Cotswold Archaeology

South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme, Thatcham West Berkshire

for
West Berkshire Council

on behalf of
Client

CA Project: AN0062
CA Report: AN0062_1

October 2019

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes Suffolk

South East Thatcham Flood Alleviation Scheme, Thatcham West Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: AN0062
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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	29.10.2019	A. Kowalska	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Flood Alleviation Scheme
Location:	Thatcham, West Berkshire
NGR:	452418 168286 Floral Way (Dunston Park); 452549 167315 South East Thatcham
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	22 July to 30 August 2019 and 11 September 2019
Planning Reference:	17/00182/COMIND Floral Way (Dunston Park); 17/03079/COMIND South East Thatcham
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with West Berkshire Museum
Site Code:	SETH19

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of flood defence system at Floral Way (Dunston Park) – Area 1, Dunstan Green – Area 2 and Land between Francis Baily and Kennet Schools – Area 3.

This report collates the results of the three watching brief areas. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks in Area 1. A possible field system was encountered within Area 2, though due to the limited scope of the investigations this could not be confirmed. Within Area 3, a drainage ditch, and remains of a metalled surface road were identified. The metalled surface runs parallel to the suggested alignment of Ermin Street, and may be a remnant of it, or it may be a yard surface in an area of boggy ground.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between July and September 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for West Berkshire Council at three locations (Fig.1): Land between Francis Baily and Kennet Schools and Land Adjacent to Dunstan Park, Thatcham West Berkshire (centred at NGR: 452549 167315); and at Land North of Floral Way, Opposite Foxglove Way, Thatcham, Berkshire (centred at NGR: 452418 168286). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil conditions attached to a planning consents (Planning ref: 17/00182/COMIND and 17/03079/COMIND) for a flood alleviation scheme comprising the construction of a flood detention basin, shallow swales, realignment of the existing ditches, series of strategically located bunds (earth embankments) and re-profiling a section of Harts Hill Road to divert flood water off the carriageway and into Dunstan Green.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority acting on the advice of Sarah Orr, Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Sarah Orr, including site visits on 16th of August, and the 11th of September 2019.

The site

1.3 The proposed development site consists of three separated areas. The first site, Area 1 is located at land to the north of Floral Way, Opposite Foxglove Way in Thatcham (Fig. 2, 3). Area 1 comprises an irregularly shaped parcel of land extending northwards from Floral Way and was located on agricultural land with ground levels gently rising towards north and north-west. It comprises three individual fields, a mixture of pasture and arable.

1.4 Area 2 (Fig. 2, 4) is currently in use as a playing ground (Dustan Green). The area lies on a plateau at *c*. 80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is located *c*. 1.3km north of the River Kennet and is situated within an urban development with allotments to the east, Harts Hill Road to the west and London Road to the south.

1.5 Area 3 (Fig. 2, 5) is situated on a south facing slope with the elevation falling from *c.* 75m aOD at the northern extent to c. 65m aOD west of Thatcham House. Area 3 is

approximately 530m north of the River Kennet and is situated within the river valley. Agricola Way marks the south boundary of the area. Immediately surrounding the area is a modern residential development with a school and leisure centre playing grounds comprising the western part of the area.

1.6 The underlying geology of Area 1 is mapped as London Clay Formation comprises poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. The superficial deposit is mapped as Bucklebury Common Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel. The superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2019).

1.7 The underlying geology of the eastern part of Area 2 is mapped as Lambeth Group consisted mainly of clay, some silty or sandy, with some sands and gravels. The bedrock geology formed approximately 48 to 59 million years ago in a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas (BGS 2019). According to BGS map, the western part of Area 2 lies on London Clay Formation. The deposit of London Clay was not recorded during the watching brief. The superficial deposit is mapped as Thatcham Gravel formed up in the Quaternary Period in local environment previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2019).

1.8 The British Geological Survey (BGS) shows the bedrock geology of Area 3 as the Lambeth Group - Clay, Silt and Sand. The geological bedrock formed approximately 48 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period in a local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. There are four bands of superficial deposits overlying the entirety of the Area 3, comprising Head deposits, Thatcham Gravel, Beenham Grange Gravel Member and Alluvial deposits (including clay, silt, sand and gravel) laid down approximately 3 to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of the results of a Heritage Desk Based Assessment and Written Scheme of Investigation of the site by CA (2014, 2017, and 2018a).

Prehistoric (to AD 43)

2.2 Archaeological evidence indicates that activity during the prehistoric period focused on the River Kennet, *c*. 2km from Area 1 and *c*. 530m from Area 3 to the south. The river would have served as an important communication channel and provided an abundance of natural resources, including fish and waterfowl.

2.3 The earliest evidence of the prehistoric period within the environs of the areas is representing by lithic scatters and isolated lithic finds, including Lower Palaeolithic material found from several locations within the study area during fieldwalking as part of the archaeological survey of the Lower Kennet Valley.

2.4 Excavations at Thatcham Reed, *c*. 2km to the south-west, have provided nationally important evidences for Mesolithic settlements. As the areas include gravel deposits, there is a low potential for finds associated with Mesolithic activity.

2.5 Later prehistoric activity, relating specifically to the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods, is widely recorded within the study area. Archaeological excavations at Hartshill Copse, *c*. 620m to the north-east of Area 1, revealed evidence for Late Bronze Age settlement, including remains of several post-built structures, fence lines and pits. Substantial quantities of iron slag and hammerscale, dated to the 10th century BC, provided the earliest evidence for iron working in Britain. A number of dispersed features found to the north of settlement, appeared to be associated with peripheral activities. Two cremation burials situated on a plateau overlooking the valley to the south were excavated and are possibly a part of larger cemetery. Furthermore, excavations at Dunston Park, *c*. 0.90m to the south of Area 1 reviled Iron Age settlement, including roundhouse with pits and postholes. Finds recorded within the vicinity of the settlement comprise a number of prehistoric flint flakes, and a series of probable Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age postholes.

2.6 Late Iron Age occupation was further attested at a number of locations investigated along the route of the Dunston Distributor Road. Approximately 480m to the west of Area 1, a series ditches, forming part of an enclosure, were found alongside an undated hearth and several pits containing Early Iron Age pottery. The remains of field systems were also identified. To the east of this, and approximately 200m to the west of Area 1, three interconnecting pits and a linear ditch were revealed, while further features found in this area appeared to represent two phases of settlement, dating to the Early Iron Age and the Late Iron Age/early Roman periods. Evidence for metalworking was also identified at several sites, including site at Cooper's Farm, *c*.590m to the west of the site, where a pit containing substantial quantities of slag was recorded.

Roman (AD 43-AD 410)

2.7 There are evidences for the Roman`s occupation and activity in the Thatcham area. The projected line of Ermin Street, the Roman road between Silchester and Speen, is to the south of the site along the modern A4. At Hartshill Copse, *c*.670m to the north-east of Area 1 numerous features including ditches, representing three phases of an enclosure with associated field systems, in addition to two iron smelting hearths and a ditch-defined trackway. This area appears to have been continuously occupied from the mid-1st century AD through to the mid-4th century. Further evidences for Roman activity were reviled across the southern part of Area 3. Cropmarks on aerial photographs suggest a complex roadside enclosures and linear features. The character and appearance of these cropmarks is suggested to be typical of remains of a former Roman field system.

2.8 Furthermore, numerous finds of Roman pottery were recovered from several locations with the study area during fieldwalking carried out as part of the Lower Kennet Valley Survey. While these finds point towards a general level of occupation within the landscape during this period, the assemblages are limited, and of insufficient density to draw any firm conclusions regarding their derivation.

Early medieval (AD 410 to 1066) and medieval (AD 1066 to 1539)

2.9 The settlement of Thatcham developed in the late Saxon period and became a royal manor of King Edgar about AD 965. Thatcham is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Taceham*, a very large settlement and royal estate.

2.10 The early medieval settlement is thought to have developed around the minster church recorded in the Domesday Survey. While no physical evidence of this early church has been identified, it is believed to have been located on the site of the present church of St Mary, *c*.900m to the south-west of Area 1, indicating that the site most likely fell within the hinterland of the settlement.

2.11 The manor of Thatcham was granted to Reading Abbey by the Crown in the 12th century. The town was laid out in the 13th century when the borough of Thatcham came into existence, and was centred on Broadway, some 1km to the south of the area of interest site. The subsequent growth of the town led to the foundation of a chapel dedicated to St Thomas in 1304, situated next to Area 2. The building served as the chapel of the Borough of Thatcham in the medieval period and became disused following the Dissolution.

2.12 The London to Bath Road (the present day A4), which traverses the southern part of the study Area 2 on east to west alignment is thought to be a routeway of historic origin, and was most likely established by the medieval period.

2.13 The available data indicates that during the early and later medieval periods, the areas would have been situated on the periphery of Thatcham. Area 1 and Area 2 were possibly located within agricultural hinterland of the town. Whereas Area 3, closer to the River Kent, was a marshland and permanent structures or settlement features are unlikely to have been located within this area.

Post-medieval (1540-1800) and modern (1800-present)

2.14 Following the dissolution of Reading Abbey 1539, the Borough and Manor of Thatcham was granted to Sir John Winchcombe. After several brief changes of ownership, the manor was sold in 1720 to Brigadier-General Waring, who subsequently constructed Dunston House. Dunston Park forming the grounds to the house was created through the enclosure of an extensive area of land which was formally planted and landscaped. Area 1 lies partially within the eastern boundary of the park, which appears to correspond with an extant tree-line boundary in the east of the site. The Dunston House was demolished in 1798 and the parkland was later divided and sold as separate lots.

