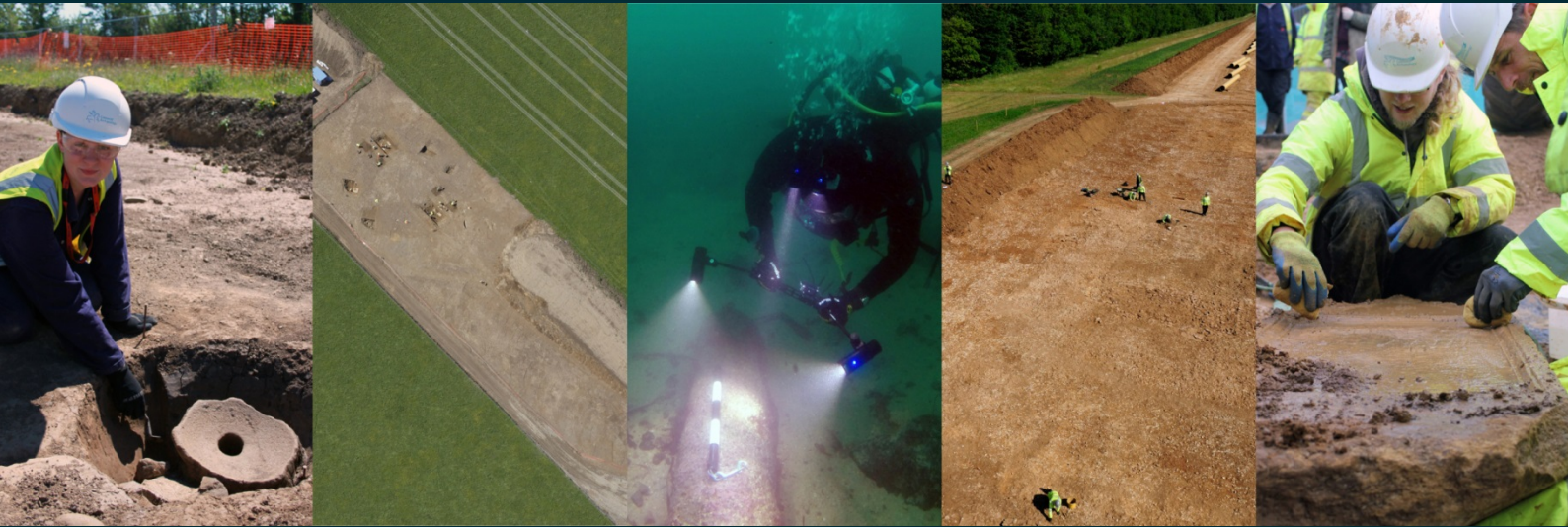


**20-24 Braywick Road  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
CgMs Consulting

on behalf of  
Vanderbilt Homes

CA Project: 770758  
CA Report: 18287

May 2018



20-24 Braywick Road  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770758  
CA Report: 18287



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	16/5/18	Sam Wilson	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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Figure 1	Site location plan (1:25,000)
Figure 2	Trench location plan
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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	20-24 Braywick Road
<b>Location:</b>	Maidenhead, Berkshire
<b>NGR:</b>	488884 180417
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	14-15 May 2017
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	17/00191
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Reading Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	BRAY18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 at 20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. Five trenches were excavated.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the evaluation. Significant terracing was noted within the site, which may have had a severe impact on the survival of archaeological features.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Vanderbilt Homes at 20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (centred at NGR: 488884 180417; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the erection of seven two-storey dwellings with access, parking and amenity space following the demolition of existing dwellings. Planning permission was granted by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (ref: 17/00191), conditional on a programme of archaeological work:

### *Condition 12*

*No development, including demolition, shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.*

*Reason: The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly in relation to the prehistoric and Roman settlement and land use of this part of the Thames Valley. The potential impact can be mitigated by a programme of archaeological work so as to record and advance our understanding of their significance in accordance with national and local planning policy.*

- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation prepared by Roland Smith (Archaeological Officer, Berkshire Archaeology), the archaeological advisors to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2018) and approved by Roland Smith. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014)*. It was monitored by Roland Smith, including a site visit on 15 May 2018.

