

Highland's Farm Henley-Upon-Thames Oxfordshire

Preliminary Palaeolithic and Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation



for Agent/Client

> on behalf of Client

CA Project: 770290 CA Report No.: 15863 FWS Ref.: CC-088

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Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Highland's Farm Henley-Upon-Thames Oxfordshire

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Highlands Farm
Location:	Henley-upon-Thames
NGR:	SU 7424 8133
Туре:	Palaeolithic Test Pits
Date:	3 – 5 November 2015
Planning Reference:	Pending
SMC:	
Location of Archive:	Oxford Museums Service
Accession Number:	Pending
Site Code:	HFHU15

A Palaeolithic Test Pit evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology and Southampton University in November 2015 at Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Eight test pits were excavated as a preliminary investigation of the nature of Pleistocene deposits surviving at the site, and their Palaeolithic artefact content. The results from these test pits were combined with the results from previous geo-technical and geo-archaeological investigations to create a preliminary Palaeolithic deposit model for the site. Six areas were defined, 1-5, and 2a.

Area 1 and 3 are areas of higher potential, where undisturbed deposits of Black Park Gravel are present. These deposits were shown to contain moderately common flint artefacts in places, and at certain horizons; although parts of the deposit did not contain abundant artefacts. The artefacts were mostly moderately-abraded, suggesting some history of disturbance. Nonetheless, these remains are of moderately high Palaeolithic importance due (a) to their great antiquity, and (b) because, despite not reflecting entirely-undisturbed activity horizons, they do however reflect activity in the area of the site contemporary with the Black Park Gravel formation.

No handaxes were found in the fieldwork, despite their reported abundance in previous work at the site. This suggests there may be horizons at the site, not as-yet investigated, where handaxes may be present (and perhaps abundant).

Areas 2 and 2a were previously-quarried areas where basal remnants of Black Park Gravel remained *in situ* in places, and also occasional patches of deeper unquarried deposits.

Areas 4 and 5 seemed to be dominated by re-worked deposits of Black Park Gravel, and are regarded on present evidence as of lesser Palaeolithic importance/potential.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological test pit evaluation with Dr. Francis Wenban-Smith (Southampton University) for CgMs Consulting Limited at Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR SU 7424 8133; Fig. 1). The Test Pits were undertaken to assist in in the planning application which is to be submitted to the South Oxford District Council (SODC), the local planning authority for the residential redevelopment of the site.
- 1.2 The Test Pit Evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Method Statement for Archaeological Test Pits (CA/SU 2015a) in conjunction with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA/SU (2015b) and approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for the Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET) at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 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 scope of the investigation was also informed by a Heritage Desk-based Assessment produced in 2011 (CA 2011) and a bore hole survey (Arca/CA 2015). The test pit evaluation was proposed as an initial stage of investigation to help further understand the significance of any deposits present.
- 1.3 This report presents the results of the test pit evaluation. These were used to divide the site into six areas of differing Palaeolithic character and potential (Areas 1, 2, 2a, 3, 4 and 5), and to inform development proposals in regard of potential subsequent strategies of selective further evaluation and mitigation. Details of these are also provided in the body of this report.
- 1.4 Fieldwork was undertaken between 3rd and 5th November, and was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology with assistance from Francis Wenban-Smith (Palaeolithic specialist, University of Southampton).
- 1.5 This report has been mostly prepared by Francis Wenban-Smith, with substantial assistance from Cotswold Archaeology.

The site

- 1.6 The site is approximately 7.3ha in size and is located on the plateau of a spur of the Chiltern Hills about 2 km west of the River Thames. A belt of arable land separates the site from the urban conurbation of Henley-on-Thames. The site is a brownfield site on and around the old workings of a gravel extraction quarry. The quarry itself has been partially backfilled and lies at c.75m OD. The surrounding hard standing and landscaped verges are slightly higher lying at c.76.6m OD and occupied by brick buildings of the farm and old quarry, and wooden cabins. The topography dips sharply to the west along the western boundary otherwise it is fairly flat lying.
- 1.7 The British Geological Survey (BGS) map the site as lying on superficial deposits of the Black Park Gravel Member (BPGM) laid down in the Anglian stage of the Middle Pleistocene between 480,000-425,000 BP. The lithology of the gravel member is described as "Horizontally stratified, matrix-supported gravel with thin tabular crossbedded sand channels. Gravel assemblage is characterised by abundant angular flint (75-89%), sparse rounded flint (3-9%), sparse vein quartz (4-10%) and sparse quartzite (1-6%)" (BGS 2015). The thickness of the gravel is described to range from one to six metres with an average of three.
- 1.8 The underlying bedrock is undifferentiated Chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Formation and Newhaven Formation and form part of the White Chalk Subgroup. These formations date from Turonian to Campanian Ages 93.9-73.1 my BP of the Late Cretaceous Epoch (BGS 2015).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site includes Highlands Farm Palaeolithic Site a scheduled monument (SM No. OX 254). The scheduled site is 150m by 24m and was discovered in 1895 in the quarry face. It has yielded several thousand Palaeolithic artefacts of Clactonian/Acheulean typology, located in a palaeo-channel of the Thames known as the Caversham Ancient Channel (Wymer 1961). This is a nationally important fossil relict of a late Anglian or early Hoxnian course of the Thames, and this is the sole, accessible exposure of the deposits. (Henley Site Capacity Assessment September 2011 p10; Cotswold Archaeology 2011 p3 and 4; Hey and Hind 2014; McNabb 2007).