2.15 A number of features are recorded within the park, including the formal tree lined approaches form the south-east and south-west, which adjoined a circular driveway

to the front of the house and can be seen approximately 60m to the south of Area 1 on aerial photographs. The investigations carried out prior to the modern development identified a number of features, comprising ponds, terraces, water channels and pathways, associated with the formal gardens immediately the north of the house. Aside from the tree-lined eastern park boundary, no other definite parkland features have been recorded within the site, although an undated earthwork at the western boundary has been suggested to represent a former boundary.

2.16 The Hartshill Farm, located to the south-east of Area 1 is first documented in the 19th century, although the barn range has been identified as being of possible 18th century origin.

2.17 The earliest cartographic evidence reviewed for this study is Rocque's 1761 Map of Berkshire (not illustrated). This illustrates the layout of Dunston Park, with Dunston House shown in the south-eastern part, surrounded to the south-west and northwest by landscaped gardens and formal pathways. The approximate location of Area 1 site is depicted within open grassland to the north-east of the house. No structures or parkland features are depicted in this area.

2.18 Area 1 is depicted in greater detail on the 1842 Thatcham Tithe Map. It is shown to strongly resemble its present form, with the majority situated across three large fields, with a small rectangular parcel in the area of existing paddocks in the south-east of the site.

2.19 The accompanying Tithe Apportionment records the land use within the site as being predominantly meadow, with a single field of orchard in the area of the present paddocks in the south. Some of the recorded fieldnames may also provide evidence of former land-use, with 'park meadow' in the west of the site referring to its location within Dunston Park. 'Barn meadow', recorded in the east of the site, may indicate the former presence of an agricultural building in this area.

2.20 The 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey map records minimal change within the Area 1, with the layout of the fields remaining almost identical to that displayed on the Tithe Map. The remainder of the study area is shown to be predominantly rural in nature, with the urban core of Thatcham largely located beyond the southern boundary.

2.21 Subsequent editions of Ordnance Survey mapping (1899, 1911, 1933; not illustrated) provide little further information with regard to the site. The field divisions depicted on the previous mapping have remained in use to the present day, excepting some minor alteration to the boundaries in the paddock area. The 1967 edition depicts a curvilinear drain extending into the west of the site, which appears to correspond with the alignment of an undated earthwork identified on aerial photographs.

Unknown

2.22 A curvilinear earthwork of unknown origin has been observed extending into the western part of the site on 21st century LiDAR data and recent aerial photographs. During the site visit, the feature was confirmed to be present as a low, wide earthen bank, which was most prominent in the area immediately to the west of the site. The feature could not be identified on the 20th century aerial photographs reviewed as part of this assessment, but can be discerned on aerial imagery dating from 2003 onwards. The feature has been suggested to represent a former boundary, possibly associated with the post-medieval Dunston Park, but is not illustrated on 18th or 19th century mapping. The presence of a drain in this location on the 1967 Ordnance Survey edition suggests that the feature may more likely be of modern origin.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

- 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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017 and 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising striping the topsoil, excavations of trenches for pipe routes, drain ditches, trenches for flooding structures, and excavation of the flood detention basin in Area 1.

4.2 The development work in Area 1, 2 and 3 started before the watching brief. Topsoil was stripped to a level of subsoil in Area 3; and to a level of colluvium and natural gravels in Area 1 and 2. Trenches for the flood defence system and drainage ditches were excavated prior to the watching brief. The extensions of these trenches were regularly monitored during the watching brief. The excavated trenches and ditches were surveyed, described and photographed during the first stages of the watching brief following standard procedures. All backfilled trenches and these already covered by modern concrete slabs were surveyed, photographed and the identifiable deposits recorded.

4.3 Prior to the ground work in the north-east part of Area 3, evaluation trenches were excavated and recorded to assess the potential archaeology. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches (*c.* 30m long and 1.85m wide), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 5). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual* (CA 2009).

4.4 All evaluation 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.

4.5 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.6 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.* All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.7 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 artefacts will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum, along with the site archive. 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 (FIGS 2-8)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief and evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendices A. The watching brief was carried out across Areas 1, 2, and 3. The evaluation was undertaken in the north-eastern part of Area 3 with the aim of mapping the extent of known archaeological deposits. The locations of two of the trenches were altered on site due to obstructions. The results below are summarised by Area.

Area 1 (Fig.2, 3)

5.2 The natural geological substrate varied across Area 1. The natural consisted of medium grey sandy clays with greenish grey/greyish green fine to medium sand bands. The layers were revealed in **Trenches 1.6**, **1.12**, **1.15**, and **1.18** at an average depth of 1.0m to 2.00m below present ground level. The deposit represents a possible weathered upper part of the London Clay Formation interstratified by glauconitic sandy bands.

5.3 The natural overlain by light brown to yellowish/greyish brown clayey sandy gravel to sandy silts. Flints dominate the gravels fraction with sub-angular to sub-rounded/rounded more common than angular flints. The sand fraction consisted

mostly of quartz and flints and the matrix of the gravel is often clayey with some addition of silt faction. The differences in percentage and sorting of gravel varies across the area and with depth. In the south-west part of Area 1, **Trenches 1.12**, **1.13**, **1.14**, and **1.15**, the well sorted gravely layers were interstratified by more sandy silt/sandy clay layers with rare gravel inclusions. Redox features were recorded throughout the sediments suggesting changing oxidation conditions. The average thickness of was between *c*. 1.0m – 1.0m. The sediments are more likely to be fluvial in origin and, according to BGS maps, are associated with the Bucklebury Common Gravel Member.

5.4 The gravely deposits were overlain by relatively homogenous, loose and fain-grained deposit. The texture of the deposit varied across the site and consisted of yellowish brown to greyish brown sandy silt/clay to silt/clay with occasional randomly distributed gravel. The thickness of the deposit ranges between 0.20m to 0.50m on average. The deposit is a possible hillwash (colluvium) moved from the adjacent slopes and deposited at the bottom of the small valley. The deposit was sealed by topsoil.

5.5 The topsoil across the entire site consisted of greyish brown silty clay with an average depth of 0.20m below the present ground level.

5.6 During the works 17 trenches were excavated and then regularly extended in Area1. **Trenches** from **1.1** to **1.17,** were dug prior the watching brief in Area 1. The topsoil was stripped from the entire area to the level of the natural gravels. Modern drainage ditches **1006**, **1008**, **1016**, **1026** and **1037** were re-cut and extended. The following trenches were partially backfilled with modern gravel and concrete before the recording: **1.1**, **1.2**, **1.3**, **1.4**, **1.9**, **1.10**, **1.11**, and **1.12**.

5.7 **Trenches 1.4**, **1.5**, **1.6** and **1.7** were extended prior to the construction of the flood detention basin. A sequence of natural gravels mixed with sandy silt/clays was recorded most likely associated with the river terrace system (fluvial deposits). A few burnt flints were recorded within the gravels, **1041**, which were proabably redeposited by the fluvial action.

Trench 1.1

5.8 A possible palaeochannel **1003** with vertical sides was recorded in north-east facing section of the trench. The natural feature was *c*. 1.00m wide and more then 0.90m deep. It was filled with **1004,** a reddish yellow silty clay with rare gravel.

Area 2 (Fig. 2, 4)

5.9 The natural geological substrate consisted of un-coherent reddish brown to greyish brown sandy to silty clays with gravel. Well-rounded to rounded flint pebbles and small cobbles predominated. The size, distribution, and sorting of the coarse fraction varies throughout Area 2. Redox features (mottling, iron and manganese nodules) were recorded throughout the sediments and suggest changing oxidising condition. The deposit is fluvial in origin and most likely represents a superficial deposit of Thatcham Gravel. The deposit was recorded at an average depth 0.5m below present ground level.

5.10 The subsoil was recorded in most of the trenches and consisted of medium yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional subangular flint gravel. The thickness of the subsoil ranges between 0.10 to 0.40m. A medium brown to dark brown grey sandy silt topsoil with occasional flint gravel was recorded across the area site with an average depth of 0.20m below the present ground level.

5.11 Manmade ground deposits, **2001**, **2022**, **2027, 2031** and **2032**, associated with previous modern ground work in the area were recorded. The deposit consists mainly of yellowish brown silty clay to medium yellowish brown sandy silt mixed with modern debris. The modern deposits directly overlay the natural geology in **Trenches 2.1**, **2.5**, **2.4**, **2.6** and topsoil in **Trench 2.8**. On average the deposit was 0.20m thick.

5.12 Nine trenches were excavated prior the construction of the flood defence system. Eight trenches, **Trenches 2.2** to **2.8A** were excavated prior to the watching brief. **Trench 2.1** was excavated for a water pipe route and the excavation was fully monitored during the watching brief. Sequences of natural gravels associated with ancient river system were recorded in each trench. Modern drainage ditches, cuts **2024**, **2028**, and **2030,** were excavated and backfilled prior the watching brief. No deposits of archaeological interest or artefactual material pre-dating the modern Man Made Ground were recorded in the trenches or spoils.