### **The site**

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.4ha, and comprises two twentieth century houses and their gardens. The boundaries of the site in the north, south and west are defined by mature hedgerows which divide the garden plots,

while Braywick Road forms the eastern boundary. The site lies at approximately 41m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west, sloping downwards to approximately 34m aOD in the east. Beyond the site, the landscape continues to slop downwards to the east into the valley of the River Thames.

- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Seaford and Newhaven Chalk formation, formed approximately 72-90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, in warm chalk seas. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS, 2018). Chalk was not encountered during the evaluation; rather the geology consisted of sandy gravels with clay bands, gravel appearing more prevalent in the north of the site and clay to the south. This is more in keeping with the clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth Group and sandy gravel of the Lynch Hill Gravel Member, recorded by the BGS as lying a short distance to the west of the site. Given the location of the River Thames 1.2km to the east, the presence of such fluvial related deposits might be expected.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of a Desk Based Assessment by CgMs (2018).

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2 Evidence of Palaeolithic activity within the vicinity of the site, includes hand axes, a chopper-axe and rolled primary flakes recorded c. 250m northwest of the site.
- 2.3 Dispersed Neolithic activity has been noted within the vicinity of the site including a chipped Neolithic flint axe found at Shoppenhanger/King's Pit, c. 250m northwest of the study site; a Neolithic axe is recorded 650m WSW of the site; a Neolithic flint pick c.1km NNW of the study site; and Neolithic pottery is c.1km to the west of the study site, in the Castle Hill area.
- 2.4 Bronze Age activity is not known within the immediate vicinity of the site, but finds of Bronze Age material including a hoard of Middle Bronze Age axes have been recovered from a location at Bray to the south of the site.



*Iron Age and Roman*

- 2.5 An Iron Age pit cluster was found at King's Pit, 200m northwest of the site, though the exact contents are unknown. An Iron Age bronze coin is recorded from the garden of 72 King Street, c. 470m NNW of the site, and a gold coin is recorded c. 550m to the north of the site. Iron Age pottery is recorded from a railway cutting on Castle Hill, though no further details are known.
- 2.6 A suggested north-south Roman Road is recorded c. 350m NNE of the site, but past archaeological investigations have failed to confirm this. A silver coin of Antoninus is recorded approximately 500m northwest of the site, and another was found 650m southeast of the site.
- 2.7 A possible Roman villa is recorded near Shoppenhangers Road, 650 west of the site, though the identification is contested. An evaluation and subsequent excavation by Cotswold Archaeology (2017) at Manor Lane, Shoppenhangers to the west of the site found two concentric ditches enclosing a likely Roman settlement destroyed by later medieval and post-medieval development. Roman pottery was found during roadworks opposite the Post Office in the High Street, NNW of the site.

*Anglo Saxon and Early Medieval*

- 2.8 A single Anglo Saxon or early medieval find is recorded within a 1km radius of the site; a spearhead found prior to 1898 'near the railway station at Maidenhead'.
- 2.9 Settlements noted within the 1086 Domesday Survey are located over 1km from the site (Maidenhead 1.1km to the north, Bray 1.9km to the southeast), with the site likely to have been located in their agricultural hinterland.

*Late Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern*

- 2.10 John Rocque's map of 1761 and the Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1809 show the site as agricultural land. The 1843 Bray Parish Tithe Map similarly identifies the site as an enclosed field identified as a meadow. The site remained undeveloped and in use as a plant nursery until 1912. The 1912 Ordnance Survey shows a house with outbuilding and garden in the northern part of the site. The site underwent a few small changes up until 2003 when a new house is shown in the southern half of the site.



### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 5 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). The position of all the trenches had to be modified on site due to limited available space as a result of trees, undergrowth and garden features. The length of the trenches also had to be modified and varied between 18m and 11m. 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 palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Reading Museum. A summary of information from this project, set



out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate encountered in the trenches varied across site, with sandy gravels more prevalent in the north and clay deposits becoming more dominant to the south and east. It was encountered at an average depth of around 0.45m below present ground level, below a thin subsoil deposit of sand/clay and gravel, which in turn was overlain by grey/brown sand/silt topsoil.
- 5.3 None of the trenches contained archaeological features, and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered. **Trench 1** and **Trench 3** contained features of modern date within which modern brick, glass and coal were found. It is likely that these are modern garden features, or are related to modern developments within the site.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The majority of the site had been subject to terracing, associated with the construction of the modern housing, which likely had a severe impact on the potential survival of archaeological features. It is therefore unsurprising that no archaeological features were encountered, particularly in the east of the site where the terracing was most prevalent. The western edge of the site appeared to be the least disturbed area of the site but only formed a small part of the overall area.
- 6.2 The modern features encountered in **Trenches 1** and **3** are likely to be garden features or perhaps associated with the construction of the nearby houses. Their fills (**105, 305**) contained CBM, glass, and coal of obviously modern date.



## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Wilson, assisted by Brian Whitehead. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Sam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 16 May 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Shoppenhanger Manor, Manor Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire: Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief*, CA typescript report 17192

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CgMs, 2018, Land at 20-24, Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

