

**152 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
W.J. CHANNING & SONS (WOKING) LIMITED

CA Project: 770245
CA Report: 15613

August 2015



152 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	152 New Road Ascot
Location:	Ascot Bracknell Forest Council
NGR:	491645,170245
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	23 July 2015
Planning Reference:	12/00593/FUL
Location of Archive:	CA Andover
Site Code:	NRA15

An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of three trial trenches was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 at 152 New Road Ascot, Berkshire.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation, and this is possibly partly due to the impact of modern disturbance associated with recent land use within the site. The site had previously been identified to have a low archaeological potential and this has been confirmed by the results of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 152 Ascot Road Berkshire (centred at NGR: 491645, 170245; Fig. 1) on behalf of W.J. Channing & Sons (Woking) Limited.
- 1.2 Conditional planning permission (Ref: 12/00593/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) the Local Planning Authority for the erection of 8 no. 3 bedroom and 6 no. 4 bedroom houses with associated amenity space, parking and landscaping following demolition of existing dwelling. Condition 22 relates to archaeology.
- 1.3 Following consultation with Berkshire Archaeology (BA), the archaeological planning advisor to BFC, it was recommended that an evaluation by trial trenching, with contingency if required, should be undertaken at the site. The outline scope of this work was agreed between BA and the archaeological consultants (EDP Ltd) through an email dated 17/06/15.
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* (CA 2015) and approved by Berkshire Archaeology (BA), the archaeological planning advisor to BFC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), 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 site

- 1.5 The proposed development area is rectangular in shape and approximately 0.5ha in size. It is bordered to the east by New Road, to the north by a local post office, to the south by residential housing and to the west by woodland.. Trees and shrubs that had covered c. two thirds of the site were removed prior to the commencement of fieldwork, with some trees being retained for landscaping.
- 1.6 The site is generally level at a height of c.69m above Ordnance Datum.

- 1.7 The BGS map of the area shows the site to be underlain by London Clay comprising brown to dark grey silty clay with occasional silt, fine-grained sand and pebble beds which rest on the Lambeth Group. The BGS map shows the site to be underlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits comprising sandy Gravel with lenses of clay

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Berkshire Historic Environment Record (BHER) was consulted online through Heritage Gateway (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>) in order to provide a summary of archaeological background within a 1km radius of the site.
- 2.2 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the site itself.
- 2.3 Within the 1km radius of the site individual findspots are recorded. These comprise of a Mesolithic two-platformed blade core found whilst digging the course of an old trackway in Bracknell Forest, Winkfield; a light tranchet axe from Manor Farm, Ascot; a small series of worked flints were found on the banks of Blackmore Stream between Ascot Place and Brookside House and a prehistoric flint flake was found opposite Ascot Heath School.
- 2.4 No other periods or findspots are recorded within the 1km radius, apart from Ascot Place, which is a late 18th century country house surrounded by landscape park with lake and grotto, and a polygonal south-east facing pillbox at Ascot Racecourse

Historic Mapping

- 2.5 On the 1871 Ordnance Survey Map the site and the immediate surrounds are shown as undeveloped land and covered by wood and rough pasture. An unnamed road is shown along the eastern boundary of the site and no significant change is indicated on the OS Maps until 1932, apart from increasing residential development in the vicinity of the site. The first major change is shown on the 1932 OS Map where rectangular building structures are shown on the site with a semi-circular track running into and out of the site from New Road. This is not labelled but is possibly a former petrol filling station, which has been indicated as occupying the site. No change is then shown until the 1971 OS Map where buildings at the northern corner of the site appeared to have been removed and trees are shown growing in their

place. Two buildings remain on the southern side of the site. A new, small building is shown adjacent to the north-west boundary. No subsequent changes have been made at the site since this period apart from the further establishment of trees and shrubs across two thirds of the site.

- 2.6 The historic mapping therefore suggests that the site has been subject to, potentially substantial, modern impacts

Previous Use

- 2.7 The Site was previously occupied by a possible petrol station.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information was intended to enable the BA 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The WSI (CA 2015) proposed 3 no 30m x 1.6m trial trenches. Due to on-site constraints the indicative proposed locations and dimensions of **Trenches 2 and 3** were altered. Trench 1 was increased to a length of 31m to allow for the shortening of **Trench 3** (see below).
- 4.2 **Trench 2** was moved to the south east but on the same alignment, due to large tree stumps at the north east end of the trench. **Trench 2** was increased to a length of 30.8m to allow for the shortening of **Trench 2**.

- 4.3 The south west end of the proposed location for **Trench 3** contained Asbestos (Fig. 6) in the form of corrugated sheeting and guttering and required that a safe stand-off area needed to be maintained. This resulted in a shortening of the trench to 17m. The position of the trench was also altered due to large tree stumps at the north east end of the trench. All changes to the trench locations were agreed with BA during the course of the fieldwork.
- 4.4 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. No archaeological deposits were encountered and all recording of the general site profile and modern disturbance was undertaken in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5 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* and, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.6 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with a designated Museum service, which is currently subject to confirmation. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation, and this is possibly partly due to the impact of modern disturbance associated with recent land use within the site. The site had previously been identified to have a low archaeological potential and this has been confirmed by the results of the evaluation.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3 Within the south west end of **Trench 1** the old access road for the possible Petrol Station was identified at a depth of approx. 0.10m immediately beneath the topsoil (**100**). This consisted of tarmac, kerb-stones and compacted gravel foundation. Top soil **100** was up to 0.2m in depth in total and consisted of a mid grey silt with occasional modern rubble inclusions. Subsoil **102** consisted of a greyish brown sandy silt with occasional modern rubble and was 0.2m thick. A possible buried subsoil was identified **103** which consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy silt and was 0.2m thick. The natural **104** consisted of a light yellowy orange sandy silt with frequent small rounded gravel inclusions and was seen at a depth of 0.8m below ground level (BGL).