Trench 2.1 (Fig. 4)

5.13 **Trench 2.1** was *c*. 57m long, 0.60m wide and *c*. 0.72m deep. The natural geology, **2003**, consisting of reddish brown silty clay with gravel, was encountered at a depth of 0.50m, sealed by yellowish brown silty clay with well-sorted gravel, **2002**. This was overlain by a thin 0.10m madeground deposit, **2001**, which was in turn was sealed below medium greyish brown silty clay topsoil, **2000**, 0.10m thick.

5.14 A single U-shape ditch, **2036**, (Fig. 6) crossed the trench on a north-south orientation, measured 1.04m in width by 0.23m in depth. A single fill, **2037**, consisted of light grey silty clay with light brown mottling and gravel inclusions was recorded. The homogenous and fine texture of the ditch and lack of coarse inclusions can suggest natural silting of the ditch. Presence of mottling may indicate changing oxidation conditions due to cyclical drying and wetting processes. No finds were recorded, and it is most likely that the ditch was associated with an old field system.

Trench 2.8

5.15 **Trench 2.8** was excavated across the southern part of Area 2, and was *c*.60m long, *c*. 5.5m wide and 0.5m deep. The lowermost deposit, **2042,** consisted of greyish orange well sorted gravel embedded in grey clay with an average depth of 0.15m below the present ground level. This was overlain by a thin medium yellowish brown subsoil, **2041**, covered by greyish brown silty clay topsoil, **2040**. The topsoil was *c*. 0.23m thick.

5.16 A single irregular feature **2038** was recorded within the trench. It measured at 23.25m in length and was 5.50m wide. Fill, **2039**, consisted of black to greyish coarse sand with gravel and was mixed with modern inclusions: CBM, fragments of glass and plastic likely associated with modern development of the area.

Area 3 (Fig.5)

5.17 The natural geological varied across the area. The lowermost deposit comprised mostly of light yellowish red to brown yellow sandy gravel. Sub-rounded to rounded flints dominate the gravel fraction. The deposit gradually changed to more cohesive yellowish brown to greyish brown sandy silt/clay and in places to clayey sand. The gravel fraction is moderately to poorly sorted and consists mainly of subrounded to subangular flint gravel. The gravelly layers were revealed at an average depth of

0.40m below present ground level. The deposit is most likely fluvial in origin and may represent the superficial Beenham Grange Gravel Member.

5.18 Possible alluvial deposits consisted of medium brown grey sandy silt with manganese nodules were recorded in **Trench 3.1,** context **3016**, **Trench 3.25**, context **3117, Trench 3.14**, context **3052** and **Trench 3.20**, context **3072** at depth of 0.60m, 0.38m, 0.35m and 0.40m below present ground level respectively.

5.19 The gravel deposit is overlain by subsoil consisting of medium grey to yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-angular to angular natural flint inclusions. The subsoil is 0.20m thick on average. This was overlain by greyish brown clayey/sandy silt topsoil.

5.20 Possible palaeochannel deposits were recorded in **Trench 3.22** context **3084**, **Trench 3.23** context **3110**, **Trench 3.24** context **3114** and **Trench 3.25** context **3118.**

5.21 There were 26 trenches excavated and recorded in Area 3, including five evaluation trenches: **3.23**, **3.24**, **3.25**, **3.26** and **3.27**. **Trenches 3.1**, **3.2** and drainage ditches **3002**, **3006**, and **3008** were excavated and partially backfilled prior to the watching brief. Trenches from **3.3** to **3.22** were excavated prior the construction of the flood defence system and monitored during the watching brief.

5.22 No archaeology was found within **Trenches 3.1** to **3.7** and **Trenches 3.9** to **3.21** and evaluation Trenches **3.23** to **3. 27**.

Trench 3.8

5.23 **Trench 3.8** was excavated in central part of Area 3, was 6m wide and 0.6m deep. The natural geology, **3088**, consisted of reddish brown gravelly sandy clay with an average depth of 0.55m below the present ground level. This was overlain by a grey sandy silt subsoil, **3042**, covered by greyish brownish grey silty topsoil, **3034**. The subsoil and topsoil were *c*. 0.20m thick.

5.24 A possible drainage ditch, **3095**, was located in **Trench 3.8** on a north-east alignment (Fig. 7). The feature was 1.17m wide and 0.52m deep, linear in plan with steep convex sides and a roughly rounded base. The lowermost fill, **3096**, comprised medium grey clayey compact sand with frequent gravel inclusions.

Fragments of CBM were recorded within the fill. The upper fill consisted of light brownish grey friable silty clay mixed with gravel inclusions. No finds were recorded. A modern services and a possible sandpit **3040**, was also identified within the trench.

Trench 3.22

5.25 **Trench 3.22** was excavated in central part of Area 3, was 6m wide and 1.05m deep. The natural geology, **3085**, consisted of reddish brown gravelly sandy clay with an average depth of 0.70m below the present ground level. This was overlain by a grey sandy silt subsoil, **3078**, covered by greyish brownish grey silty topsoil, **3077**. The subsoil and topsoil were *c*. 0.10m and 0.20m thick, respectively.

5.26 A possible Metaled Surface, **3081**, was located in **Trench 3.22** on a north-west – south-east alignment (Fig. 5). The feature was *c*.7m wide and 0.18m deep, roughly linear in plan. The upper part of the feature was truncated with gentle sloping sides and uneven flat base. The lowermost fill, **3080**, consisted of dark grey sandy clay with frequent gravels. A burnt flint was recorded within the fill. The upper fill consisted of dark grey sandy clay with less gravel inclusion than context above. No finds were recorded within the context.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

Lithics

6.2 A small group of five prehistoric worked flint items (113g) was recovered from three deposits. All are flakes made using river-worn pebbles, and cannot be closely dated. An additional 47 items (845g) of burnt flint were recovered from four deposits. Burnt flint has a long tradition of use in the prehistoric period including for heating water and, when crushed, as an additive (temper) to pottery.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.3 A total of six fragments, weighing 1434g, of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from two deposits. The group consists of brick fragments from both

deposits and two tile fragments from ditch 3095 (fill 3096), of probably medieval or later date.

Other finds

6.4 A single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment was recovered from topsoil deposit 3034. In the absence of diagnostic features such as the bowl or decoration, the pipe can only broadly be dated from the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

6.5 A single item of indeterminate industrial waste, possibly a fragment from an ironworking hearth or furnace, was recovered from subsoil deposit 3047.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Limited archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief. The earliest activity on the site is associated with a group of five prehistoric worked flint recorded in the fluvial gravels in Area 1, and topsoil in Area 3. Burnt flint was also recovered from the topsoil in Area 3. The flints are residual and cannot be closely dated.

7.2 No archaeological features were recorded in Area 1. The area is located within a small valley on the periphery of Thatcham and was most likely agricultural hinterland.

7.3 Previous research suggests that Area 2 was a wetland in the historic period. The possible boundary ditch, **2036**, suggests field or drainage system within the area. The modern development and the made ground deposits encountered in Area 2 suggest that the land has undergone extensive development in the past which may explain the lack of features.

7.4 Area 3 is closely situated to the River Kennet. Previous archaeological and geoarchaeological research provided evidences for marshlands in this area which is supported by the alluvial deposits recorded. Cropmarks shown on aerial photographs suggested a number of probable Roman enclosures and linear features within the site but these were not identified during the watching brief. However undated ditch, **3095**, suggests the presence of a drainage system which is possibly associated with the fields system shown in the aerial photography. It is also possible

that metalled surface, **3081**, may be the remains of the Roman road, Ermin Street, as it is on a similar alignment to the cropmarks previously identified within the site.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush and Chris Ellis, assisted by Pawel Jablonski, Agata Kowalska, Chris Brown and Majbritt Bengston. The report was written by Agata Kowalska and Steve Bush. The finds reports were written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Table 1 Context description for Area 1

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey brown clayey silt. Rare gravel inclusions.	Area 1	Area 1	0-0.25 (0.25)
1	1001	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.	Area 1	Area 1	0.25-1 (0.75)
1	1002	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravel deposits. <150mm. Mid brown grey sandy clay.	Area 1	Area 1	>1
1.1	1003	Cut		periglacial feature	Periglaciqal feature- Ice wedge	NA	1	0.9
1.1	1004	Fill	1003	Fill	Red yellow silty clay	NA	1	0.9
1.1	1005	Layer		Natural	Moderatly sorted gravel. Mid brown grey sandy clay.	9	8	0.2-0.5 (0.3)
1.1	1006	Deposit		Modern backfill	Redeposited gravels covering excavtion: Pre watching brief	9	8	NA
	1007							
1	1008	Cut		Modern extant ditch	Modern ditch- east-west alignment.		0.8	0-0.6 (0.6)
1.3	1009	Layer		Colluvium	Fine silty clay. Rare gravel inclusions< 150mm	11	4	0-0.5 (0.5)
1.3	1010	Deposit		Modern backfill	Light grey concrete backfill: Pre watching brief	11	4	>0.5
1.2	1011	Deposit		Modern backfill	Redeposited gravels covering excavtion: Pre watching brief			>0
1.4	1012	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.	10	9	0-0.4 (0.4)
1.4	1013	Layer		Natural	well sorted gravel deposits <150mm. Moin brown sandy clay.	10	9	0.4-0.9 (0.5)
1.4	1014	Layer		Natural	Sandy clay	10	9	>0.9-1.9 (>0.9)
1.4	1015	deposit		Modern Backfill	Redeosited colluvium Mid yellow brown silty clay.	3	9	1.5-1.9 (0.4)
1	1016	Cut		Modern Extant ditch	Linear field boundary			
1.5	1017	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.	20	15	>1
1.5	1018	Layer		Redeposied Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.	20	15	>1
1.6	1019	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.	NA	NA	NA
1.6	1020	Layer		Colluvium	Dark grey sandy clay	NA	NA	NA
1	1021	Cut		Piled modern metal flood defences	Metal- piled flood defences: Laid pre watching brief			
1	1022	Deposit		Modern backfill	Moderatly sorted gravel: Pre watching brief.			
1.7	1023	Deposit	1022	Modern deposit	Modern waste deposit, plastic,foil, loose			0.44
1.7	1024	Deposit	1022	Colluvium	Mid grey clayey sand with gravel.			0.12