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



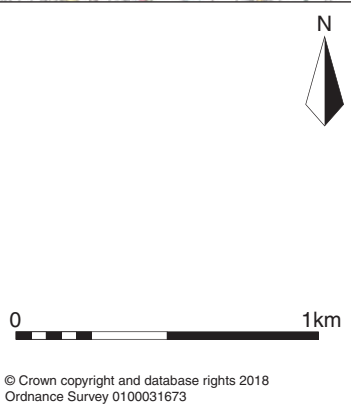
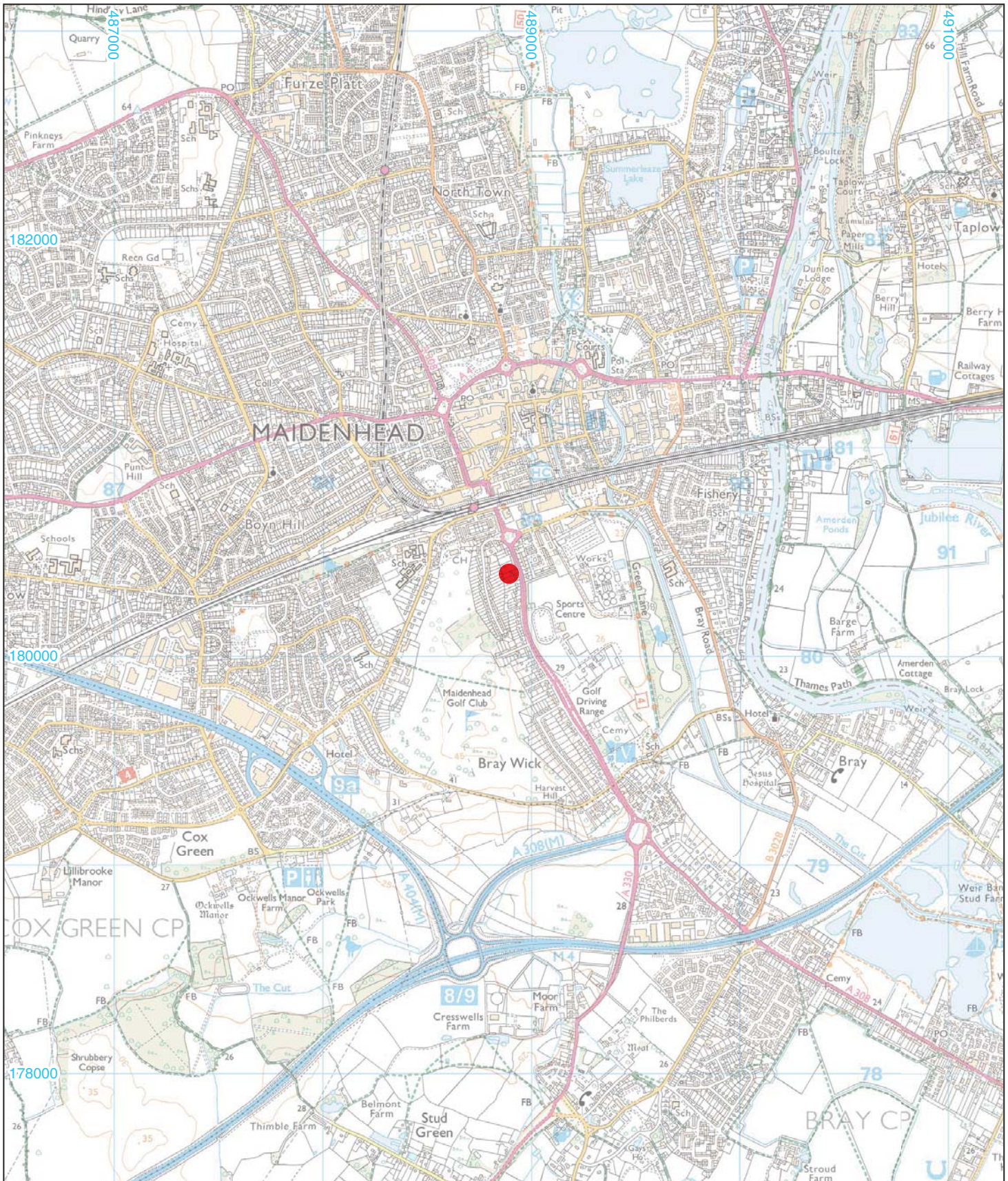
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy silt	>16.7	>1.9	0-0.25	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown sandy clay and gravel	>16.7	>1.9	0.25-0.4	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mottled mid yellowish brown and light grey clay with flint	>16.7	>1.9	0.4-0.6+	
1	103	Layer		Natural	Orangish brown clayey sand and flint gravel	>16.7	>1.9	0.4-0.6+	
1	104	Cut		Garden feature	Circular in plan with concave sides	1.25	1.25	0.2	Modern
1	105	Fill	104	Garden feature	Dark brownish grey silty clay and gravel with modern CBM	1.25	1.25	0.2	Modern
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy silt	>18	>1.9	0-0.3	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay and gravel	>18	>1.9	0.3-0.45	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Orangish brown sandy clay and flint gravel	>18	>1.9	0.45-0.95+	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy silt	>14.6	>1.9	0-0.3	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay and gravel	>14.6	>1.9	0.3-0.45	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mottled greenish brown and light blue clay with flint	>14.6	>1.9	0.45-0.7+	
3	303	Layer		Natural	Orangish brown clayey sand and flint gravel	>14.6	>1.9	0.45-0.7+	
3	304	Cut		Garden feature	Sub circular in plan with irregular concave sides	2	>1.2	0.32	Modern
3	305	Fill	304	Garden feature	Dark grey sandy clay with gravel, modern CBM, coal etc	2	>1.2	0.32	Modern
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy silt	>11	>1.8	0-0.24	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay and gravel	>11	>1.8	0.24-0.39	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light greyish brown clay with flint gravel and sand patches	>11	>1.8	0.39-0.49+	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt and gravel	>14.8	>1.9	0-0.38	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown clayey silt and gravel	>14.8	>1.9	0.38-0.5	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Dark brown sandy clay gravels	>14.8	>1.9	0.5-0.55+	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2018 at 20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified. Evidence for significant terracing was noted within the site which may have had a severe impact on the survival of any archaeological features that might have once been present.</p>	
Project dates	14-15 May 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (CgMs 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	488884 180417	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Reading Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, registers, etc
Digital	Reading Museum	Digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>18287</b>		






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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