- 2.2 The area of investigation therefore is located in an area of considerable potential immediately south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Highlands Farm Palaeolithic Site (SM 254; PRN 2182).
- 2.3 The Palaeolithic site is located on the Ancient Channel of the Thames between Henley and Caversham and developed on the Black Park gravel. The site consists of a considerable quantity of flint tools, probably created by *Homo heidelbergensis*, and deposited into the channel. The Palaeolithic site is thought to be late Anglian in origin (approximately 475,000 to 425,000 years old) and is the most prolific Palaeolithic site in the county and one of the 3 or 4 most prolific sites in Britain. Excavations by Wymer in 1975 and subsequent collecting by MacRae yielded over 3000 items, mostly flint flakes and cores, although more than 250 handaxes were also present. The current scheduled area only includes the former quarry face and further significant deposits of this period are likely to exist in other areas within this channel.
- 2.4 Evidence of the continuation of this channel and therefore the Palaeolithic site has been suggested by a second area of Palaeolithic flints recorded 450m north of the application site, at Hernes Farm Pit (PRN 12904). A further 11 handaxes, 3 unretouched flakes, 3 cores, 2 worked fragments and 11 retouched flakes were recorded during gravel workings on the site. Numerous single findspots of Palaeolithic flints have been recorded from the general area.
- 2.5 The site itself is located within the area of the former quarry and as such parts of the gravel has been removed from parts of the site however the south and SW part of the site, close to and around the current farm buildings, has not been previously quarried and as such could contain significant deposits related to the Palaeolithic site. In addition it is possible that not all areas within the former quarried area would have had all the gravel and sand deposits related to the fill of the ancient channel removed and further deposits of demonstrable equal significance could still survive in packets within this area.
- 2.6 Evidence from the Palaeolithic period is very rare, particularly for this period, and therefore this development has the potential to impact upon a site of considerable archaeological significance.

2.7 The Black Park Gravel Member is assessed as being of high archaeological potential and low palaeo-environmental potential. However it may have some palaeo-environmental potential but this is yet to be appropriately tested. It should be noted, however, that there is no history of large mammal fossil recovery. No artefacts were recovered from the borehole cores. The works undertaken to date (the ARCA works and the geotechnical site investigations) indicate that undisturbed Black Park Gravel survives across almost the entire site, apart from the obvious Quarry footprints.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the test pit evaluation were to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within those areas affected. The test pit evaluation report produced presents a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action. Principally the test pit evaluation report will be used to inform whether a further programme of archaeological investigation/mitigation maybe required more. The evaluation also aims to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be deemed appropriate.

Specific aims of the evaluation were to;

- To monitor the removal of the topsoil/subsoil and subsequent backfilling of the test pits
 - To identify and record the general nature of any remains (regardless of period) that might be present
 - Should any post-Palaeolithic archaeological features and/or horizons be exposed during the overburden removal, to identify their extent, nature and approximate date and ensure their preservation by record
 - To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present within the Pleistocene deposits
 - To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present

- To recover/record and Palaeolithic remains encountered, following the advice of the appointed Palaeolithic specialist
- To determine the presence/absence, nature and distribution of any other Pleistocene deposits as well as any Palaeolithic artefacts that might *b*e present
- Determine the level of modern disturbance that may have occurred as a result of quarrying in those areas previously identifed and in those areas of the site not identifed as previoulsy having been impacted upon.
- Determine the level of modern disturbance that may have occurred as a result of the current useage of the site
- Identify the presence and depth of the Black Park Gravel Member, from which the site wide potential for Lower Palaeolithic evidence can be evaluated.
- Consideration will be given to the suitability of any sediment units encountered for optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL) – sampling for this will be undertaken on site where appropriate

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 8 Palaeolithic Test Pits. All Test Pits were approximately 2m wide in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figures 1 and 2).
 - Test Pit One was moved to the south of its original location to avoid any impact to tree roots and to avoid blocking the main access route to site. During excavation plastic and concrete pipes were located and the Test Pit was adjusted accordingly.
 - Test Pit Two was moved to the north-east to avoid a mains water service, overhead power cables and a CAT Radio signal.

- Test Pit Three was moved to the east. The building immediately to the north of the test pit was an active business with two roller shutter doors in the south east corner of the building. The Test pit was again moved to avoid access issues.
- Test Pit Four was moved to the south due to difficulty of access for the Mechanical Excavator.
- Test Pit Five was unchanged.
- Test Pit Six was realigned north-west/south-east to avoid shipping containers and site debris.
- Test Pit Seven was moved to the east to avoid overhead power cables and to avoid blocking access to parked motor vehicles.
- Test Pit Eight was moved to the north to avoid excavating an access road.
- 4.2 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 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, 10 samples were taken. 9 were sieved on site but not retained. With the exception of Samples 6 and 8 all samples were 100 litres. Sample 6 was only 40 litres due to the lack of exposed material. Sample 8 (303) was a 20 litre sample retained for Clast Lithological Analysis. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation. All artefacts were retained by Dr Francis Winban Smith for further analysis.

4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover Office. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service under an accession number along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project is set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-4)

Stratigraphy, distribution of sediments and inferred depositional environments

5.1 Two groups (I-II) of Pleistocene deposits were found, as well as Modern Made Ground (M), Topsoil (To) and Chalk bedrock (Ch) (Table 1). Detailed descriptions of the sequence in each test pit and the attribution of individual beds to these deposit groups are given as an appendix (Appendix 1). Stratigraphic diagrams of five transects A, B, C, D and E are also given, showing the sequence of deposits across the site, and the correlations between the sequences in different test pits (Figures 2-4).