1	1025	Layer		Natural	Mid orange sandy clay with gravel. Loose natural from layer.			0.79
1	1026	Cut		Modern Extant ditch	Linear field boundary			
1.8	1027	Deposit	1026	Modern ditch		>1.1	2.8	
1	1028	Cut		Water flow pipe				
1	1029	Deposit		Colluvium	Mid grey clayey sand with gravel.			
1.2	1030	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.			0-0.2 (0.2)
1.2	1031	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravel deposits. <150mm. Mid brown grey sandy clay.			>0.2-0.5 (>0.3)
1.1	1032	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Rare Gravel inclusion.	9	8	0-0. (0.2)
1.1	1033	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravel deposits. <150mm. Mid brown grey sandy clay.	9	8	0.2-0.9 (0.7)
1	1034	Deposit		Back fill	Redposisted subsoil post excavation: Pre watching brief	>10	>10	NA
1,10	1035	Layer		Colluvium/Subsoil	mid grey yellow brown, slity clay with rare flints.			0.55
1.1	1036	Layer		Natural	Gravel poorly sorted sub angular to sub rounded flints.			0.35
1.11	1037	Cut		Modern construction trench	Cut of trench 1.11			
1.11	1038	Layer		Natural	Mid grey clayey sand with gravel.			0.43
1.11	1039	Layer		Natural	mid orange sandy clay			0.43
1.4	1040	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow silt with gravel inclusions <35mm	10	9	0.9-1.32 (0.42)
1.4	1041	Layer		Natural	Dark orange clay sand	10	9	1.9-2.4 (0.5)
1.12	1042	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Gravel inclusions.			0.45
1.12	1043	Layer		Gravel	dark brown grey, sandy silt, sub rounded gravel.			0.49
1.12	1044	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, sandy silt with gravel inclusions 15-40mm. (river deposit)			0.47
1.12	1045	Layer		Natural	Mid orange sandy clay under gravel.			0.49
1.12	1046	Layer		Natural	Redeposited natural?			
1.18	1047	Layer		Natural	Natural visiible in TR 1.18			
1.18	1048	Layer		Natural	Natural visiible in TR 1.18			
1.13	1049	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Gravel inclusions.			0.45
1.13	1050	Layer		Gravel	dark brown grey, sandy silt, sub rounded gravel.			0.47
1.13	1051	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, sandy silt with gravel inclusions 15-40mm. (river deposit)			0.47
1.13	1052	Layer		Natural	Mid orange sandy clay under gravel.			>0.71
1.14	1053	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Gravel inclusions.			0.45
1.14	1054	Layer		Gravel	dark brown grey, sandy silt, sub rounded gravel.			0.47

1.14	1055	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, sandy silt with gravel inclusions 15-40mm. (river deposit)			0.47
1.14	1056	Layer		Natural	Mid orange sandy clay under gravel.			>0.71
1.15	1057	Layer		Colluvium	Yellow brown silty clay. Gravel inclusions.			0.63
1.15	1058	Layer		Gravel	dark brown grey, sandy silt, sub rounded gravel.			0.33
1.15	1059	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, sandy silt with gravel inclusions 15-40mm. (river deposit)			0.33
1.15	1060	Layer		Natural	Mid orange sandy clay under gravel.			>0.09
1.15	1061	Layer		Natural	Redeposited natural?			>1.29
1.16	1062	Layer		Topsoil	dark brown grey, sandy silt, sub rounded gravel.			
1.16	1063	Layer		Made ground	mid brown sandy silt gravel inclusion			0.25
1.16	1064	Deposit		Concrete	Light grey concrete.			0.3
1.16	1065	Cut		Cut of service	Cut of earthing service			>0.3
1.16	1066	Fill		Fill of service	Light grey solid concrete backfill.			>0.3
1.17	1067	Deposit		Made ground	Mid red brown, sandy clay, occassional gravel, cbm present. Recent leveling during construction of flood defences			1
1.17	1068	Layer		Made ground	Dark grey brown, sandy clay, no visisble inclusions.			0.4
1.17	1069	Layer		Natural	light brown grey sandy clay 90% gravel inclusions.			0.3
1.17	1070	Layer		Natural	Mid brown sandy clay 90% gravel inclusions.			0.3
1.17	1071	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown, sandy clay, compact, gravel inclusions.			0.5
1.17	1072	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay, gravel inclusions. Covers 1069, covered by 1068			0.4

Table 2 Context desription for Area 2

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
2.1	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty clay.		0.62	0.1
2.1	2001	Layer		Made Ground	Yellowish-brown silty clay		0.62	0.4
2.1	2002	Layer		Natural	Gravel: well sorted subrounded gravels in silty clay		0.62	
2.1	2003	Layer		Natural	Reddish-brown silty clay		0.62	0.5+
2.2	2004	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt.	45	0.1	0.2
2.2	2005	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt	45	0.1	0.45
2.2	2006	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravels.	45	0.1	0.5+
2.2	2007	Layer		Natural	Light grey-brown sandy clay towards NE of trench	45	0.1	0.5+
2.2	2008	Cut		Ditch	Re-cut of pre-existing ditch, aligned NE-SW	45+	0.1	
2.2	2009	Structure		Drain	concrete land drain			
2.2	2010	Structure		Drain	concrete land drain			
2.2	2011	Deposit		Redeposited Natural	Redeposited modern gravels, related to land drain/flood defence			
2.3	2012	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	42	0.6	0.1
2.3	2013	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt.	42	0.6	0.4
2.3	2014	Layer		Natural	Patches of poorly sorted gravels	42	0.6	0.4
2.3	2015	Layer		Made Ground	Mixture of subsoil and topsoil located to the north of trench	42	0.6	0.65
2.3	2016	Layer		Buried Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	42	0.6	0.75-0.85
2.4	2017	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt.	27	0.26	0.1
2.4	2018	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt.	27	0.26	0.25
2.4	2019	Deposit		Aggregates	Modern Aggregates	27	0.26	
2.5	2020	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt.			0.1
2.5	2021	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt			0.45-0.55
2.5	2022	Deposit		Made Ground	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt			0.1-0.45
2.5	2023	Layer		Natural	silty sandy gravel poorly sorted			0.55+
2.5	2024	Cut		Ditch	Drainage ditch			0.1
2.5	2025	Fill	[2024]	Deliberate Backfill	Modern gravel fill of land drain			0.1
2.6	2026	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt.			0.15
2.6	2027	Deposit		Made Ground	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt			0.2

2.6	2028	Cut		Land Drain	Land Drain			0.15
2.6	2029	Fill	[2028]	Single fill of 2028	Well sorted gravel fill			0.15
2.6	2030	Cut		Field Drain	Re-diverted field drain			0.5
2.6	2031	Deposit		Made Ground	Mid red-brown sandy clay madeground			
2.7	2032	Deposit		Made Ground	Mid red-brown sandy clay madeground			0.75
2.7	2033	Cut		Ditch	Drainage ditch			1.05
2.7	2034	Fill	[2033]	Base fill of drainage ditch	Dark grey sandy silt with gravels, waterlogged.			1.05
2.7	2035	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravels.			1.15+
2.1	2036	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE-SW aligned field boundary.	1.5	1.04	0.36
2.1	2037	Fill	[2036]	Secondary Fill	Light grey silty clay with light brown mottling, sparse gravels.	1.5	1.04	0.36
2.8	2038	Cut		Pit	irregfiular cut of modern rubbish pit	23.25	5.05	
2.8	2039	Fill	[2038]	Deliberate dump	Greyish-black coarse sand with mid-orange gravels	23.25	5.05	
2.8	2040	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty clay	60	5.05	0.35
2.8	2041	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey-brown ?	60	5.05	0.5
2.8	2042	Layer		Natural	Well sorted gravels	60	5.05	0.50+

