

**LAND AT BRIDGE HOUSE
TWYFORD, BERKSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL
DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP**

on behalf of

HURSTLANE LTD

CA PROJECT: 2749

CA REPORT: 09001


JANUARY 2009



LAND AT BRIDGE HOUSE TWYFORD, BERKSHIRE

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CA PROJECT: 2749
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date	5 January 2009
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date	7 January 2009
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Bridge House
Location: Twyford, Berkshire
NGR: SU 785 762
Type: Evaluation
Date: 15 – 19 December 2008
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Reading Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code: BHT08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2008 on land at Bridge House, Twyford, Berkshire. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered. A post-medieval/modern boundary ditch, a modern stakehole, a modern posthole, an undated tree throw pit, modern rubbish pits and a brick-built structure, possibly a garden wall foundation or drain chamber, were noted.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 15 and 19 December 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP), on behalf of Hurstlane Ltd, on land at Bridge House, Twyford, Berkshire (centred on NGR: SU 785 762; Fig. 1). The evaluation was carried out prior to the submission of a planning application for development on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with requirements for fieldwork established during prior discussions between EDP and Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council, and set out within a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeology Officer, Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), *Berkshire Archaeology: General Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork Projects* (Berkshire Archaeology 2008) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). A site visit to monitor the progress and standard of fieldwork was made by Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology and Andrew Crutchley of EDP on 19 December 2008.

The site

- 1.3 The site, approximately 3.8ha in area, is currently in use as a nursing home, with vacant factory premises, and areas of grassland, garden and scrub. The site is bounded by the River Lodden Mill Channel to the west, residential housing and a railway line to the east, an electricity sub-station and agricultural land to the north and further residential housing to the south (Fig. 2). Ground level across the proposed development area varies from approximately 36m to 40m AOD, dropping away from south to north.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Chalk, including Red Chalk, of the Cretaceous period with overlying River Terrace Deposits (mainly sand and gravel; Institute of Geological Sciences 1977, 1979). The natural substrate encountered within the site consisted of orange-brown sands and gravels, sandy-clays with flint inclusions and sandy-silts.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The archaeological background is contained within a *Preliminary Archaeological Appraisal* (CPM 2003), which set out the results of a desk-top appraisal and walkover survey.
- 1.6 There have been no previous archaeological works carried out on the site and no buried archaeological remains or artefacts are recorded within the site area. On the basis of evidence from the area and similar sites, it was considered that there might be potential for as yet undiscovered remains. In particular, the site lies on the gravels of the River Lodden and adjacent to a bridging point of the river, a location which may have been attractive to past communities. Records of archaeological finds from the surrounding area indicate human activity in the area from early prehistory through to the Anglo-Saxon period.
- 1.7 Bridge House itself is a Grade II listed building. The earliest available cartographic coverage of the site is an estate map of c. 1812, which suggests that Bridge House had yet to be built, and that the site at this time consisted of a number of narrow plots owned by different people, with larger fields to the north. The 1842 Tithe map shows the core of Bridge House in place, with land to the north labelled as 'Slade Meadow' and the area of the factory in use as houses and a 'woodyard'. The first edition OS map of 1872 shows formal gardens with pathways, a fountain and wells surrounding Bridge House (CPM 2003).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the site area, in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context could be made. This information would clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that might seek to limit damage to significant remains.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 11 trenches, each 1.6m in width and 30m in length. 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. Following machining, all features revealed were investigated by hand to determine whether they were of archaeological or geological origin. In consultation with Berkshire Archaeology and EDP the positions of trenches 1, 2, 9 and 10 were altered slightly to avoid existing garden features, timber stockpiles and earth bunds generated by previously consented groundworks. Trenches were also sited to avoid possible badger setts alongside the railway line adjoining the eastern site boundary.
- 1.10 A contingency arrangement was established, allowing for the excavation of a further 30m trench to examine any archaeologically significant features which could not be adequately characterised within the confines of the trenches. Following on site discussions between Berkshire Archaeology, EDP and CA, it was agreed that this contingency trench was not required.
- 1.11 Archaeological deposits, where encountered, were planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits being recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:50) and sections (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate). Photographs (monochrome print, colour transparencies and digital) were also taken of all trenches.
- 1.12 All artefacts were bagged separately, related to the context record, recovered and retained for processing in accordance with Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 1995).
- 1.13 Due care was taken to identify deposits which might have palaeoenvironmental potential, but no deposits were identified requiring sampling in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2 *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003).