Sediment Group	Deposit + description	Period	Interpretive notes	Test pits
То	TOPSOIL. Current topsoil, capped by turf	Recent	-	1, 4.
Μ	MADE GROUND. Varied clay/silt/sand/gravel, often with hydrocarbon contamination and waste such as metalwork, bricks and concrete	Recent	Probably mostly resulting from quarry decommissioning and landscaping in the 1960s-1970s	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8.
II	BLACK PARK TERRACE, DISTURBED. Generally clayey/silty sand/gravel-rich deposits, often incorporating flint nodules and chalk- rich patches, and with intruding chalk-rich diapirs	Middle Pleistocene	Black Park Gravel deposits that are not quite <i>in situ</i> , and have been disturbed, reworked or de- structured by post-depositional processes such as slopewash and internal frost-heaving.	2, 4, 5.
1	BLACK PARK GRAVEL. Soft, loose and clean, sandy flint/quartzite gravel, with its base at <i>c</i> . 74m OD. This deposit group also includes instances of chalk diamict where the disturbed surface of the Chalk underlies Black Park Gravel [Eg. TP 1].	Middle Pleistocene	Undisturbed (or minimally disturbed) fluvial sands/gravels, from Caversham Ancient Channel, thought to date <i>c</i> . 500,000 to 400,000 BP	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8.
Ch	CHALK	Cretaceous	Ancient bedrock, >65,000,000 years old	3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

Table 1	Maior	sediment	arouns	(stratiora	nhic or	der	from	hase)
	wajoi	Seament	groups	Suaugia	ρι ιιο Οι	uer,	nom	vase,	,

Sieve-sampling and Palaeolithic finds

5.2 In total, 840 litres of gravel-rich sediments were sieved (**Table 2**). Sieving was focused on sand/gravel of the Black Park terrace (deposit I). Twenty-one flint artefacts were recovered from this deposit by sieving. One sample was also sieved from deposit group II, reworked Black Park Gravel deposit, which produced three flint artefacts. Finer details of the flints are given in **Table 3**.

				Sample/	Vol.			
Test pit	Sed Grp	Context	Deposit details	s	(lit.)	Finds summary		
1	I	103	CLAYEY/SILTY GRAVEL	<4>	100	Two flakes		
		104	SANDY GRAVEL	<5>	100	One flake		
2	-	-	-	-	I	-		
3	I	303	SANDY GRAVEL	<7> <9>	100 "	Three flakes Two flakes, one chunk		
	1	305	SANDY GRAVEL	<10>	100	Seven flakes		
4	II	402-b	SANDY GRAVEL	<1>	100	Three flakes (one of them dubious)		
	I	406	CLAY-SILTY/SANDY GRAVEL	<2>	100	One flake		
5	-	-	-	-	I	-		
6	-	-	-	-	-	-		
7	1	703	SANDY GRAVEL	<3>	100	Two flakes		
8	I	804	SANDY/CLAYEY GRAVEL	<6>	40	One core (just two flake removals)		

Table 2 Summary of sieve-sampling and finds recovery

Table 3 Palaeolithic artefact details [flake sizes: chips <2cm, small 2-5cm, medium 5-10cm and</th>large >10cm]

TP	Sed Grp	Context	Sample, Find	Artefact/s	Appearance	Condition	Notes
1	I	103	<4>	Two small flakes	Unstained, unpatinated	One of them in fresh condition, the other mod. well abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flakes
	1	104	<5>	One small flake	Unstained, unpatinated	Moderately abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flake

	-	Not in situ	-	Broken piece of a medium flake	Unstained, unpatinated	Fresh	Technologically undiagnostic waste flake, thought most likely to come from context 103
3	1	303	<7>	Two small flakes One medium flake	Slight patination in places, and stained pale grey	All moderately well abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flakes
			<9>	Two small flakes One broken chunk	Slight patination, pale grey stained	All moderately or well abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flakes
	I	305	<10>	Two small flakes Five medium flakes	Unstained, occasional spots of faint patination	The small flakes are moderately abraded, the medium flakes are moderately well abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flakes, three of them clearly hard- hammer struck
	-	Not in situ	-	One small flake	Grey with very slight spots of patination	Moderately well abraded	Undiagnostic waste flake, of Palaeolithic origin
4	II	402-b	<1>	One chip Two small flakes, one of them slightly dubious	Unstained, unpatinated	All moderately well abraded	The non-dubious flake is clearly hard-hammer struck; the chip is possibly soft- hammer struck and may be from handaxe thinning/shaping
		406	<2>	One medium flake	Unpatinated, slightly greenish- grey stained	Moderately well abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flake
7	1	703	<3>	One small flake One large flake	Unpatinated, very slight grey/green staining	Both moderately well abraded	Technologically undiagnostic waste flakes
			Δ.1	One medium flake, possibly utilised	Unstained, unpatinated	Moderately fresh condition	One clear sharp edge, with possible use-wear
8	1	804	<6>	One medium core, just under 10cm long	Cortex is well-abraded and mottled white/blue- grey; interior flint is unstained and unpatinated	Flake scars are moderately- abraded	An abraded and frost-fractured piece of a flint nodule, with two flakes removed at one end

Biological/palaeo-environmental remains

5.3 No biological or palaeo-environmental remains were encountered during the evaluation.

Clast lithological analysis

5.4 One sample was taken for clast lithological analysis (**Table 4**). The results are still pending (as of 15th Dec 2015).