Table 3 Context description Area 3

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
3	3000	Layer		Top Soil	Dark brown grey, Sandy silt, gravel inlusion, same all less than 80=50mm	Area 3	Area 3	0.0 - 0.2 (0.2)
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red grey Sandy Silt. 10% inclusion of gravel same all less than 60x40 mm	Area 3	Area 3	0.2 - 0.6 (0.4)
3	3002	Cut		Trench	Prewatching Brief	GPS	GPS	GPS
3	3003	Fill	3002	Fill	Well sorted gravel backfill	GPS	GPS	GPS
3	3005	Deposit		Modern	Former basket bellcourt	8.5	>6	
3	3006	Cut		Trench	Cut of trench. Prewatching Brief	GPS	GPS	GPS
3	3007	Fill	3006	Fill	Same as 3003	GPS	GPS	GPS
3	3008	Cut		Trench	Prewatching Brief	GPS	GPS	GPS
3	3009	Fill	3008	Fill	Same as 3003	GPS	GPS	GPS
3.2	3010	Layer		Top Soil	Mid Brown Grey, Sandy Silt, 20% inclusion of gravel- same all less than 80x50mm	GPS	GPS	0.0-0.3 (0.3)
3.2	3011	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Red-Grey Sandy silt, 10%inclusions of gravel - same all less than 90x30. Cut by service [3012]	GPS	GPS	>0.3
3.2	3012	Cut		Modern trench	Modern service cut	GPS	2.3	>0.3-0.8
3.2	3013	Fill	3012	Fill	Fine Sand, Backfill of [3012]	GPS	2.3	(>0.5)
3.1	3014	Layer		Natural - possibly paleo channel	Mid Grey Clayey sandy gravel - poorly sorted, same as or less than 80x40mm. Very clayey	GPS	1.2	>0.4 (>0.4-0.6)
3.1	3015	Layer		Natural	Light Red-yellow sandy gravel - poorly sorted, same as or less than 80x40mm. North of layer (3014) contain patches of gravely sand and light brown Sandy Clay	GPS	1.2	>0.4 (>0.4-0.6)
3.1	3016	Layer		Alluvium	Mid brown Grey Sandy Silt, Magnessie flecks.	GPS	1.2	>0.6-0.93 (0.33)
3.1	3017	Layer		Subsoil	See (3001)	GPS	1.2	0.2-0.6
3.3	3018	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey sandy silt. 10% inclusion of gravel - same as or less than 40x40	31	5	0.0-0.3-15 (0.15)
3.3	3019	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red grey Sandy Silt.15% inclusion of gravel. Same as or less than 60x40mm	31	5	0.15-0.5 (0.35)
3.3	3020	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravel with sandy clay - 80x40mm	31	5	>0.5
3.3	3021	Deposit		Made ground, backfill	Mid grey sandy clay. 60% inclusion of gravel - 60x40mm. Modern	31	5	0.1
3.4	3022	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey sandy silt. 10% inclusion of gravel - 40x40	GPS	3	
3.4	3023	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red grey sandy silt. 5%inclusion of gravel - 60x40mm	GPS	3	
3.4	3024	Layer		Natural	poorly sortedd gravel - 60x40mm	GPS	3	
3.4	3025	Deposit		Made ground, backfill	light grey sandy clay + concrete. 80% inclusion of gravel 30x30mm	GPS	3	

3.5	3026	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown Grey, sandy silt. 95%inclusion of subangular gravel 30x20	GPS	3.5	0-0.2
3.5	3027	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red grey, sandy clay, 5% inclusion of gravel 30x30	GPS	3.5	>0.2 (>0.2-0.4)
3.5	3028	Deposit		Made ground	Concrete construction of drain	GPS	3.5	>0 (>0.0-0.4)
3.6	3029	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, Sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.25
3.7	3030	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy loam, rooting. Possible weakly developed topsoil on manmade levelling of subsoil.	GPS	3.1	0-0.10
3.7	3031	Layer		Subsoil	Pale yellowish brown, sandy loam, cbm inclusions.	GPS	3.1	0.10-0.20
3.7	3032	Layer		Gravel	mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay, common gravel and rare flints.	GPS	3.1	0.9
3.7	3033	Layer		Sandy gravel	mid reddish brown to yellow, sandy gravel.	GPS	3.1	>0.10
3.8	3034	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey, sandy silt, loose, gravel inclusions. Contains modern plastic and CBM.	GPS	6	0.2
3.9	3035	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, Sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.9	0.15
3.9	3036	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown, sandy silt. 10% inclusion of gravel - 40x40	GPS	0.9	0.3
3.9	3037	Cut		Cut of service	Cut of service trench			0.3
3.9	3038	Fill	3037	Fill of service	Grey/yellow, fine sand, backfill.			0.05
3.9	3039	Fill	3037	Fill of service	Topfill of 3037, redeposited topsoil, gravel inclusions.			0.25
3.8	3040	Deposit		Sandpit	Yellow, fine sand, with wooden border.	GPS	6	
3.8	3041	Deposit		Bioturbation	Mid red brown, sandy clay, gravel inclusions, cut by land drain.	GPS	6	0.2
3.8	3042	Layer		subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt, gravel and CBM inclusions.	GPS	6	0.2
3.1O	3043	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.8	0.4
3.1O	3044	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, sandy clay, gravel inclusions 90-95%.	GPS	0.8	0.2
3.11	3045	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.7	0.35
3.11	3046	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, sandy clay, gravel inclusions 90-95%.	GPS	0.7	>0.01
3.12	3047	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.8	0.35
3.12	3048	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, patches of mid grey yellow clayey silt, sandy clay, gravel inclusions 90-95%.	GPS	0.8	0.05
3.13	3049	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.8	0.35
3.13	3050	Layer		Natural	Light yellow grey, clayey sand, no inclusions, possible alluvium.	GPS	0.8	0.1

3.14	3051	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.8	0.35
3.14	3052	Layer		Natural	Light yellow grey, clayey sand, no inclusions, possible alluvium.	GPS	0.8	0.1
3.15	3053	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, Sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	6	0.2
3.15	3054	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown, sandy silt with gravel.	GPS	6	0.1
3.15	3055	Layer		Gravel	Mid greyish brown, sandy silt with gravel.	GPS	6	>0.7
3.16	3056	Layer		Topsoil	Pale greyish brown, silt, rare flint.	GPS	1	0.13
3.16	3057	Layer		Gravel	Light greyish brown sandy silt, friable,	GPS	1	0.87
3.17	3058	Layer		Topsoil	Pale greyish brown, silt, rare flint.	GPS	0.9	0.09
3.17	3059	Layer		Gravel	Light greyish brown sandy silt, friable,	GPS	0.9	0.51
3.18	3060	Layer		Tarmac	Dark grey. Solid path.	GPS		0.1
3.18	3061	Layer		Modern aggregate	Mid red grey silty sand, gravel inclusions 90-95%.	GPS	1	0.25
3.18	3062	Deposit		Concrete	Light grey, solid.	GPS	1	0.6
3.18	3063	Deposit		Slab	Concrete slab.	GPS	1	
3.18	3064	Deposit		Made ground	Mid brown sandy silt	GPS	1	0.35
3.19	3065	Layer		Tarmac	Dark grey, solid.	GPS	1	0.1
3.19	3066	Deposit		Concrete	Light grey, solid, underneath tarmac.	GPS	1	0.1
3.19	3067	Deposit		Made ground	Mid brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	1	0.6
3.19	3068	Deposit		Concrete	Light grey, solid.	GPS	1	0.3
3.19	3069	Deposit		Concrete	Edge of path.	GPS	1	0.1
3.19	3070	Layer		Material	Clayey sand, compact, gravel inclusions 90-95%.	GPS	1	0.4
3.2O	3071	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.4
3.2O	3072	Layer		Natural	Light brown sandy clay, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.25
3.2O	3073	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.15
3.2O	3074	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.3
3.21	3075	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions. CBM.	GPS	GPS	0.2
3.21	3076	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.05
3.22	3077	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.3
3.22	3078	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.1
3.22	3079	Fill	3081	Fill of Metalled surface	Dark grey, sandy clay, gravel inclusions. Upper fill.	GPS	7	0.07
3.22	3080	Fill	3081	Fill of Metalled surface	Dark grey, sandy clay, gravel inclusions. Lower fill.	GPS	7	0.11
3.22	3081	Cut		Cut of Metalled surface	Roughly linear, truncated, NWW-SEE alignment.	GPS	7	0.18
3.22	3082	Layer		Natural	Poorly sorted gravel with lenses of sandy clay	GPS	GPS	0.25-0.53
3.22	3083	Layer		Natural	Light greyish-brown sandy clay	GPS	GPS	0.53-0.60

3.22	3084	Deposit		Paleochannel	Dark grey clayey-sand, with gravels. South alignment.	>1.0	4.9	1.05
3.22	3085	Layer		natural	Mid red-brown sandy clay.	GPS	GPS	0.7-1.05
3.22	3086	Cut		Pit	unknown purpose	1.4	0.9	0.75
3.22	3087	Fill		Fill of pit [3087]	Mid brown-grey clayey sand	1.4	9	0.75
3.8	3088	Layer		natural	Mid red-brown sandy clay.	GPS	0.6	0.55-0.60
3.2O	3089	Layer		Natural	Mid grey brown, sandy silt. Compact. Gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.1
3.2O	3090	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown, silty sand, gravel inclusions.	GPS	0.6	0.1
3.8	3091	Cut		Land Drain	N-S aligned Land Drain	>4.0	0.25	0.4
3.8	3092	Fill	3091	Singular fill of land drain [3091].	Mid grey clayey silt, contains CBM and A.Bone but not retained.	>4.0	0.25	0.4
3.8	3093	Cut		Land Drain	E-W aligned Land Drain	>4.0	0.25	0.4
3.8	3094	Fill	3093	Singular fill of land drain [3093].	Mid grey clayey silt.	>4.0	0.25	0.4
3.8	3095	Cut		Ditch	Linear N-S aligned ditch	>2.5	1.17	0.52
3.8	3096	Fill	3095	Primary Fill	Mid grey clayey sand abundant gravels	>2.5	0.5	0.28
3.8	3097	Fill	3095	Secondary Fill	Light brownish-grey silty clay.	>2.5	1.17	0.4
3.21	3098	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown, sandy clay, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.2
3.21	3099	Cut		Cut of tree throw	Sub circular, uneven steep sides, concave base.	12	0.6	0.29
3.2O	3100	Cut		Cut of tree throw	Cut of tree throw	1.7	0.5	0.48
3.2O	3101	Fill	3100	Fill of tree throw	Mid brown, sandy clay, gravel inclusions. Base fill of TT.	1.7	0.5	0.48
3.2O	3102	Fill	3100	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey brown, sandy silt. Gravel inclusions. Upper fill of TT.	1.7	0.5	0.48
3.21	3103	Fill	3099	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey brown, sandy silt. Gravel inclusions.	12	0.6	0.29
3.27	3104	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt, loose, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.16
3.27	3105	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish/yellow brown, clayey silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.3
3.27	3106	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, silty clay, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.04
3.23	3107	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt, loose, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.17
3.23	3108	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish/yellow brown, clayey silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.33
3.23	3109	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, silty clay, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.02
3.23	3110	Deposit		Surface/Road	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, gravel inclusions.	6	>2	N/A
3.24	3111	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt, loose, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.18
3.24	3112	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish/yellow brown, clayey silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.32
3.24	3113	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, silty clay, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.03

