

Reading Green Park Village, White Triangle



Watching Brief Report

January 2013

Client: Tom Hassell on behalf of
PruPim

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Fig. 1 Monitoring Location - Design Drawing

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

In December 2009 OA carried out a watching brief at Reading GreenPark Village – White Triangle Site, Berkshire. The Watching Brief was commissioned by Tom Hassall on behalf of PruPim.

- 1.1.1 The archaeological Watching Brief was required on the excavation of an oil separator, drainage pipe channels and infiltration field trenches.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of a condition attached to planning permission (09/01906/FUL). The methodology for the work was set out in a WSI addendum (OA 2009). This was approved by the Berkshire Archaeology, Archaeology Officer.
- 1.1.3 This report documents the results of the watching brief.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The investigation site area is located within the ancient parish of Shinfield, c. 2.5 km south of Reading city centre and c. 1 km south of the River Kennet. The site is immediately north of Longwater Avenue (see Plate 1 below – a grid point an north orientation is given on Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The area under watching brief is situated on the southern edge of the River Kennet floodplain at c. 38 m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The surrounding area is flat, although the construction skills training centre compound within the White Triangle area has clearly been constructed on built up land.
- 1.2.3 The geology is Valley Gravel (BGS Sheet 268).



Plate. 1 Site location

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been the subject of a separate detailed desk study the results of which are in OA 2007. This is not repeated in this report.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The mechanical excavation of the oil separator pit was monitored by an archaeologist in order to establish the character of the soil profile. The oil separator was the deepest impact proposed (see Figure 2) and therefore subsequent to the strata in the trench being revealed to be modern, further monitoring was abandoned.

- 2.1.2 All work was carried out in adherence to the methodologies and standards contained in the WSI OA 2009.

Finds

- 2.1.3 No finds were recovered during the monitoring. Modern finds were noted as evidence of the recent date of deposits but were not retained.

2.2 Finds

- 2.2.1 No finds were noted or retrieved during the watching brief.

2.3 Environmental remains

- 2.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were noted during the watching brief.

3 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 The excavation work reached a maximum depth of 1.6 m through two deposits.
- Deposit 1: Made ground – mid-brown-grey silt with modern ceramic building material inclusions;
 - Deposit 2: Black-dark grey disturbed alluvial/silt deposits with modern brick inclusions.
- 3.1.2 The deposits continued beyond the depth of excavation. The upper deposit (1) is likely to represent recent/modern dumping. The lower deposit (2) appears to be a deposit lain through flooding then re-worked as a ploughsoil and subsequently been significantly disturbed by the dumping of Deposit 1 .



Plate 2. Oil Separator Trench; limit of excavation – the section reveals modern dumping overlying disturbed alluvial derived ploughsoil to 1.6 m below existing ground level.

General Interpretation

- 3.1.3 The excavation of the oil separator did not exceed deposit with modern disturbance. On this evidence it was agreed not to monitor further shallower excavation work.

APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Bibliographic Sources

IFA, 2008 Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

OAU, 1992 Field Manual (ed. D. Wilkinson)

OA, 2009 Reading Green Park Village, Phase 1 - Written Scheme of Investigations
Green Park Station, Access Road and Temporary Car Park, Addendum
02/11/09 – Archaeological Provision for Planning application, 09/01906/FUL.
The White Triangle.

APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Reading White Triangle Oil Separator Trench watching brief.
Site code:	REGTRI09
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR SU 707 700
Date and duration of project:	04/12/09. 2 hours
Summary of results:	Modern dumping and disturbed soils to limit of monitoring (1.6m below ground level)
Location of archive:	Currently at OA. The archive will be transferred to Reading Museum.