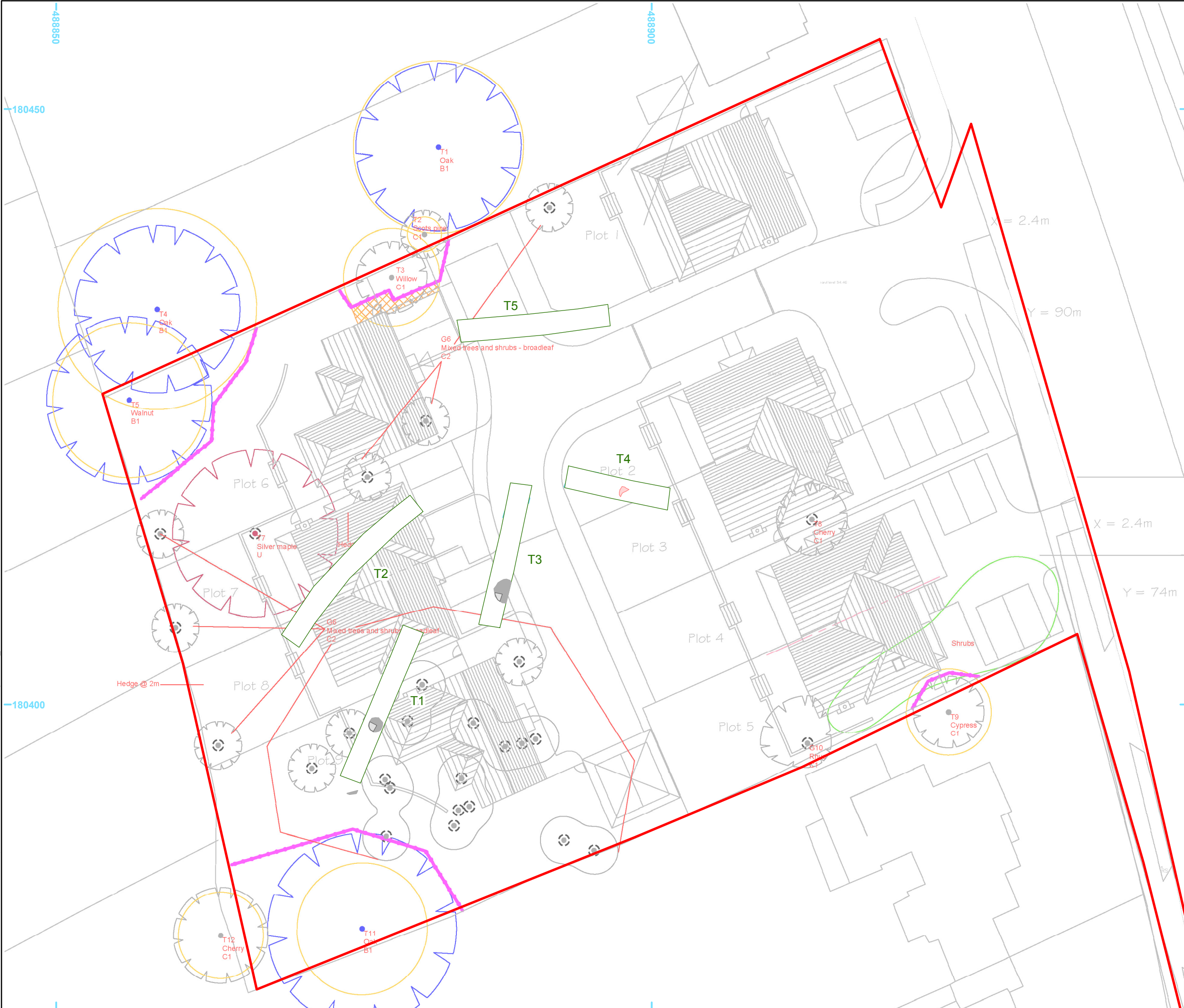
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	EE	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	770758	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	25/05/2018	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	RK	<b>SCALE</b>	@A4 1:25,000	

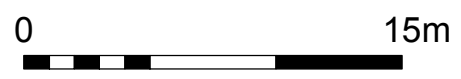
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Document Path: P:\770756 Land at 20-24, Braywick Road, Maidenhead\GIS\CA\_770756\_Survey\_master\_180514.mxd



- Site Boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Modern feature
- Excavated intervention
- Treethrow



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 20-24 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	EE	<b>PROJECT NO</b>	770756	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>	
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	25/05/2018		2
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	RK	<b>SCALE@A3</b>	1:300		





Trench 3, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 4, looking north-east, (1m scales)



General view of site and Trench 5, looking east


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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Photographs**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770758	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	25/05/2018	
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 NA	<b>3</b>



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