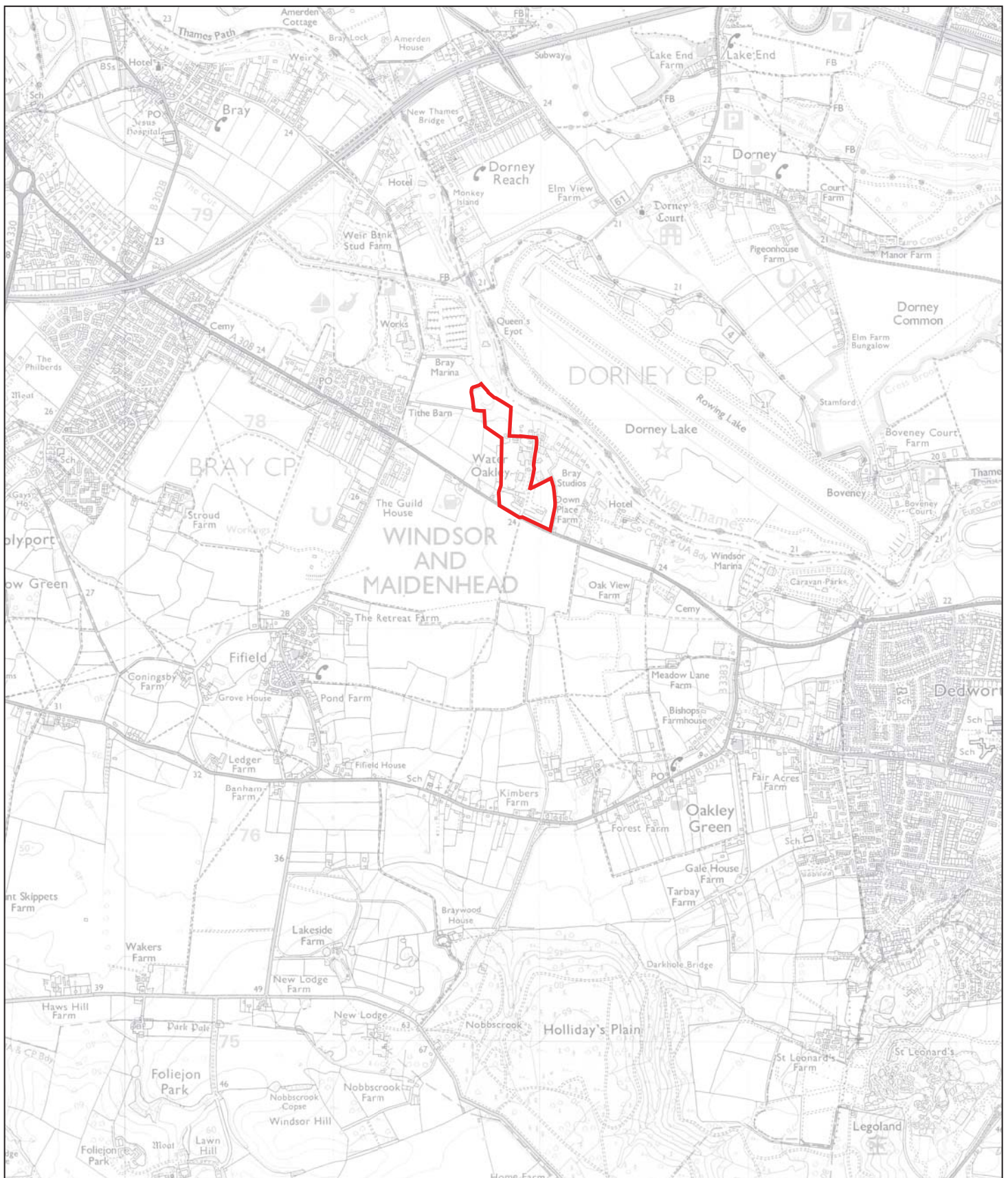
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with modern debris and root disturbance.	28.9	1.82	0-0.25	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay	28.9	1.82	0.25-0.51	
1	102	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown silty clay silty clay with large amounts of modern disturbance.	28.9	1.82	0.25-1.12	
1	103	Layer		Natural	Orangey brown sandy silty clay unsorted alluvial gravels	28.9	1.82	0.51-1.12	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	29.1	1.9	0-0.29	
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Light orangey brown silty clay containing modern debris and stone	29.1	1.9	0.29-0.57	
2	202	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay containing modern debris	29.1	1.9	0.57-0.65	
2	203	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay with brick fragments	29.1	1.9	0.65-0.82	
2	204	Layer		Natural	Orangey brown sandy silty clay unsorted alluvial gravels	29.1	1.9	0.82+	
2	205	Layer		Natural	Patches of Yellowish brown sandy clay and gravels	29.1	1.9	0.82+	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	28.7	1.85	0-0.04	
3	301	Layer		Made ground	Light brownish red sandy silt - Type 1 hardcore	28.7	1.85	0.04-0.12	
3	302	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown sandy silt with moderate stone inclusions	28.7	1.85	0.12-0.15	
3	303	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown sandy silt with common stone	28.7	1.85	0.15-0.27	
3	304	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown sandy silty with very common chalk lumps	28.7	1.85	0.27-0.43	
3	305	Layer		Made ground	Building debris and stone hardcore	28.7	1.85	0.43+	
4	400	Layer		Made ground	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate stone inclusions	15	1.85	0-0.2	
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Compact orange gravel	15	1.85	0.2-0.32	
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellowish grey brown silty clay with modern debris	15	1.85	0.32-0.52	
4	403	Layer		Made ground	Very dark greyish brown friable silty clay with modern debris	15	1.85	0.52-0.82	
4	404	Layer		Natural	Dark brown silty clay and unsorted flint gravel	15	1.85	0.82+	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	17	1.85	0-0.18	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	17	1.85	0.18-0.44	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid brown silty clay with sparse gravels	17	1.85	0.44+	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	29.6	1.85	0-0.25	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey greyish brown friable silty clay	29.6	1.85	0.25-0.51	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay	29.63	1.85	0.51+	
6	603	Layer		Natural	Unsorted gravel in mid orangey brown sandy clay	29.63	1.85	0.51+	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	31	1.8	0-0.3	
7	701	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay	31	1.8	0.3+	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay loam	27.4	1.85	0.58	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	27.4	1.85	0.58	