Table 4 Sampling for clast lithological analysis (CLA)

Test pit	Context	Deposit	Sed Grp	Sample/s	Vol. (lit.)	Results
3	303	SANDY GRAVEL (BLACK PARK)	I	<8>	20	Pending

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Site formation, correlation and dating

6.1 As already defined there are two main deposits at the site : Black Park Gravel I and Black Park Gravel II. Black Park Gravel I comprise Fluvial Gravels of the Anglian period and therefore date to c. 450,000BP. The Black Park Gravel II deposit comprise similar gravels, but put simply these have been re-worked; the level of re-working of this deposit where it occurs across the site may vary quite considerably and this could reflect quite substantial later date variations within the Lower Palaeolithic range. Therefore at this stage of the investigation of the deposits on site, a more precise date for Black Park Gravel II cannot be provided other than to say that it is Lower Palaeolithic.

Lithic artefacts: recovery and depositional history

6.2 An overview of flint artefact recovery is provided below (**Table 5**). Flint artefacts were locally concentrated in the Black Park Gravel (deposit I), especially in the vicinity of Test Pit 3, which was the only investigation into what we now think to be the main body of surviving Black Park Gravel at the site . Their mostly moderately abraded condition suggests some degree of fluvial disturbance. No handaxes were found. It remains likely that the surviving gravel at the site does contain patches of less-transported evidence, including handaxes.

Table 5 Overview of Palaeolithic artefact recovery and technological/typological

 characteristics, by sediment group and test pit

Sediment group	Test pit	No. artefacts	Summary: condition and technological and typological details
II - Black Park Gravel (disturbed/reworked)	4	3	Three small waste flakes (one of them slightly dubious), all moderately-well abraded ; one of the flakes may be from handaxe-thinning/shaping, otherwise technologically undiagnostic
I - Black Park Gravel	1	3	Three small technologically undiagnostic waste flakes in varied conditions, ranging from fresh to moderately-well abraded
	3	13	Twelve technologically undiagnostic small-medium waste flakes, three of them clearly hard-hammer struck, and all moderately/well-abraded; also one indeterminate knapped chunk
	4	1	One technologically undiagnostic, chunky medium- size waste flake; had-hammer struck and moderately-well abraded
	7	3	Two technologically undiagnostic waste flakes, one large and one small, both of them moderately-well abraded; also one-medium sized flake with a long sharp edge that may have been utilised as a flake- tool
	8	1	One small-medium core, in moderately-abraded condition: an abraded/frost-fractured piece of a flint nodule with two flakes removed at one end, by alternating platform technique, with the scar of the first removal forming the platform for the next
Not in situ	1	1	One broken piece of a medium-size waste flake, in fresh condition; found in spoil, and thought to come from Black Park Gravel despite its fresh condition
	3	1	One small and technologically undiagnostic waste flake, moderately-well abraded; found in freshly- dug spoil, almost certainly from Black Park Gravel
TOTAL		26	

Presence of/potential for undisturbed Palaeolithic remains

6.3 There does not appear, on the basis of investigations undertaken thus far, to be any potential for the recovery of undisturbed land surfaces.

Significance, potential and approaches to further investigation

- 6.4 The Palaeolithic remains at the site consist of, in essence:
- concentrations of artefacts within different horizons of the Black Park Gravel (deposit I) ;
- extensive deposits of the Black Park terrace, with the fluvial gravel overlain and truncated in places by mixed/reworked deposits;
 - 6.5 The site can be divided into six areas of differing sediment character and Palaeolithic potential (**Figure 2**). These are summarised below (**Table 6**), along with suggested approaches to further evaluation and subsequent mitigation. A more-detailed outline strategy for mitigation is appended (**Appendix 2**), taking particular account of the presence at the site of a Scheduled Monument and SSSI. The deposits that are protected are currently poorly understood, and there would be considerable potential and therefore value in carrying out work on them as part of the overall site-wide mitigation which improves understanding of them, and at the same time presents on-site interpretation for the benefit of the community.

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 Table 6 Areas of Palaeolithic potential, and approaches to further investigation

Area	Palaeolithic potential	Description of area	Palaeolithic remains (proven/likely)	Approaches to further investigation
1	HIGH	Unquarried ground along N side of site, includes SSSI and Scheduled Monument, formed of undisturbed Black Park Gravel terrace deposits (deposit I)	No Palaeolithic remains are proven from these (to- date not yet investigated) deposits, but they are presumed likely to contain abundant remains, on the basis of them being a direct continuation of the quarried deposits to the south [Area 2].	It is suggested (see Appendix 2) that a valuable contribution to understanding and interpreting the site, and in particular the protected SSSI and SM, would be to clean and record a continuous (as far as possible, with due consideration for protected trees) east-west section along the N side of Area 2, collecting assemblages of well- provenanced artefacts.
2	MODERATE	The footprint of the old gravel quarry; this contains thin basal remnants of undisturbed gravel (deposit I) in many places, sometimes filling deep solution hollows/pipes. There are also areas of built-up made ground, as well as depressions infilled with made ground.	Gravel from within the quarried area produced numerous handaxes, many in fresh condition. Although few were well-provenanced, these seemed to be more abundant in the basal more sandy gravel, the lower part of which remains in the floor of the old quarry.	A watching brief on development activity would be a suitable approach to recovering further artefacts from remnant gravel deposits on the old quarry floor.
2a	MODERATE (HIGH?)	A small patch of high ground outcrops within the southern part of the old quarry footprint (as mapped in 1962), extending under a large present-day building. It is uncertain whether this is formed of made ground, or natural deposits.	If formed of made ground, then this area would be likely to contain underlying natural sand/gravel deposits (I) with Palaeolithic remains similar to those of Area 2. If natural, the deposits here would be sands/gravel (deposit I), and likely to contain abundant remains, on the basis of them being a direct continuation of the quarried deposits to the north [area 2].	It is impractical to investigate this area until demolition of the overlying building. After that, some further evaluation work needs to be carried out to investigate the presence/nature and Palaeolithic artefactual content of any natural deposits here, and if deposits of high potential are present an appropriate mitigating strategy needs to be developed.
3	HIGH	An area of unquarried ground formed predominantly of <i>in situ</i> Black Park Gravel terrace fluvial sand/gravel (deposit I). There are some buildings and services in this area, but most of the area is virgin terrain.	The geo-archaeological and geo-technical investigations carried out to-date indicate the presence of fluvial sand/gravel up to 3m deep across the area, with (at least in places) abundant flint artefacts.	It is suggested that some further field evaluation test pitting is carried out to define if there are any areas where artefacts are concentrated and/or if there are areas of good/poor deposit preservation. This work should then inform an integrated site-wide mitigation strategy that could involve further test pits and sieving for artefact recovery, or could involve excavation of a larger stepped trench to provide a better records of the deposits, alongside controlled artefact recovery from different stratigraphic horizons.