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.4 At the north west end of **Trench 2** was a large concrete slab and tarmac immediately beneath the topsoil (**200**). Top soil **200** was a mid to dark greyish brown silt and was heavily rooted and contaminated with modern rubbish and up to 0.32m thick. Subsoil **201** was heavily disturbed by tree roots and was 0.35m thick. Natural **202** was recorded at a depth of 0.7m BGL.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.5 **Trench 3** consisted of topsoil **300**, which had heavy tree root disturbance, contained modern rubbish and was 0.19m thick. The topsoil overlay a series of mixed made ground layers **301** to **303**, which contained modern rubbish and in total were 0.60m thick. The made ground directly overlay the natural geology, which was revealed at a depth of 0.80m BGL.

6. THE FINDS AND THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1 No finds were recovered. The soil heap was scanned but contained no artefacts predating the modern period.
- 6.2 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation and this is possibly partly due to the impact of modern disturbance associated with recent land use within the site associated with a possible petrol station. The site had previously been identified to have a low archaeological potential and this has been confirmed by the results of the evaluation.
- 8.2 Historic mapping indicates that the site itself has historically lain within woodland and this may further account for the lack of archaeology at the site.
- 8.3 The only identifiable features recorded within the trenches were a tarmac road and concrete hardstanding that are likely to be associated with a possible petrol station which formerly occupied the site.
- 8.4 The evaluation has established that there is no potential for the presence of archaeological features and deposits at the site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard assisted by Natasha Djukic. The report was written by Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Andy Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 24 July 2015

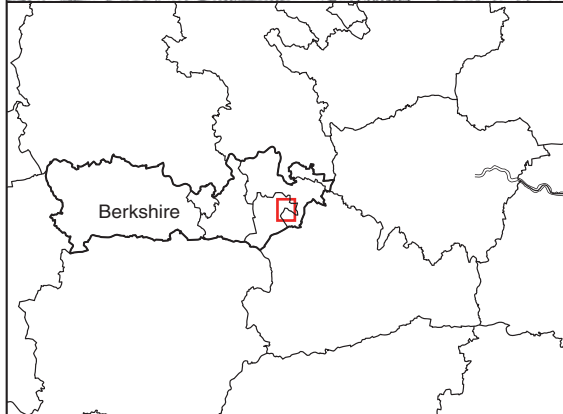
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *152 New Road Ascot: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey silt with modern rubbish and brick	-	-	0 – 0.2m
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt modern rubbish and brick	-	-	0.2 - 0.6m
1	102	Layer	Buried Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	0.6m – 0.8m
1	103	Layer	Natural	Light orangey brown sandy silt frequent tiny to small sub angular flint gravel			0.8m+
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid to dark greyish brown silt frequent rooting and abundant modern rubbish			0– 0.32m
2	201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt frequent rooting common sub angular stones and modern rubbish			0.32 – 0.97m
2	202	Layer	Natural	Mid to light yellowish brown silty sand frequent small sub rounded stone			0.97 to 1m+
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silt frequent rooting			0 – 0.19m
3	301	Layer	Made Ground	Mid brownish yellow sand rooting modern rubbish frequent sub angular			0.19 - 0.3m
3	302	Layer	Made Ground	Dark greyish brown silt rare rooting and subangular small stones rare modern rubbish			0.3m – 0.6m
3	303	Layer	Made Ground	Light grey silty sand common subrounded stones			0.6 - 0.79m
3	304	Layer	Natural	Mid brown yellow sandy silt frequent subrounded stone			0.79 – 0.96m+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	152 New Road Ascot: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of three trial trenches was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2015 at 152 New Road Ascot, Berkshire.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation, and this is possibly partly due to the impact of modern disturbance associated with recent land use within the site. The site had previously been identified to have a low archaeological potential and this has been confirmed by the results of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	23rd July 2015	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	152 New Road Ascot	
Study area (M ² /ha)	approximately 0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	491645, 170245	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) TBC. Currently held at CA Andover	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		none
Paper		Trench Sheets photographic register
Digital		digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>152 New Road Ascot: Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report No. 15613. Project No. 770245</p>		



PROJECT TITLE
152 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	LM	PROJECT NO.	770245	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	03/08/15	
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

7030

916

7025

9165

7020

9170

SU



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE
 New Road, Ascot

FIGURE TITLE
 Survey Update

DRAWN BY	ADBLM	PROJECT NO.	770245	FIGURE NO.	01
CHECKED BY	RP	REVISION	00		
DATE	03/08/2015	SCALE	A3 1:500		



a



b

- a Trench 1, looking south-east (scale 1m)
- b Trench 1 section, looking north (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1 photographs

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a



b

- a Trench 2, looking south-east (scales 1m)
- b Trench 2 section, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2 photographs

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a



b

- a Trench 3, looking north (scales 1m)
- b Trench 3 section, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3 photographs

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Asbestos sheeting and fencing



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PROJECT TITLE

152 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

6

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