8	802	Layer		Natural	Unsorted flint gravel in mid orangey brown sandy silty clay	27.4	1.85	0.58	
8	803	Cut		Post Hole	Shallow undated cut for post		0.51	0.12	
8	804	Fill	804	Secondary Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay		0.51	0.12	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay	30	1.9	0-0.25	
9	901	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay containing large amounts of modern debris	30	1.9	0.25-0.53	
9	902	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown friable silty clay containing modern debris	30	1.9	0.53-0.83	
9	903	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay	30	1.9	0.83-0.93	
9	904	Layer		Natural	Alluvial gravels in friable mid brown silty clay	30	1.9	0.93+	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	31	1.8	0-0.25	
10	1001	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish grey silty clay sand	31	1.8	0.25+	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	30	1.8	0-0.12	
11	1101	Layer		Made ground	Dark brownish grey silty clay sand with modern debris	30	1.8	0.12-0.23	
11	1102	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brownish grey silty sand clay	30	1.8	0.23-0.52	
11	1103	Layer		Natural	Dark greyish brown silty sand clay	30	1.8	0.52+	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay which contains large amounts of modern debris	29.4	1.9	0-0.62	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay	29.4	1.9	0.62-0.83	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Alluvial gravels in friable mid brown silty clay	29.4	1.9	0.83+	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	32	1.8	0-0.2	
13	1301	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with modern debris	32	1.8	0.2-0.38	
13	1302	Layer		Made ground	Dark greyish brown sandy clay	32	1.8	0.38-0.53	
13	1303	Layer		Natural	Mid greyish brown sandy clay and alluvial gravels	32	1.8	0.53+	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	29.8	1.9	0-0.26	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay	29.8	1.9	0.26-0.56	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Alluvial gravels in friable mid brown silty clay	29.8	1.9	0.56+	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	29.1	1.84	0-0.22	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay	29.1	1.84	0.22-0.64	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Alluvial gravels in friable mid brown silty clay	29.1	1.84	0.64+	
15	1503	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned ditch with concave edges and a flat base	1.80+	1.4	0.37	
15	1504	Fill	1503	Secondary Fill	Dark greyish brown sandy clay	0.8	1.4	0.37	
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay	29.1	1.9	0-0.25	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay	29.1	1.9	0.25-0.75	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Alluvial gravels in friable mid brown silty clay	29.1	1.9	0.75+	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	30.4	1.8	0-0.32	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	30.4	1.8	0.32-0.43	
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Dark brown sandy clay with unsorted gravels	30.4	1.8	0.43+	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October and November 2014 at Water Oakley, Berkshire. The work was undertaken to inform outline planning permission (13/02719/OUT) that has been granted for the residential development of the site</p> <p>Seventeen trenches were excavated across the site and revealed a low potential for the presence and survival of archaeological features and deposits. Only three trenches revealed the presence of archaeological features comprising a ditch and two post holes likely to be post medieval to modern in date but no dateable artefacts were recovered or present.</p> <p>With large amounts of modern disturbance occurring across parts of site, particularly in the north as a result of gravel extraction, there is a strong likelihood that any archaeology that may have been present has been truncated and removed. There was in particular no evidence of any Roman features or deposits relating to extensive Roman activity identified in previous work undertaken to the west of the site prior to gravel extraction in the 1960s. However, although modern truncation was less evident in the southern and eastern parts of the site no significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed in this part of the site either. This suggests that there is a low potential for the presence or survival of archaeological features and deposits at the site.</p>	
Project dates	27 <sup>th</sup> of October to the 4 <sup>th</sup> of November	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	<p>A heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken (Waterman 2013) of the site.</p> <p>Watermans 2013. Land at Water Oakley. Heritage Desk Based Assessment. Document Reference: EED13198-102_R_3_1_3_SP</p>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	9.7ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	NGR: SU 491890, 177795	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Oliver Good	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	T.B.C. (currently CA Andover)	Context Sheets, Plans, Notes