4	LOW?	This is an area of open unquarried ground in the southeast part of the site. It is likely to mostly remain undeveloped, although some housing may be built in its southeast part.	Limited evaluation work has taken place to-date. Records from the geo-archaeological TP 5 and geotechnical GTP 21 suggest the Black Park terrace deposits here may be more clayey and possibly more disturbed than in Area 3. Handaxes were found in the southern extension of the quarry just to the north of the east end of Area 4, so deposits containing Palaeolithic remains may be present in Area 4.	It is suggested that some further evaluation test pits are carried out in any part of Area 4 where development is proposed, to investigate the nature of any Pleistocene deposits present, and their Palaeolithic artefact content. The results of this work should then inform an integrated site-wide mitigation strategy that could involve further test pits and sieving for artefact recovery, or could involve excavation of a larger stepped trench alongside controlled artefact recovery from different stratigraphic horizons encountered.
5	LOW	This is an area of unquarried ground at the west side of the site, bending round to form its southwest corner. It is mostly covered by existing buildings. The ground surface here is lower than the rest of the site, dipping down into the head of a dry valley system that feeds east past the southern side of the site.	The geo-archaeological and geotechnical work to- date suggests that the deposits here are formed of reworked Black Park Gravel deposits (deposit group II), dipping/mobilising down into the dry valley system. No artefacts were found in geo-arch TP 2, and the deposits encountered there seemed of low Palaeolithic potential.	No further work is suggested for this area.

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APPENDIX A: TEST PIT SUMMARIES

Site:	Highland's Far	m				Test-pit	1
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			1
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evalua	Date:	4 th Nov 2015		
Dimensions:	Length (m) 3.	00	Co-ords	East:	474140	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 2.	00	(NGR)	North:	181355	m OD:	76.29
	Depth (m) 1.	80					

Sed	Contort	Description	Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.	Lidhia fin da	Enviro
group	Context	Description	-top	- base	<>	(111.)	Lithic finas	remains
То	101	TOPSOIL/TURF.	0	0.22	-	-	-	-
	102	CLAYEY/SANDY SUBSOIL. Dark yellowish-brown clay/silt/sand with common flint pebbles, and numerous small fragments of CBM and bitumen. <i>Diffuse junction, sub-horizontal</i>	0.22	0.40	-	-	-	-
I	103	CLAYEY/SILTY GRAVEL. Moderately soft, cohesive clayey/silty/sandy M-VC gravel; mostly flint clasts, but c. 15% well-rounded brown quartzite clasts 2- 12cm. <i>Diffuse junction, sub-horizontal</i>	0.40	1.05	<4>	100	Two flakes	None
	104	SANDY GRAVEL. Soft/loose pale yellowish-brown moderately sorted M- VC flint/quartzite gravel in M-C sand matrix; relatively high proportion of quartzite clasts, maybe >20%. Sharp junction, very uneven	1.05	1.40	<5>	100	One flake	None
Ι	105	CHALK DIAMICT. Moderately firm, friable very pale brown chalk silt with densely-packed sub-angular to moderately-rounded chalk pebbles	1.40	1.80	-	-	-	-



Test pit 1, looking SSW

Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames Palaeolithic & Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

Site:	Highland's Far	m				Test-pit	2
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			Ĺ
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evalua	tion		Date:	5 th Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 4.0	00	Co-ords	East:	474123	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.9	90	(NGR)	North:	181315	m OD:	75.96
	Depth (m) 3.0	00					