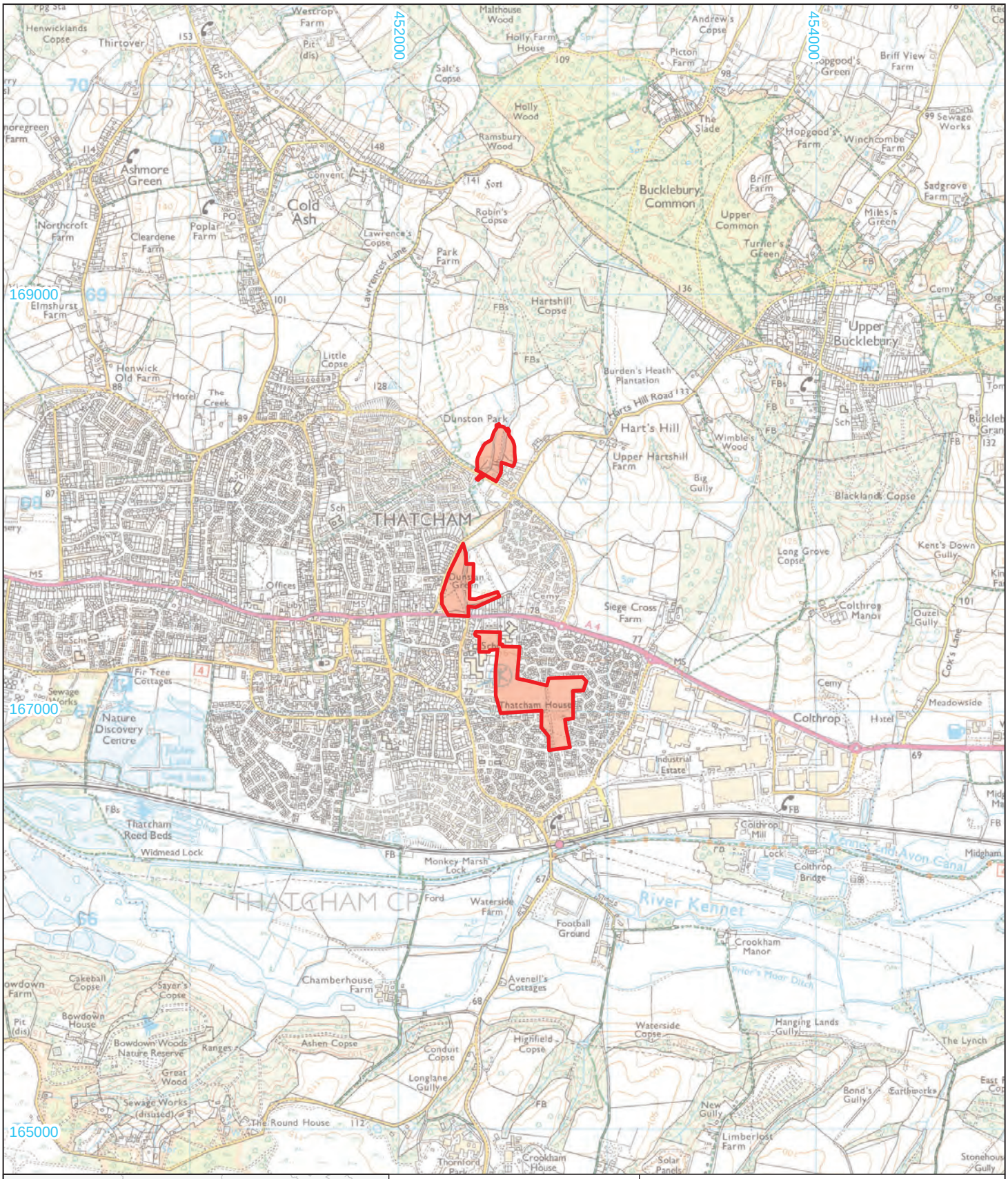
3.24	3114	Deposit		Paleochannel	Sandy silty clay.	1	0.8	N/A
3.25	3115	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusion with modern plastic etc.	GPS	GPS	0.2
3.25	3116	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	0.18
3.25	3117	Deposit		Alluvium	Mid brown yellow, silty sand, gravel inclusions. Centre of trench.	GPS	GPS	0.22
3.25	3118	Deposit		Paleochannel	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, gravel inclusions.	GPS	GPS	>0.05
3.25	3119	Layer		Natural	Sandy silt with patches of light brown grey clayey sand. Gravel inclusions 90-95%.	GPS	GPS	>0.05
3.26	3120	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown, sandy silt, gravel inclusion. CBM.	GPS	GPS	0.15
3.26	3121	Layer		Made ground	Mid grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusion. CBM and modern debitage.	GPS	GPS	0.15
3.26	3122	Layer		Natural	Light yellow grey, sandy silt, gravel inclusions	GPS	GPS	0.3
3.26	3123	Cut		Cut of modern service trench	Linear, NE-SW alignment.	2.2	0.7	0.15
3.26	3124	Fill	3123	Fill of modern service trench	Dark grey, Sandy silt, gravel inclusions. Contains tarmac and CBM.	2.2	0.7	0.15

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Count	Weight (g)
1041	Burnt Flint	unworked	3	30
	Worked Flint	flake - river pebble	1	12
3030	Burnt Flint	unworked	16	228
	Worked Flint	flakes	2	22
3034	Burnt Flint	unworked	27	488
	Clay Tobacco Pipe	stem	1	2
3034	Worked Flint	flakes - river pebbles	2	79
3047	Industrial waste	fired clay/ slag residue?	1	25
3056	CBM	brick - *c*. 40mm thick	1	839
3080	Burnt Flint	unworked	1	99
3096	CBM	2 tile, brick fragments	5	595

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Flood Alleviation Scheme, Thatcham, West Berkshire. Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of flooding defence system at Floral Way (Dunston Park) – Area 1, Dunstan Green – Area 2 and Land between Francis Baily and Kennet Schools – Area 3. A singe burnt and worked flints may indicate some early Prehistoric activity within the areas. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks in Area 1. An evidence for a possible past filed system was encountered within Area 2. A drainage ditch and remains of Roman road were identified in Area 3.	
Project dates	22 July to 30 August 2019 and 11 September 2019	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Thatcham, West Berkshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)		
Site co-ordinates	452418 168286 Floral Way (Dunston Park); 452549 167315 South East Thatcham	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Steve Bush	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditches, Metalled surface	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) West Berkshire Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	West Berkshire Museum	For example ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Flood Alleviation Scheme, Thatcham, West Berkshire.* Archaeological Watching Brief. CA report AN0062_1		