Digital	T.B.C. (currently CA Andover)	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire: Evaluation Report. Project No. 770142. Report No. 14525.</i></p>		



0 1km

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Cirencester 01285 771022  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
Andover 01264 347630  
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

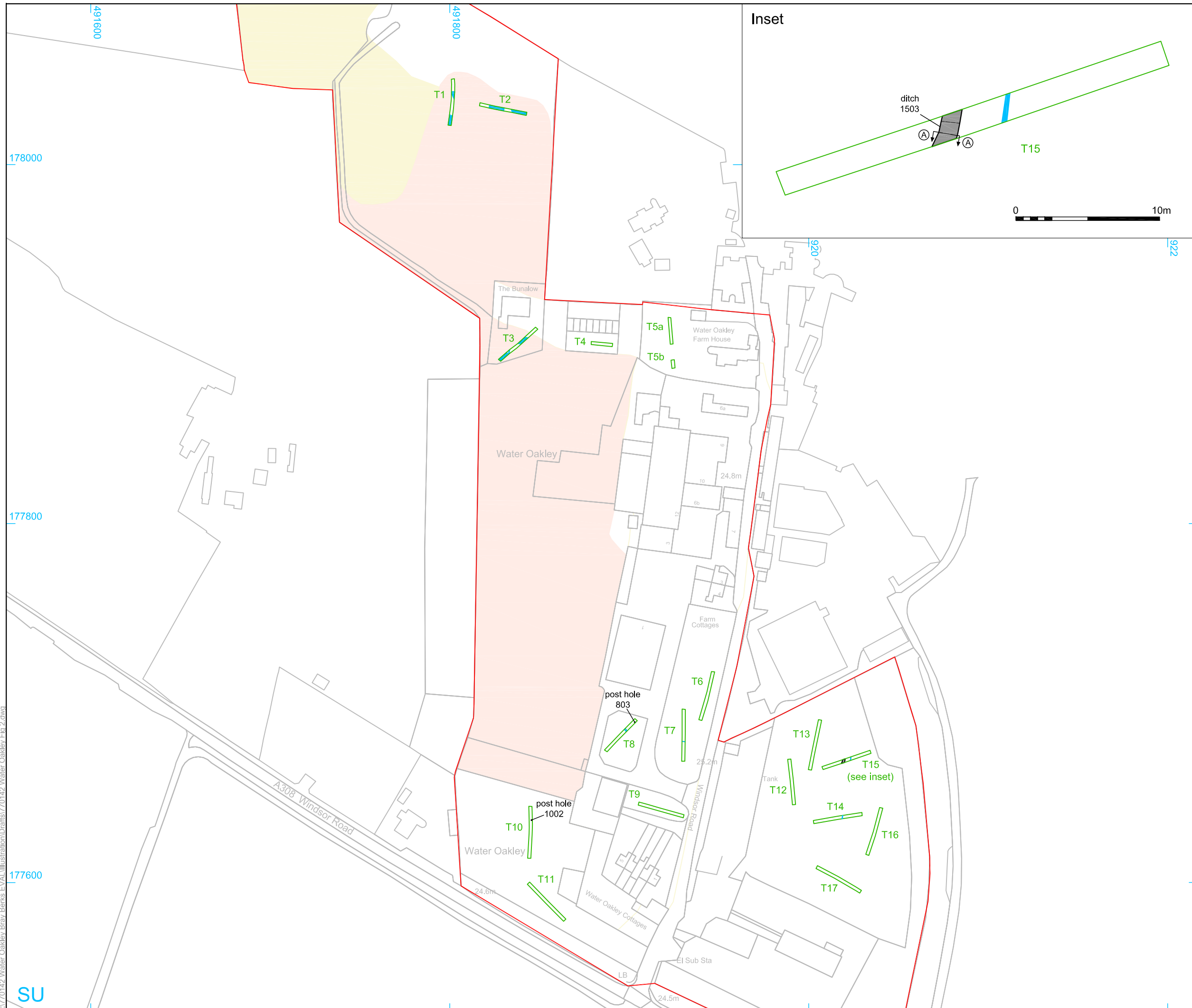
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 770142 DATE 06/11/2014  
DRAWN BY LJH REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