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Project: GRESBANK HARBOR AND FIRST SECURITY RELOCATION
 Day: 11/10/11

Issue No: 025584
 Drawing No: 59810
 Checked by: JY
 Date: OCT 2009

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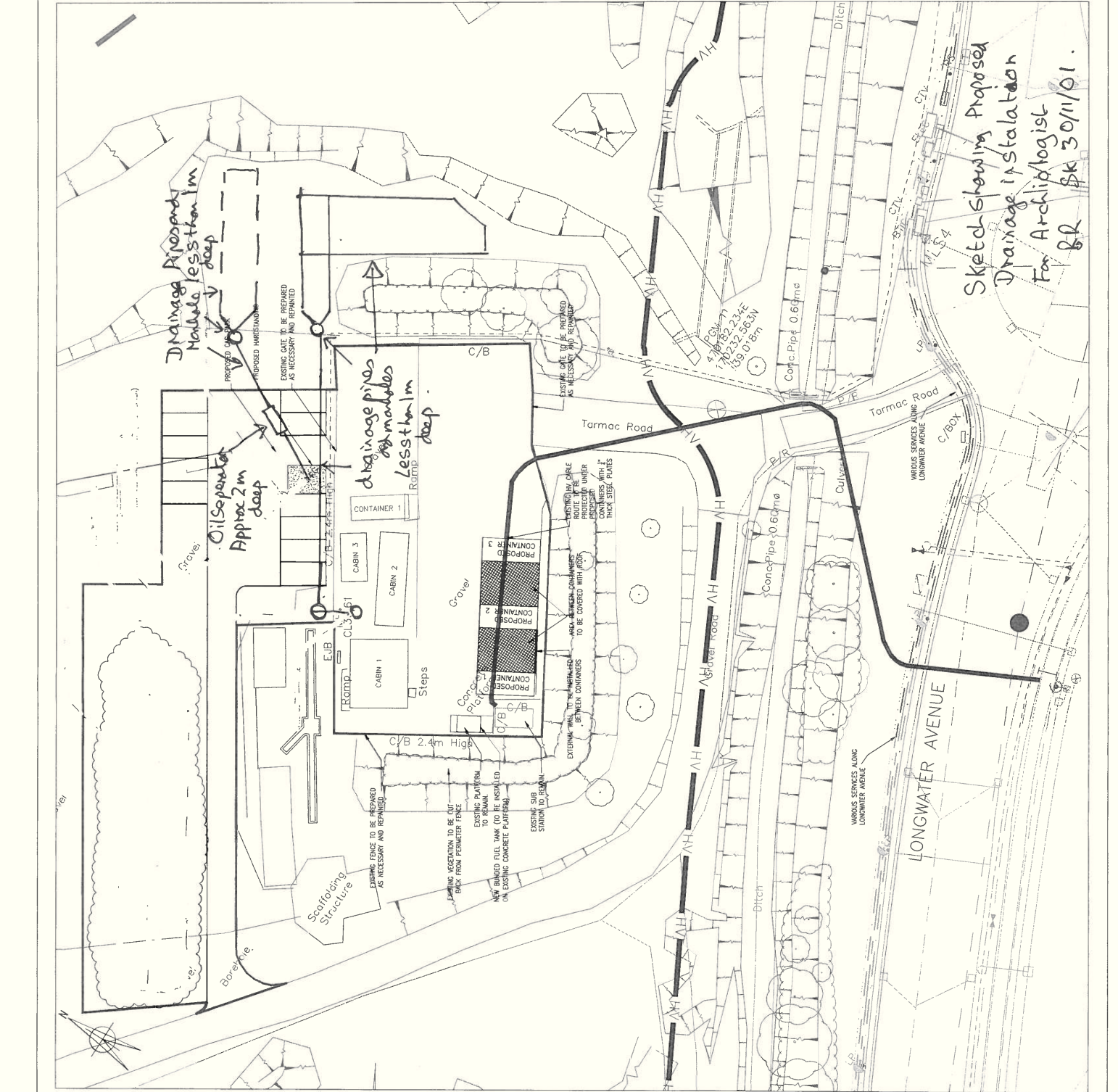
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