N

0 1km

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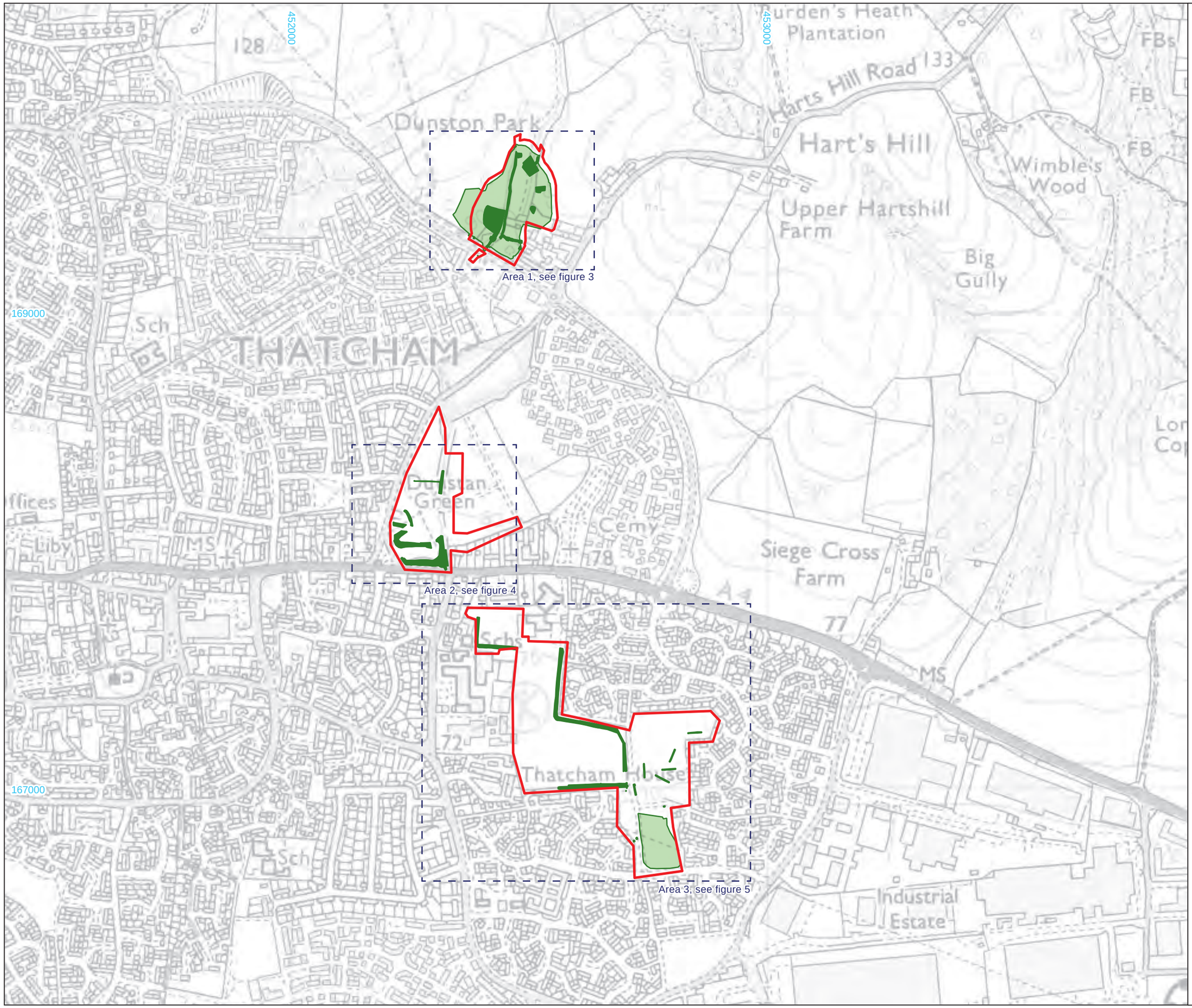
PROJECT TITLE

South East Thatcham Flood Scheme, West Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**AW**	*PROJECT NO.*	**AN0062**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16.10.19**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**RK**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



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PROJECT TITLE

South East Thatcham Flood Scheme, West Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site plan showing locations of monitored groundworks

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16.10.19**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**RK**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:7500**	

452400
452500
452600
168300
168200
168100
T1.1
T1.2
T1.3
T1.5
T1.6
T1.7
T1.8
T1.10
T10b
T1.11
T1.16
Area 1
Floral Way
N
Site boundary
Excavation area
Excavation trench
Modern
Constraint
Waterway
0
1:1000
50m

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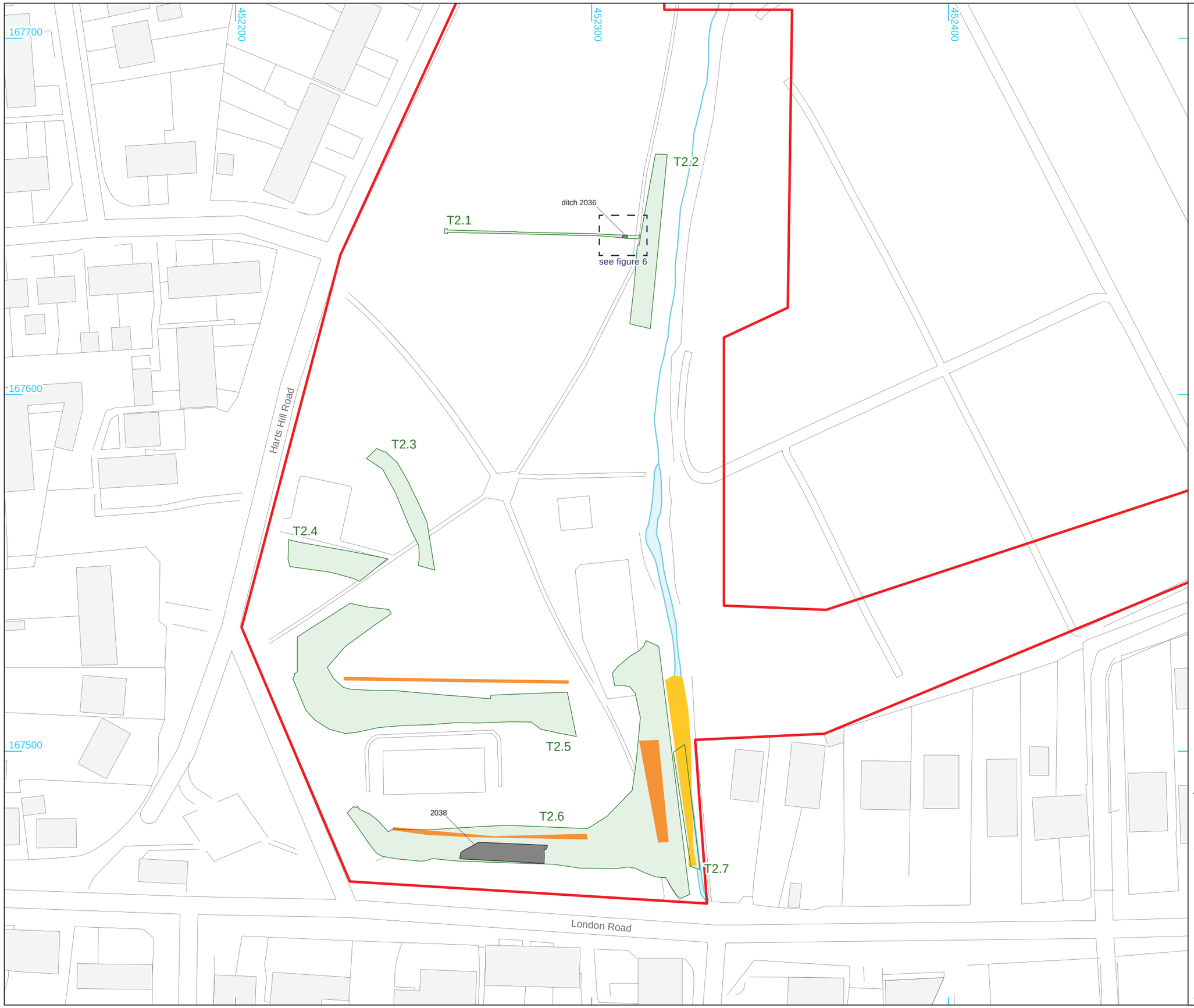
PROJECT TITLE
South East Thatcham Flood Scheme, West Berkshire
FIGURE TITLE
Area 1 monitored groundworks
DRAWN BY AW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY RK
PROJECT NO. AN0062
DATE 16.10.19
SCALE@A3 1:1000
FIGURE NO. 3



N

- Site boundary
- Excavation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Deposit
- Modern
- Waterway

0 1:1000 50m

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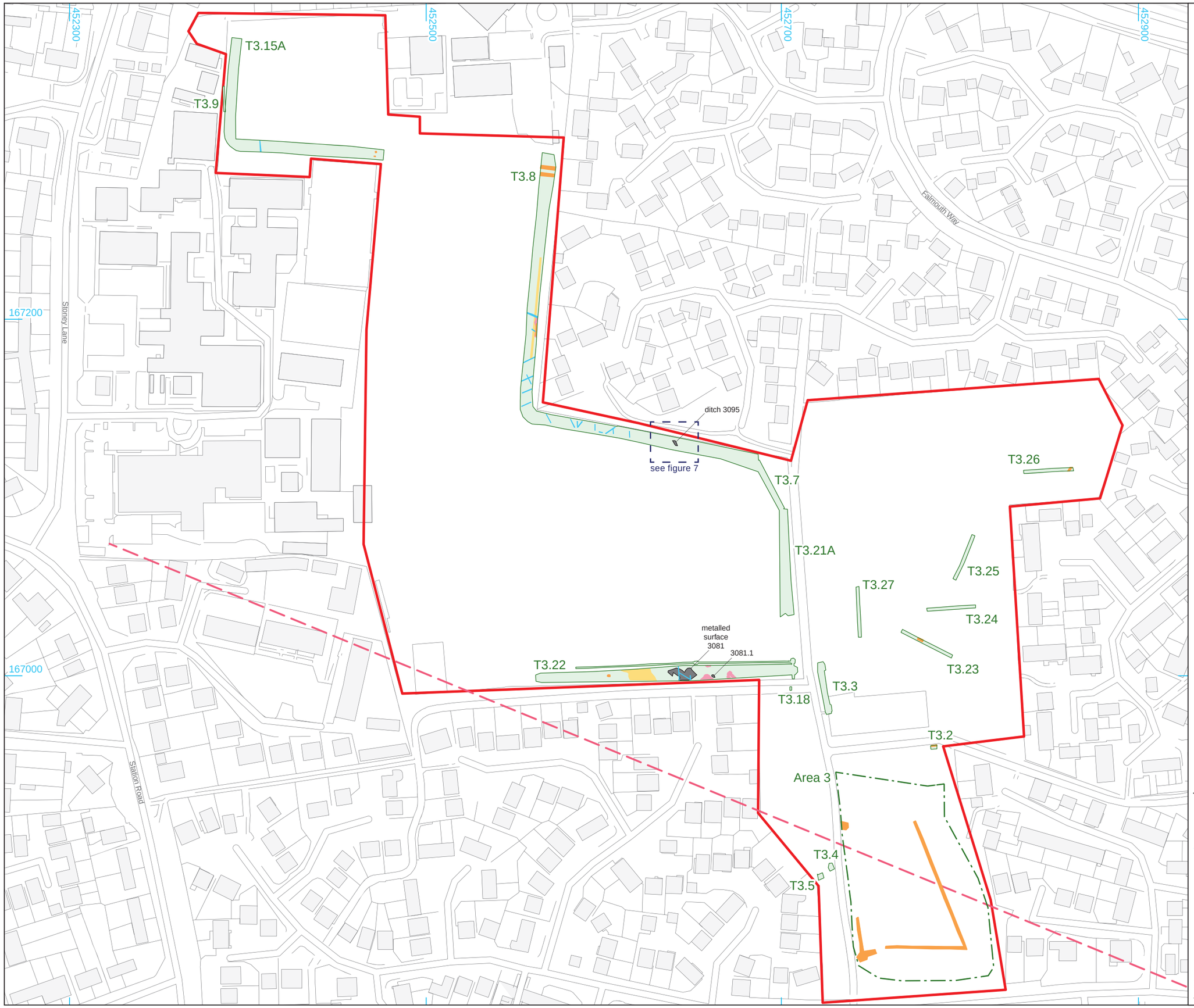
PROJECT TITLE