Sed			Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.		Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(<i>lit</i> .)	Lithic finds	remains
	201	ASPHALT.	0	0.07	-	-	-	-
		Sharp junction, horizontal						
	202	SAND/GRIT. Dark grey, moderately	0.07	0.20	-	-	-	-
		soft/loose sand/grit.						
		Sharp junction, undulating/sub-horizontal						
	203	CLAYEY SAND/GRAVEL. Strong	0.20	0.26	-	-	-	-
M		brown clayey sand/gravel.						
		Sharp junction, sub-horizontal						
	204	CLAYEY/SILTY SAND/GRAVEL.	0.26	0.35	-	-	-	-
		Brown, cohesive poorly sorted flint gravel						
		in clay/silt/sand matrix, with occasional						
		pieces of charcoal up to 2cm size.						
		Sharp junction, undulating/sub-horizontal						
	205	CLAYEY GRAVEL. Strong brown, well-	0.35	1.04	-	-	-	-
		consolidated, very poorly sorted,						
		moderately-conesive F-VC flint gravel,						
		with common fint nodules up to 20cm,						
		In sandy (VF) clay-silt matrix.						
	206	CLAN SH TX/CDANELLY SAND	1.04	1.00				
	206	CLAI-SILII/GRAVELLI SAND. Baddish brown mod firm/achasiya	1.04	1.90	-	-	-	-
		variably clayov/silty F M cond with						
		gravel rich patches						
п		Diffuse junction uneven/sub-horizontal						
	207	CLAY-SILTY SAND/GRAVEL Mod	1.90	2 55				
	207	consolidated slightly cohesive reddish-	1.70	2.33				
		brown very poorly sorted M-VC flint						
		gravel, with common small cobbles and						
		flint nodules up to 25cm, in variably clay-						
		silty M-C sand matrix.						
		Sharp junction, very uneven						
	208	CHALK DIAMICT. Dry white/cream	2.55	3.00	-	-	-	-
		crumbly chalk rubble in chalk silt matrix						
		with common fresh flint nodules			L			



Test pit 2, WSW-facing

Site:	Highland's Far	m				Test-pit	2
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			3
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evalua	ntion		Date:	5 th Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 4.	00	Co-ords	East:	474206	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.	90	(NGR)	North:	181300	m OD:	76.49
	Depth (m) 2.	60					

Sed			Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.		Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(lit.)	Lithic finds	remains
	301	CONCRETE SLAB. Sharp junction, horizontal	0	0.18	-	-	-	-
Μ	302	CLAYEY GRAVEL. Mod. soft brown clayey flint gravel with occasional pieces of red brick. Sharp junction, undulating/sub-horizontal	0.18	0.25	-	-	-	-
	303	SANDY GRAVEL. Soft/loose, moderately well-sorted, yellowish-brown F-C gravel (mostly flint clasts, but c. 5-10% quartzite), with bedding foresets c. 15cm thick dipping shallowly E (in section). <i>Diffuse even junction, dipping very</i> <i>shallowly east</i>	0.25	1.00	<7> <8>* <9>	100 20 100	Three flakes None Three flakes	None None None
I	304	CLAY-SILTY/SANDY GRAVEL. Patch of strong brown very poorly sorted F-VC flint gravel with common small cobbles in clayey silt/sand matrix. <i>Moderately sharp/even junction, dipping</i> <i>very shallowly east</i>	1.00	1.60	-	-	-	-
	305	SANDY GRAVEL. Moderately well- sorted, strong brown flint/quartzite gravel in M-C sand matrix, with increasingly common larger clasts in bottom part. <i>Sharp uneven junction, sub-horizontal</i>	1.60	2.40	<10>	100	Seven flakes	None
Ch	306	CHALK DIAMICT. Dry white/cream chalk silt/rubble with common flint nodules	2.40	2.60	-	-	-	-

*Gravel sample for clast lithological analysis



Test pit 3, NW-facing

Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames Palaeolithic & Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

Site:	Highland's Far	m				Test-pit	4
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			4
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evalua	ation		Date:	3 rd Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 4.	00	Co-ords	East:	474260	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.	90	(NGR)	North:	181266	m OD:	76.38
	Depth (m) 2.	60					

Sed		D	Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.	Lithic	Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(<i>lit.</i>)	finds	remains
То	401	TURF/TOPSOIL.	0	0.28	-	-	-	-
	402-a	GRAVEL. Intermittent patches of densely-packed, poorly-sorted F-VC flint gravel, clast-supported. <i>Diffuse junction, pockets above 402-b</i>	0.28	0.40	-	-	-	-
11	402-b	SANDY GRAVEL. Intermittent patches of soft/loose, moderately-sorted VF-M flint gravel in M-C sand matrix, generally strong/brown. <i>Sharp uneven junction</i>	0.40	0.60	<1>	100	Two flakes + one ?flake	None
	404	SANDY CLAY-SILT. Firm, brown/reddish- brown slightly sandy (VF-F) clay-silt; occurs as patch between two patches of 402-b. <i>Diffuse junction, grading down into 406</i>	0.60	1.10	-	-	-	-
	406	CLAY-SILTY/SANDY GRAVEL. Moderately- consolidated, cohesive poorly-sorted VF-VC flint gravel in clayey/silty VF-VC sand matrix, generally strong brown. <i>Sharp very uneven junction, forming deep pockets</i> <i>between diapirs of 405</i>	1.10	2.30	<2>	100	One flake	None
	403	CLAY-SILTY/SANDY GRAVEL. Patch at west end of trench that is probably equivalent to 406, with its top part consisting of reddish-brown slightly silty M-C sand. Sharp very uneven junction, forming deep pockets between diapirs of 405	0.80	2.30	-	-	-	-
	405	CHALK DIAMICT. Moderately-firm friable pale- brown chalk silt with densely-packed chalk pebbles, becoming larger downward. <i>Diffuse junction, sub-horizontal</i>	2.30	2.50	-	-	-	-
Ch	407	CHALK BEDROCK (DEGRADED SURFACE). Dry white crumbly Chalk.	2.50	2.60	-	-	-	-



Test pit 4, NW-facing

Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames Palaeolithic & Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

Site:	Highland's Far	m				Test-pit	5
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			3
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evalua	ation		Date:	3 rd Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 4.	00	Co-ords	East:	474336	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.	90	(NGR)	North:	181263	m OD:	77.02
	Depth (m) 2.	65					