- 1.14 Upon completion of the evaluation, all trenches were backfilled by mechanical excavator.
- 1.15 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with Reading Museum and Art Gallery. 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and present ground level, expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD), are to be found in Appendix A.

General

- 2.2 No archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered within trenches 1 to 11. Trenches 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were entirely devoid of archaeological features, instead revealing a simple sequence of natural sands, gravels and sandy-clays, overlain by varying thicknesses of subsoil and topsoil.

Post-medieval/modern

- 2.3 A north-east/south-west aligned ditch 104 cut subsoil 101 within trench 1. Five sherds of post-medieval pottery, two tobacco pipe stem fragments and seven pantile fragments were recovered from its fill 103. The north-western corner of a modern brick-built structure 204, possibly a garden wall foundation or drain chamber, was encountered in trench 2, together with a posthole 207, from which fragments of modern painted wood were recovered (not retained).
- 2.4 An undated tree throw pit 404 and adjacent stakehole 406, containing one sherd of 19th-century pottery, were recorded in trench 4. A circular rubbish pit 503 in trench 5

contained modern bottle glass fragments (noted but not recovered) and a partially-revealed pit 704 in trench 7 produced three 20th-century beer and sauce bottles.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.5 Six sherds of post-medieval pottery (62g) were recovered from ditch fill 103 and stakehole fill 405. Pottery types present consist mainly of creamware, local glazed red earthenwares and slipware. The glazed earthenwares and slipware date from the 17th to 18th centuries, but are probably residual, being present alongside post-medieval/modern creamware sherds dateable after c. 1770.
- 2.6 Three modern glass bottles were recovered from pit fill 703, comprising two sauce bottles and part of a brown glass beer bottle. The later features a label identifying the product as brewed by the Brakspear brewery, located in Henley-on-Thames and operating there between 1711 and 2002. All of the bottles are typically 20th century in style.
- 2.7 Ceramic building material was present in the form of seven pantile fragments (360g) within ditch fill 103. Two pieces of unmarked clay tobacco pipe stem were also recovered from ditch fill 103, and an unfeatured copper alloy disc was recovered from topsoil 100.
- 2.8 The artefactual material is of 17th century or later date. Being of minimal archaeological significance, it has not been retained.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features pre-dating the post-medieval/modern periods were encountered during evaluation trenching, despite the site's location on a river terrace favourable for settlement since prehistoric times. These findings supplement the negative results from previous trial trenching undertaken south of the site at Twyford Mill, which also indicated an absence of prehistoric settlement in areas tested.

3.2 The evaluation has instead identified only limited post-medieval/modern activity within the site. The isolated ditch within trench 1 appears to represent a former plot boundary, perhaps running to the rear of streetside properties and separating narrow plots close to the street frontage from larger fields to the north (CPM 2003). The modern posthole, stakehole and pits, undated tree-throw pit and modern brick-built structure, possibly a drain chamber or wall foundation, all appear to reflect limited activity within areas of orchard and garden north of Bridge House, first depicted on the 1842 Tithe map. In addition, no artefacts clearly pre-dating the post-medieval/modern period were encountered during visual scanning of topsoil and subsoil horizons during the evaluation.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber and Neil Wright, assisted by Andy Donald, Hazel O'Neill and Robin Latour. The report was written by Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Rachel Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Angela Aggujaro. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Land at Bridge House, Twyford, Wokingham Borough: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- CPM 2003 CPM2412 *Bridge House, Twyford, Berkshire Briefing Note. Preliminary Archaeological Appraisal*
- Institute of Geological Sciences 1977 *Quaternary Map of the United Kingdom, South. 1st Edition*
- Institute of Geological Sciences 1979 *Geological Map of the United Kingdom, South. 3rd Edition, Solid*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1: present ground level 39.45 – 40.23m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.58	
101	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.4	
102	Layer	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sandy-gravels.			n/k	
103	Fill	Fill of ditch 104. Sandy-silt with occasional flint nodules.	1.6+	0.83	0.62	C19
104	Cut	Ditch, NE/SW aligned, with steeply-sloping sides and flat base.	1.6+	0.83	0.62	