South East Thatcham Flood Scheme, West Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 2 monitored groundworks

DRAWN BY	**AW**	*PROJECT NO.*	**AN0062**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16.10.19**	**4**
APPROVED BY	**RK**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:1000**	



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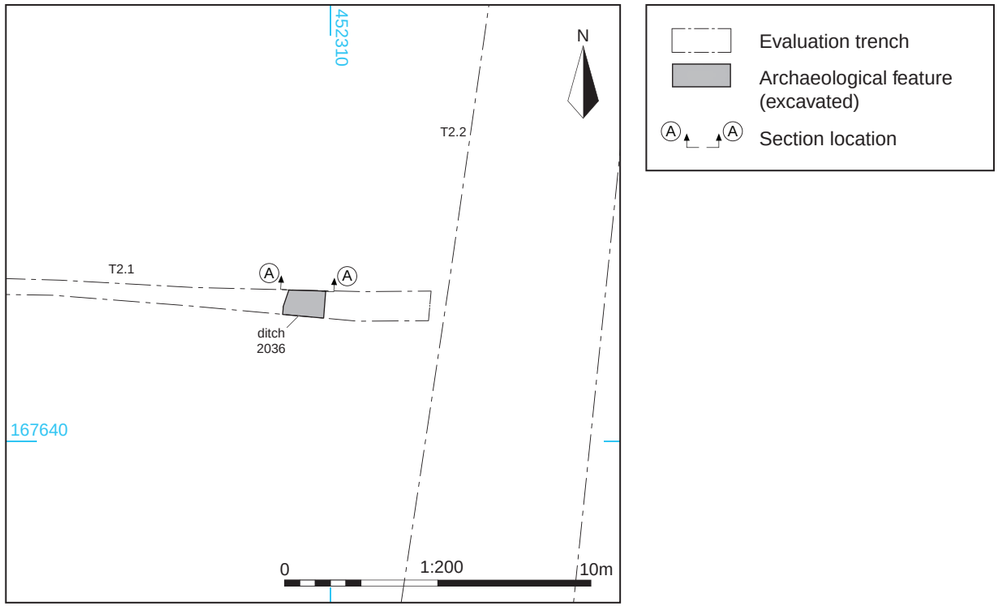
PROJECT TITLE

South East Thatcham Flood Scheme, West Berkshire

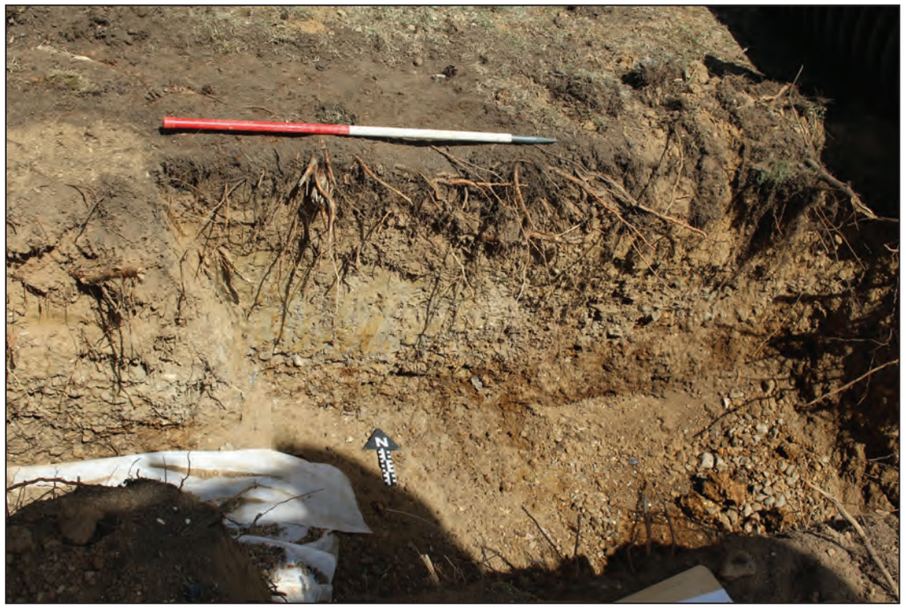
FIGURE TITLE

Area 3 monitored groundworks

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	AN0062	FIGURE NO.	5
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	16.10.19		
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:2000		

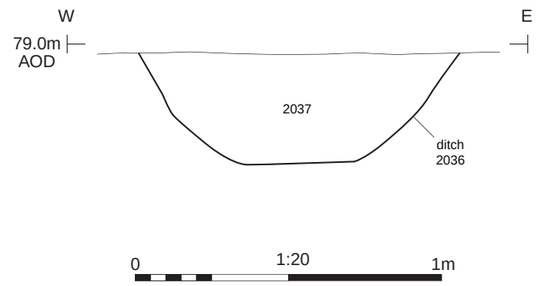


Ditch 2036 within Trench 2.1



Ditch 2036, looking north (1m scale)

Section AA



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 2036: plan, section and photograph

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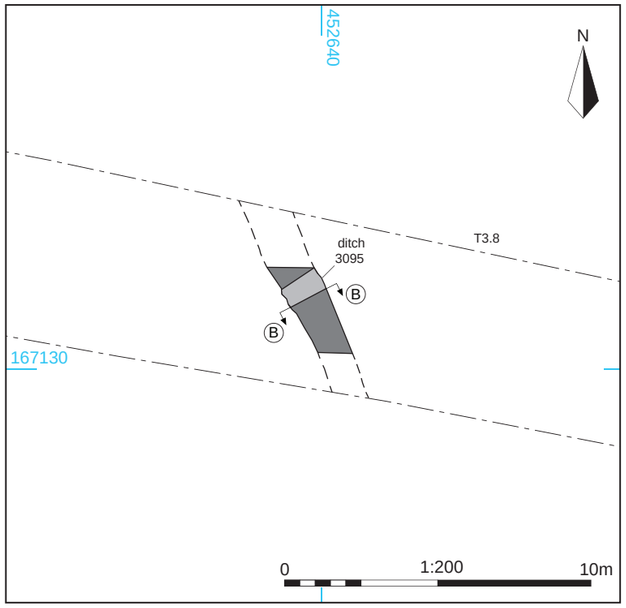
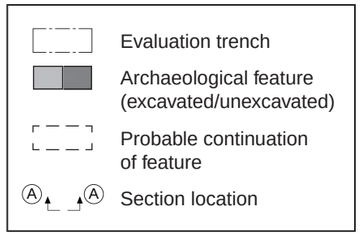
APPROVED BY	**RK**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200; 1:20**	





Ditch 3095 within trench 3.8

Ditch 3095, looking south (1m scale)

Section BB

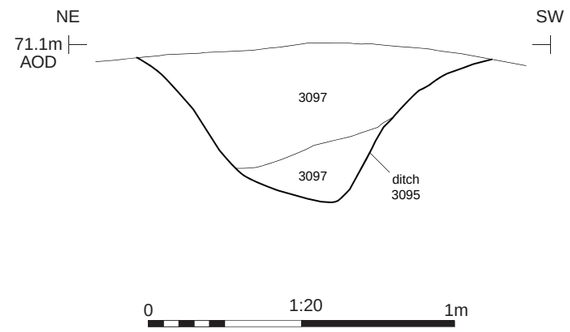


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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 3095: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**RP**	*DATE*	**22.10.19**	**7**
APPROVED BY	**RK**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200; 1:20**	

General view of Area 1

Representative section of Trench 1.4, looking south-east (1m scales)

General view of Trench 2.1, looking south-east (1m scales)

General view of Trench 2.6, looking east (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15.10.19**	**8**
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