Sed			Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.		Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(lit.)	Lithic finds	remains
	501	TURF, ON PEA GRAVEL.	0	0.12	-	-	-	-
		Sharp junction, horizontal						
м	502	STONY EARTH. Dark greyish-brown	0.12	0.30	-	-	-	-
		clayey/silty sand common flint						
		pebbles/cobbles and pieces of red brick.						
	502	Sharp junction, sub-horizontal	0.20	0.00	-			
	503	SION Y/CLAYEY SIL1. Moderately-	0.30	0.80	-	-	-	-
		with common flint pebbles and flint						
		nodules up to 15cm						
		Diffuse junction, wavy/sub-horizontal						
	504	STONY/SANDY CLAY-SILT.	0.80	1.60	-	-		
		Moderately-soft, cohesive, strong brown						
		sandy clay-silt with common flint pebbles						
II		and occasional small cobbles.						
		Sharp very uneven junction, , forming						
	505	deep pockets between diapirs of 505	1.0	2.40	-			
	505	CHALK DIAMIC I. Moderately-soft,	1.60	2.40	-	-	-	-
		(VE-E) chalk silt with common E-VC						
		chalk pebbles becoming larger and more						
		densely-packed downward.						
		Diffuse junction, sub-horizontal						
Ch	506	CHALK BEDROCK (DEGRADED	2.40	2.65	-	-		
		SURFACE). Dry white crumbly Chalk		L			<u> </u>	<u> </u>



Test pit 5, SW-facing

Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames Palaeolithic & Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

Site:	Highland's Far	m				Test-pit	6
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			0
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evaluation	tion		Date:	3 rd Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 5.	00	Co-ords	East:	474448	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.	90	(NGR)	North:	181302	m OD:	75.06
	Depth (m) 2.	50					

Sed			Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.		Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(<i>lit</i> .)	Lithic finds	remains
	601	CONCRETE SLAB.	0	0.15	-	-	-	-
Μ	602	BLACK SILTY SAND/GRIT. Sharp junction, horizontal	0.15	0.28	-	-	-	-
I	603	GRAVEL. Horizontal beds of soft/loose, well-sorted sandy gravel/gravelly sand, generally yellowish-brown/strong brown, but with coarser bed towards base stained dark purple (Mn oxidation) <i>Mostly a sharp sub-horizontal junction at</i> <i>c. 74.50m OD, but fills a deep V-shaped</i> <i>pocket down to below 73m OD.</i>	0.28	0.90	-	-	-	-
Ch	604	CHALK DIAMICT. Moderately-firm, uncohesive very pale brown chalk silt with densely-packed chalk pebbles/cobbles, with moderately common globular flint nodules 10-15cm size.	0.90	2.50	-	-	-	-



Test pit 6, N-facing

Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames Palaeolithic & Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

Site:	Highland's Far	Highland's Farm			Test-pit	7	
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			1
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evaluation	ation		Date:	4 th Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 4.	00	Co-ords	East:	474244	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.	90	(NGR)	North:	181347	m OD:	74.74
	Depth (m) 2.	00					

Sed			Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.		Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(lit.)	Lithic finds	remains
м	701	ASPHALT. Very dark grey asphalt, unconsolidated in bottom part Sharp junction, horizontal	0	0.20	-	-	-	-
	702	GRAVEL. Yellowish/brownish-grey pea- gravel. Sharp junction, undulating/sub-horizontal	0.20	0.38	-	-		-
1	703	SANDY GRAVEL. Strong brown/reddish-brown poorly-sorted flint/quartzite gravel in slightly clay-silty C-VC sand matrix. <i>Mostly a sharp sub-horizontal junction at</i> <i>c. 74.20m OD, but fills a deep pipe c. 1m</i> <i>across at the top, the bottom of which was</i> <i>not reached, but continues down to below</i> 72.75m OD.	0.38	0.55	<3>	100	Two flakes in sample; plus one flake, possibly a utilised flake-tool, found <i>in situ</i> in section (Δ .1)	None
Ch	704	CHALK DIAMICT. Well-consolidated, white/cream (sl. yellowish in places) chalk silt with densely-packed chalk pebbles/cobbles.	0.55	2.00	-	-	-	-



Test pit 7, E-facing

Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames Palaeolithic & Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

Site:	Highland's Far	Highland's Farm			Test-pit	0	
Site-code (Client):	770290	CAH	OR code:	-088			0
Site sub-div:	Preliminary ge	o-arch	field evalua	ation		Date:	4 th Nov 2015
Dimensions:	Length (m) 4.	00	Co-ords	East:	474367	Ground level,	
	Width (m) 1.	90	(NGR)	North:	181331	m OD:	75.19
	Depth (m) 1.	25					

Sed			Depth	Depth	Samples	Vol.		Enviro
group	Context	Description	- top	- base	<>	(lit.)	Lithic finds	remains
	801	CONCRETE SLAB.	0	0.15	-	-	-	-
	802	ASPHALT. Very dark grey asphalt, unconsolidated in bottom part Sharp junction, wavy/horizontal	0.15	0.36	-	-	-	-
IVI	803	CLAYEY/SANDY GRAVEL. Yellowish/greyish-brown clayey/silty/sandy gravel with occasional pieces of red brick. Sharp junction, undulating/horizontal	0.36	0.65	-	-	-	-
1	804	SANDY/CLAYEY GRAVEL. Strong brown (sl. reddish/yellowish), poorly sorted flint/quartzite gravel; upper part is moderately soft and loose, with a sand (M) matrix, whereas lower part is well- consolidated and cohesive, with a sandy (F-M) clay-silt matrix. Sharp junction, undulating/horizontal	0.65	0.95	<6>	40	One small/medium crude core, with just a couple of flakes removed at one end	-
Ch	805	CHALK DIAMICT. Firm, dry white/cream chalk silt with densely- packed chalk pebbles/cobbles, and occasional fresh flint nodules.	0.95	1.25	-	-	-	-