Trench 2: present ground level 37.73 – 37.76m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.3	
201	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.25	
202	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sand-gravel.			n/k	
203	Deposit	Fill of construction cut 205. Dark-brown sandy-silt.		0.23	0.72	
204	Structure	Brick-built structure, possible garden wall foundation or drain chamber: north/south and east/west aligned modern brick courses with grey mortar bonding.		1.25+	0.72	
205	Cut	Construction cut associated with brick-built structure 204.		0.2	0.72	
206	Deposit	Fill of posthole 207. Dark-brown soil containing fragments of painted wood (not retained).		0.32	0.09	C20
207	Cut	Posthole.		0.32	0.09	

Trench 3: present ground level 36.15 – 36.69m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.52	
301	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.76	
302	Layer	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sandy-clay.			n/k	

Trench 4: present ground level 37.27-38.08m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.2	
401	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.53	
402	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Light orange-brown sandy-clay				
403	Deposit	Fill of tree throw pit 404. Mid-brown sandy-silt.		0.5	0.13	
404	Cut	Tree throw pit.		0.5	0.13	
405	Deposit	Fill of stakehole 405. Dark brown sandy-silt.		0.17	0.18	C19
406	Cut	Stakehole.		0.17	0.18	

Trench 5: present ground level 36 – 36.95m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.5	
501	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.46	
502	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Yellow sandy-gravel and orange-brown clay.			n/k	
503	Cut	Circular pit.		1	n/k	
504	Deposit	Dark brown sandy-silt with abundant modern bottle glass.		1	n/k	

Trench 6: present ground level 37.19 – 37.59m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.3	
601	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.65	
602	Layer	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sandy-silt with gravel outcrops.			n/k	

Trench 7: present ground level 36.68 – 37.49m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.5	
701	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.43	
702	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sand-gravel.			n/k	
703	Deposit	Fill of pit 704. Orange-black sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and modern bottle glass.		0.28+	0.08	C20
704	Cut	Pit cut, partially exposed.		0.28+	0.08	

Trench 8: present ground level 36.13-36.85m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.32	
801	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.11	
802	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sandy-gravel with flint inclusions.			n/k	

Trench 9: present ground level 36.45 – 36.88m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.27	
901	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.25	
902	Layer	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown clay and gravel with flint inclusions.			n/k	

Trench 10: present ground level 36.45 – 36.88m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.27	
1001	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.25	

1002	Layer	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sandy-gravel and sandy-clay.			n/k	
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Trench 11: present ground level 36.89 – 37.41m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Deposit	Modern topsoil.			0.2	
1101	Deposit	Subsoil.			0.53	
1102	Deposit	Natural geological substrate. Orange-brown sandy-clay with flint inclusions.			n/k	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

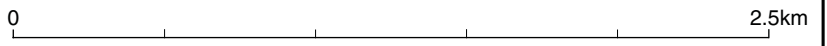
Concordance


Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
100	Copper alloy disc, unfeathered	1	4	-
103	Post-medieval/modern pottery: creamware, glazed earthenware, slipware	5	60	C19
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	2	10	
	Ceramic building material: pantile fragments	7	360	
405	Post-medieval/modern pottery: creamware	1	2	C19
703	Modern glass bottles: sauce, beer	3	725	C20

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Bridge Farm, Twyford, Wokingham Borough, Berkshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2008 on land at Bridge House, Twyford, Berkshire. Eleven evaluation trenches were excavated.</p> <p>No archaeological features or artefacts pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered. A post-medieval/modern boundary ditch, a modern stakehole, a modern posthole, an undated tree throw pit, modern rubbish pits and a brick-built structure, possibly a garden wall foundation or drain chamber, were noted.</p>	
Project dates	15 December to 19 December 2008	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based Study (CPM 2003)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Bridge House, Twyford, Wokingham Borough	
Study area (M ² /ha)	3.8 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 785 762	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Neil Wright and Alistair Barber	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Reading Museum and Art Gallery	Finds not retained
Paper	Reading Museum and Art Gallery	Trench Recording Forms, Context Sheets, Levels Registers, Photographic Registers
Digital	Reading Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Land at Bridge House, Twyford, Wokingham Borough, Berkshire. Archaeological Evaluation</i> , CA typescript report no. 09001		
CPM 2003 <i>CPM2412 Bridge House, Twyford, Berkshire Briefing note. Preliminary Archaeological Appraisal</i>		

