



**Whitley Road
Wallingford
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Green Frog Energy Ltd.

CA Project: 660426
CA Report: 15108

March 2015

**Whitley Road
Wallingford
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project Name: | Whitley Road, Off Lester Way, Wallingford |
| Location: | Wallingford, Oxfordshire |
| NGR: | SU 59649 88944 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date: | 23 February 2015 |
| Planning Reference: | P13/S3960/FUL |
| Location of Archive: | Oxfordshire Museums |
| Accession Number: | OXCMS : 2015.29. |
| Site Code: | WHIR 15 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on the 23rd of February at Whitley Road, Wallingford. One trench was excavated and recorded during the course of the evaluation.

Thee 30m long, non-targeted trench was excavated, recorded and backfilled. No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, other than a possible palaeo-channel, which was orientated on a NW/SE axis. No finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Green Frog Energy Ltd at Whitley Road, Wallingford (centred on NGR: SU 59649 88944; see Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to meet a condition of the planning permission (P13/S3960/FUL) for the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a planning brief for the archaeological evaluation prepared by Joanne Robinson, the Assistant Archaeological Officer (AAO) to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Joanne Robinson. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the OCC Archaeological Brief, 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). It was monitored by Joanne Robinson.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is 0.4152 ha, and comprises level, vacant open land within an industrial estate. The site lies at approximately 50m above Ordnance datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology to the north of the site is Sandstone with superficial deposits of alluvium. To the south of the site, the bedrock is chalk, also with superficial deposits of alluvium.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential. It lies approximately 780m WSW of the Saxon walled town of Wallingford, a burgh constructed during the reign of Alfred the Great. The town of Wallingford was also the site of an important early Medieval Castle and crossing point of the River Thames during the period known as the "Anarchy". The defences of the town are part of a scheduled monument (SM 182).

- 2.2 The proposed site is also located in an area of known prehistoric and Roman activity, identified from aerial photographs and previous archaeological investigations (OCC Archaeological Brief 2015). An area of later Prehistoric or Roman settlement has been identified from aerial photographs to the north-west of the site which consists of a series of enclosures and track ways. A continuation of the track way system has also been recorded from aerial photographs 200m south of the proposal area, and recent photographs highlight that a track way continues along the southern boundary of the site parallel to Bradford's Brook. This track way was recorded during a geophysical survey and in a trial trench evaluation some 300m south-east of Thames Park ahead of a planning application. The same evaluation also recorded a complex of archaeological features consisting of Bronze Age round barrows and beaker burials, Iron Age and Roman settlement as well as a probable Saxon burial. A square enclosure has also been identified 300m south of the site. During an evaluation 160m to the east of the proposal site, a medieval ditch was recorded in two trenches. An evaluation undertaken to the north-east of the proposal site recorded a number of undated domestic features including linear features, pits and a possible posthole.
- 2.3 Most recently, an evaluation was undertaken immediately west of the site which recorded linear features, thought to represent field systems and enclosures. The features were generally undated, but artefacts recovered may date some of the features to the Roman and Medieval periods. The site has had little or no modern development and it is therefore possible that further aspects of prehistoric, Roman and Medieval settlement may survive within its footprint.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the potential 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). Such information will be used to enable the AAO for OCC (archaeological advisor to SODC) 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 fieldwork comprised the excavation of 1 no. x 30m x 2m trench as agreed with Joanne Robinson, AAO for OCC. 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*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator (JCB) 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. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental 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*.
- 4.4 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 Oxfordshire Museums under accession number OXCMS: 2015.29. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 1-4)

- 5.1 One 30m (non-targeted trench; TR1) was excavated using a JCB with a smooth ditching bucket. No archaeological remains were encountered, although a possible palaeo-channel (orientated on a NW/SE axis) was recorded. No finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation. The natural on the site was sealed by a layer of light/mid brown silt/clay alluvium indicating that the Site has in the past been prone to periodic flooding.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features were identified during the course of the evaluation, other than a possible palaeo-channel from which no dateable material was recovered.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Kennedy assisted by Tom Hackett. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Ray Kennedy, and prepared for deposition by Andrew Donald. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex who also edited this report.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 23 February 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Whitley Road, Off Lester Way, Wallingford: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