Test pit 8, NW-facing

APPENDIX B: APPENDIX B MITIGATION STRATEGY FOR SM AND SSSI (PENDING)

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name	Highland's Farm, Henley – Upon – Thames, Oxon., Palaeolithic and Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation
Short description (250 words maximum)	A Palaeolithic Test Pit evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology and Southampton University in November 2015 at Highland's Farm, Henley-Upon-Thames, Oxfordshire.
	Eight test pits were excavated as a preliminary investigation of the nature of Pleistocene deposits surviving at the site, and their Palaeolithic artefact content. The results from these test pits were combined with the results from previous geo-technical and geo-archaeological investigations to create a preliminary Palaeolithic deposit model for the site. Six areas were defined, 1-5, and 2a.
	Area 1 and 3 are areas of higher potential, where undisturbed deposits of Black Park Gravel are present. These deposits were shown to contain moderately common flint artefacts in places, and at certain horizons; although parts of the deposit did not contain abundant artefacts. The artefacts were mostly moderately-abraded, suggesting some history of disturbance. Nonetheless, these remains are of moderately high Palaeolithic importance due (a) to their great antiquity, and (b) because, despite not reflecting entirely-undisturbed activity horizons, they do however reflect activity in the area of the site contemporary with the Black Park Gravel formation.
	No handaxes were found in the fieldwork, despite their reported abundance in previous work at the site. This suggests there may be horizons at the site, not as-yet investigated, where handaxes may be present (and perhaps abundant).
	Areas 2 and 2a were previously-quarried areas where basal remnants of Black Park Gravel remained <i>in situ</i> in places, and also occasional patches of deeper unquarried deposits.
	Areas 4 and 5 seemed to be dominated by re-worked deposits of Black Park Gravel, and are regarded on present evidence as of lesser Palaeolithic importance/potential.
Project dates	03.11.15 – 05.11.15
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Palaeolithic Test Pit Evaluation
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	CA 2011 – DBA ARCA 2015 – Borehole Survey
Future work	Potential further evaluation/mitigation
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Highland's Farm, Henley – Upon – Thames, Oxon
Study area (M ² /ha)	3.4ha
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	NGR SU 7424 8133
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	
Project Design (VVSI) Originator	
Project Supervisor	nicitaru Grealorex (CA) Dr. Francis Wenhan-Smith/ Adam Howard
MONUMENT TYPE	SM/SSSI I ower Palaeolithic - Anglian Gravels
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Palaeolithic Struck flakes

PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final locat (museum/Accession no	ion of arcl ɔ.)	nive Oxfordshire Museums Service	
Physical			Struck Flint	
Paper			Context sheets, matrices etc/plans/sections	
Digital			Database, digital photos etc database	
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Highland's Farm, Henley – Upon – Thames, Oxon., Palaeolithic and Geo- Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation. CA typescript report 15863				











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Highlands Farm, Harpsden Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Site plan showing palaeolithic areas and transects based on results from test pits, geotechnical pits, boreholes, window samples and DBA findspots

DRAWN BY	RJH	PROJECT NO.	770290	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB 15/12/15	REVISION SCALE@A3	00 1:1500	02



		кеу
	То	topsoil, turf
	Μ	modern made ground
	т	"black park" terrace in geo-tech reports
II	-+	reworked / de-structured terrace deposit
Ι	0	fluvial sand / gravel
П	Δ	chalk diamict
Ch∫	Δ	degraded surface of chalk bedrock
	С	chalk bedrock

No.	Cotsv Archa	wold aeology	Andover 01264 3476 Cirencester 01285 7 Exeter 01392 82618 Milton Keynes 0190 w www.cotswoldarcha e enquiries@cotswold	330 71022 5 8 564660 leology.co.uk Jarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE Highland	d's Fa	rm, Henle	ey-upon-Th	ames
Oxforasi	nire			
FIGURE TITLE Transec	ts A,	B and C		
DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	LJH DJB REG	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	770290 15/12/15 NOT TO SCALE	FIGURE NO.









mOD





* Lower deposit of WS09 is recorded as having "occ. carbonaceus material" - which would be odd for the basal terrace gravel - possibly a pit back-filled with made ground

Key

То	topsoil,	turf
То	topsoil,	turf

M modern made	ground
---------------	--------

т	"black park" terrace in geo-tech
	reports

II	-+	reworked / de-structured terrace deposit
Ι	O	fluvial sand / gravel

chalk diamict

Δ

degraded surface of chalk bedrock Δ Ch.

chalk bedrock С

Rei A	otswold archaeology	Andover 01264 3470 Cirencester 01285 7 Exeter 01392 82618 Milton Keynes 0190 w www.cotswoldarcha e enquiries@cotswold	630 171022 5 8 564660 aeology.co.uk darchaeology.co.uk		
PROJECT TITLE Highland's Farm, Henley-upon-Thames Oxfordshire					
FIGURE TITLE Transects D and E					
DRAWN BY L. CHECKED BY D APPROVED BY R	JH PROJECT NO JB DATE EG SCALE@A3	. 770290 15/12/15 NOT TO SCALE	FIGURE NO. 5		



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