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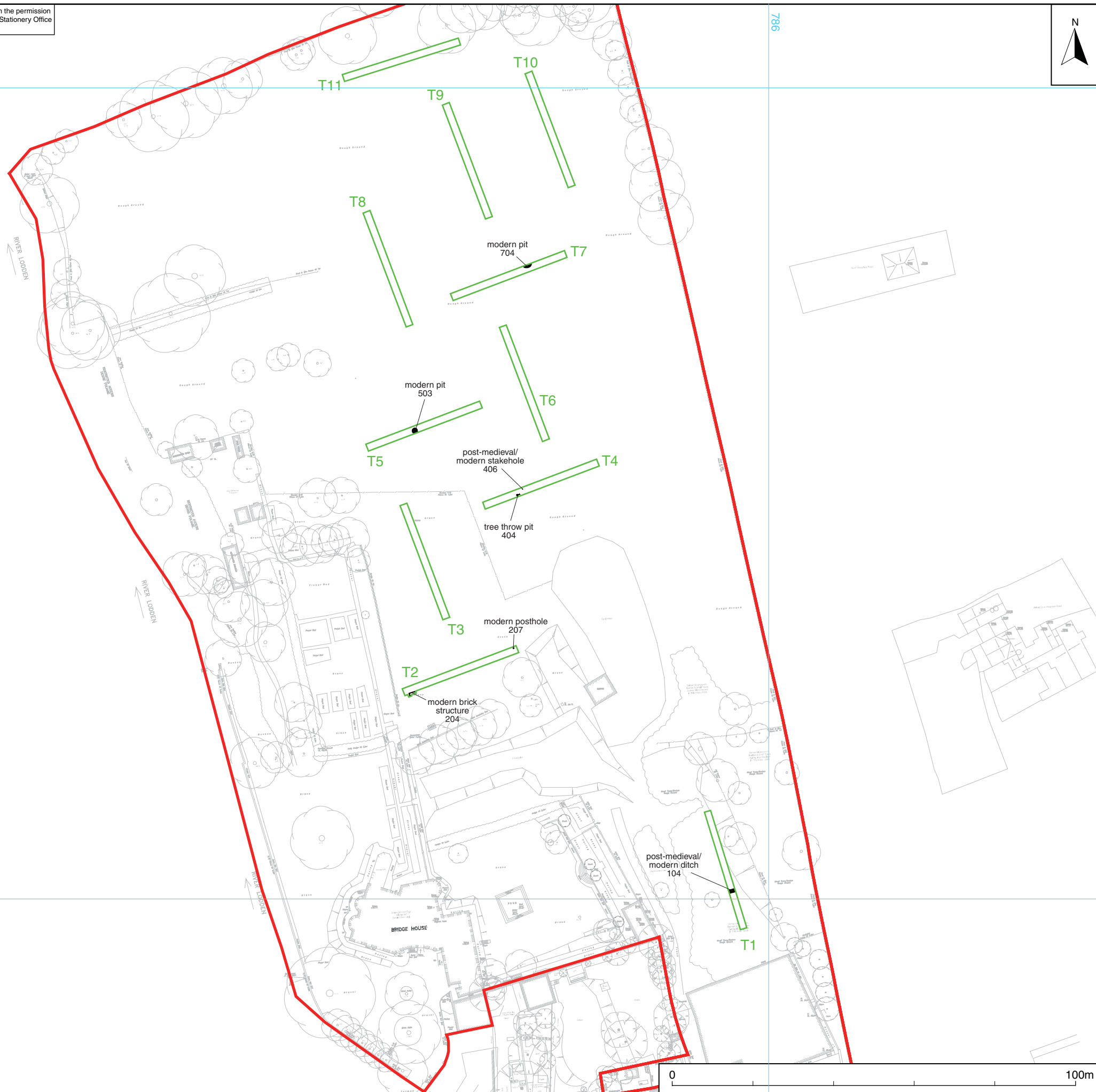





 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Land at Bridge House, Twyford Berkshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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763

784

786



-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature

761



PROJECT TITLE
Land at Bridge House, Twyford
Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan, showing
archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:1000@A3	2749	2