OCC Archaeological Brief 2015, Whitley Road Wallingford (Joanne Robinson)

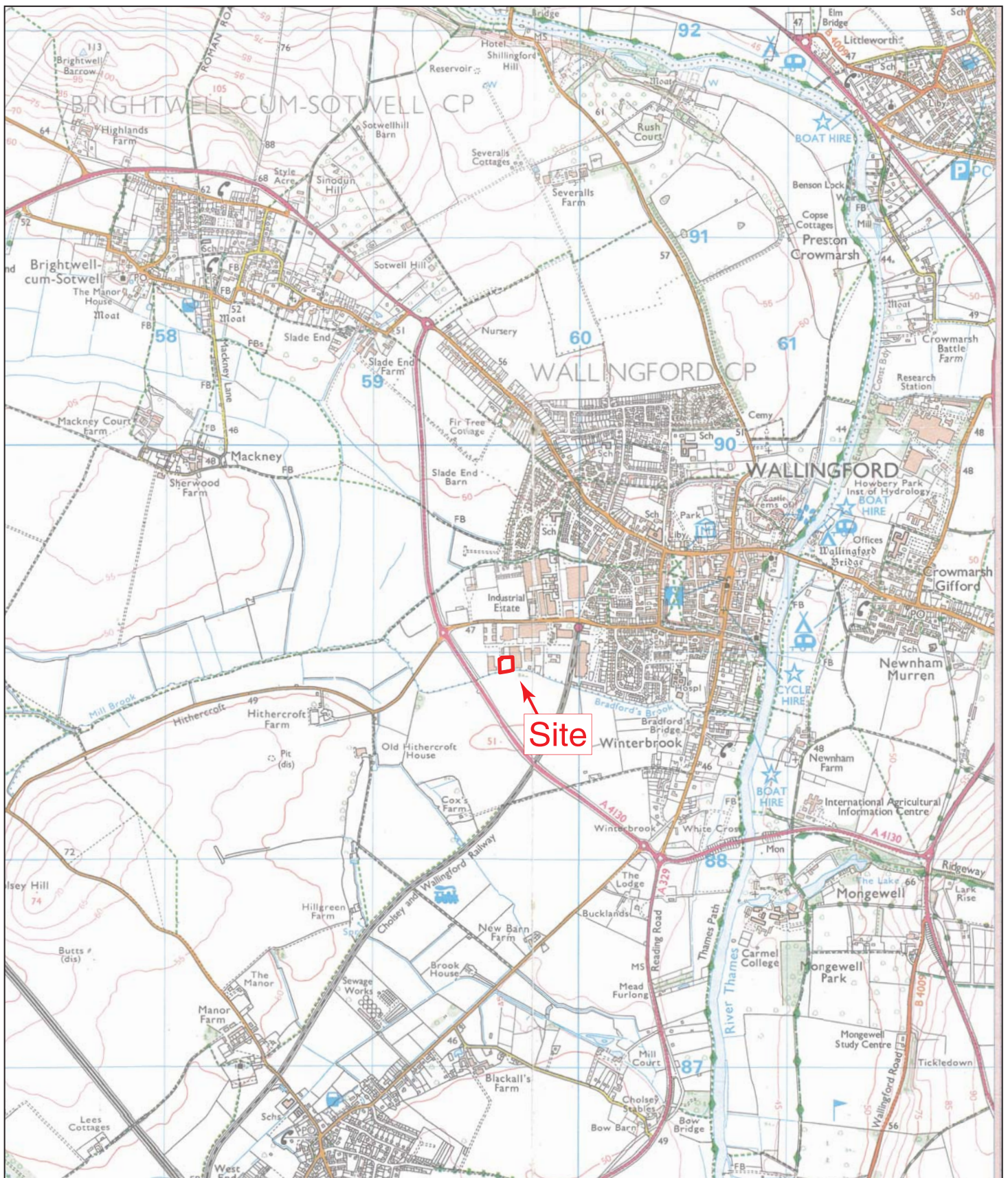


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|------------|-------------|-------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 100 | Layer | Topsoil | Dark brown silty loam with no inclusions, friable, grass rooting throughout | 30 | 1.5 | 0-0.28m |
| 1 | 101 | Layer | Alluvium | Light/mid brown silty clay, compact, rare abundance of sub-rounded stone inclusions <30mm | 30 | 1.5 | 0.28-0.50m |
| 1 | 102 | Layer | Natural | Light yellowish brown sandy clay compact but slightly friable, some gravel patches with sub-angular stone inclusions inc <30mm | 30 | 1.50 | 0.50-0.60m |
| 1 | 103 | Cut | Paleochannel | Cut of a possible paleo-channel | | | |
| 1 | 104 | Fill | Fill of [103] | Light greyish brown, friable, flint and stone inclusions, sandy clay possible natural, may also be the fill of a paleo-channel | | | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | |
|---|---|
| Project Name | Whitley Road, Off Lester Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on the 23 rd of February at Whitley Road, Wallingford. One trench was excavated and recorded during the course of the evaluation. Thee 30m long, non-targeted trench was excavated, recorded and backfilled. No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, other than a possible palaeo-channel, which was orientated on a NW/SE axis. No finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation. |
| Project dates | 23 rd February 2015 |
| Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc) | Archaeological Evaluation |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | None |
| Future work | No further work required |
| PROJECT LOCATION | |
| Site Location | Whitley Road, Off Lester Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 0.4152 ha |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SU 59649 88944 |
| PROJECT CREATORS | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology |
| Project Brief originator | Oxfordshire County Council |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology |
| Project Manager | Richard Greatorex |
| Project Supervisor | Ray Kennedy |
| MONUMENT TYPE | None |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | None |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | Oxfordshire Museums |
| | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) None |
| Physical | None |
| Paper | Context sheets, plans |
| Digital | Digital photos/survey plans etc |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015, Whitley Rd, Off Lester Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 660426 | |



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PROJECT TITLE

Whitley Road, Off Lester Way, Wallingford
 Oxfordshire

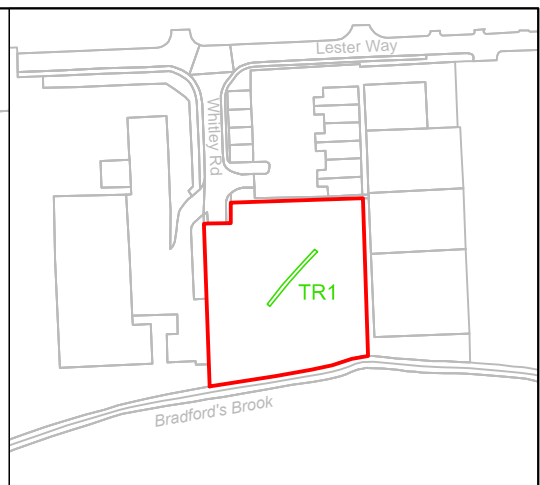
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan



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| DRAWN BY | AO | PROJECT NO. | 660426 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | JB | DATE | 27/02/2015 | |
| APPROVED BY | RG | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | 1 |



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- geological feature
- field drain



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 geological and modern features

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| APPROVED BY RG | SCALE@A3 1:300 | |

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3

3 Trench 1 looking south-west (1m and 2m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| <i>DRAWN BY</i> | AO | <i>PROJECT NO.</i> | 660426 | <i>FIGURE NO.</i> | 3 |
| <i>CHECKED BY</i> | JB | <i>DATE</i> | 27/02/2015 | | |
| <i>APPROVED BY</i> | RG | <i>SCALE@A4</i> | NA | | |



4 North-west facing section of Trench 1 (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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 APPROVED BY RG SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

4