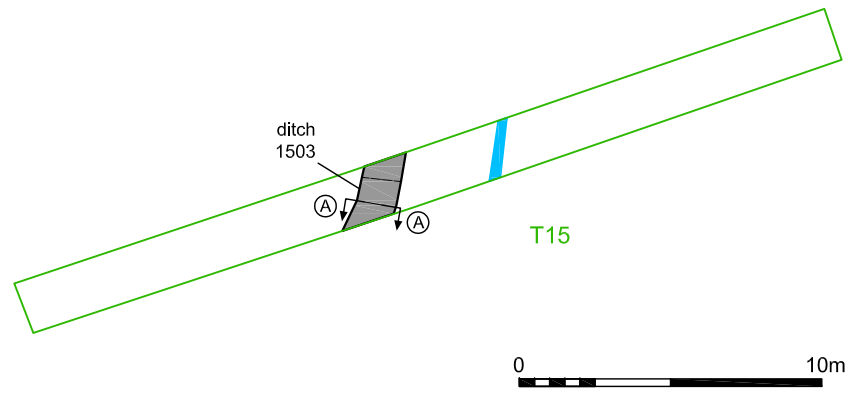
FIGURE NO.

1





Inset



- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- ▬ modern
- extent of previous gravel extraction
- likely to be severe to moderate damage to archaeological deposits



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**Cotswold Archaeology**  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features

PROJECT NO.	770142	DATE	06-11-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LJH	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:2000	

P:\770142 Water Oakley Bray Barks EVA\Illustration\Drafts\770142 Water Oakley Fig 2.dwg

SU



3a



3b

3a Trench 8; Post Hole 803, looking east (0.2m scale)

3b Trench 9; Post Hole 1002, looking north-east (0.2m scale)



Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Andover 01264 347630  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Water Oakley, Bray, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

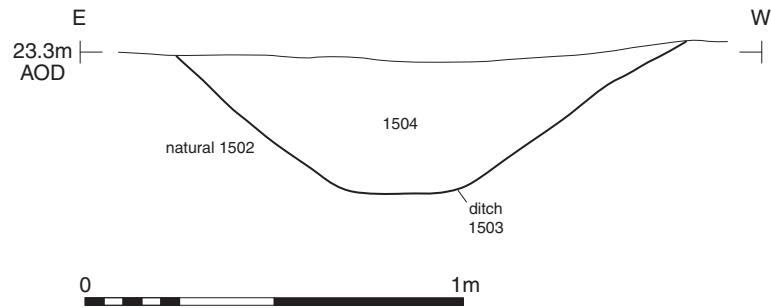
Trenches 8 & 10: photographs

PROJECT NO. 770142 DATE 06/11/2014  
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FIGURE NOS.

3a & 3b

Section AA



Ditch 1503, looking south (1m scale)



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Cirencester 01285 771022  
Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
Andover 01264 347630  
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 15: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

4