



Land South of Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

August 2019

**Client: CgMs Heritage / RPS Group on behalf of
Berkeley Homes**

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: REKENWB

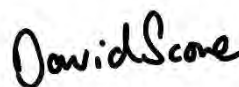
NGR: SU 72271 73602



Client Name: CgMs Heritage / RPS Group on behalf of Berkeley Homes
Document Title: Land South of Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire
Document Type: Watching Brief Report
Grid Reference: SU 72271 73602
Planning Reference: 170509
Site Code: REKEN19
Invoice Code: REKENWB
Receiving Body: Archaeological Data Service
Accession No.: N/A

OA Document File Location: X:\r\Reading Kenavon Drive\Report
OA Graphics File Location: X:\r\Reading Kenavon Drive\010Geomatics

Issue No: 1
Date: August 2019
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Land South of Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Summary

Over the course of April, May and July 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook a pro-active watching brief at the site of a residential development. The work comprised the excavation of six trenches which were positioned to investigate key impact areas of the proposed development.

The site, currently a retail park, was formerly occupied by the Huntley and Palmers biscuit factory which was demolished in the late 20th century.

The heavily truncated remains of the basement structures associated with the factory were recorded within several of the trenches. The results of the work augment those of the previously undertaken trial trench evaluation (PCA 2019) supporting the conclusion that development within the site during the 19th and 20th centuries has significantly reduced the potential for remains of earlier date to survive within the site.

No remains predating the 20th century were identified during the watching brief.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Heritage / RPS Group for commissioning this project on behalf of Berkeley Homes. Thanks is also extended to Roland Smith who monitored the work on behalf of Berkshire Archaeology for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Lee Sparks, who was supported by Liz Kennard. Survey and digitising was carried out by Lee Sparks and Matt Bradley. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Heritage / RPS Group on behalf of Berkeley Homes to undertake a pro-active watching brief at the site of a proposed residential development at Kenavon Drive, Reading.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 170509). A Written Scheme of investigation was produced by CgMs Heritage / RPS Group detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (CgMs 2019). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief 2014.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern edge of the town centre of Reading, Berkshire (Fig 1. NGR: SU 72271 73602).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of two large retail units and associated car parking, and covers of an area measuring approximately 2.5 hectares. The site is roughly kidney shaped in plan and is bounded by Kenavon Drive to the north, residential units to the east, the River Kennet to the south and Forbury Road to the west. The site is roughly flat and lies approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Seaford and Newhaven chalk formation with superficial deposits of Taplow gravel in the western part of site and alluvium deposits in the east (BGS Online). Geotechnical investigations within the site have shown the chalk to rise from the east (c 32-33m aOD) to the west (c 36-37m aOD). In the southern and eastern part of the site deposits of Shepperton Gravel, associated with a braided river system, were recorded at c 32.5m and 34m aOD. Alluvial deposits were recorded overlying either the gravels or the bedrock between approximately 36m and 37m aOD (Quest 2016).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the Desk-Based Assessment (DBA: CgMs 2015). The following summary, derived from the DBA, is provided to place the results of the watching brief in context.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 The underlying alluvial deposits within the site are of Holocene date and therefore have no potential for in-situ remains of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic date. No Mesolithic finds are recorded in the vicinity of the site.
- 1.3.3 A rolled and chipped flint axe of Neolithic date was recovered 400m to the east of the site at the Gasworks. Early Neolithic flakes and pottery, and later Neolithic or early

Bronze Age flints were recovered from Abbey Church c 200m to the west of the site. In addition, excavations at Crane Wharf, c 250m to the south-west, found fragments of worked wood with tool marks indicative of a Neolithic origin.

- 1.3.4 An assemblage of struck flint was also recovered during archaeological investigations at Forbury Gardens, approximately 350m to the west, and has been attributed to the prehistoric period in general.
- 1.3.5 The DBA concludes that the site is unlikely to be the focus of Bronze Age activity, settlement or burial monuments, due to its location and the likelihood of seasonal flooding.

Iron Age and Roman

- 1.3.6 Despite a wealth of evidence of Iron and Roman activity within the Thames Valley there is limited evidence within the vicinity of the site or Reading in general.
- 1.3.7 An Iron Age netting needle was found at the Gasworks site approximately 75m to the east of site. A Roman coin of 2nd century date and an antler implement were also recovered during works associated with the Gasworks.
- 1.3.8 A burial of Iron Age or Roman date was identified during excavation at Crane Wharf, c 250m to the south-west, along with flood defenses, wooden stakes and Iron Age pottery. Pottery of Iron Age date was also recovered within the Scheduled area of Reading Abbey to the north.

Early medieval

- 1.3.9 The Danes settlement of Reading is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles of 871. A defended settlement was formed through the construction a rampart and utilization of the rivers Thames and Kennet.
- 1.3.10 Excavation at Reading Abbey exposed 40 burials of early medieval date along with a spearhead and pottery sherds.

Late medieval

- 1.3.11 Two manors, one belonging to Battle Abbey and the other to the King, are recorded at Reading in the Domesday survey of 1086. The site falls within the area of the King's estate which comprised a church, 29 dwellings and 12 acres of meadows.
- 1.3.12 Reading Abbey was founded by the King on behalf of the Clunic Order in 1121, but by the 13th century control had passed to the Benedictine Order. Excavations have identified several structures within the Abbey complex which is now a Scheduled Monument. These include the Chancel, Treasury, Chapter House, Infirmary, Cloisters and Church.
- 1.3.13 Located west of Forbury Road, the Abbey's precinct wall lies immediate to the west of the site boundary and remains of the wall were discovered at the junction of Kenavon Drive and Forbury Road c 300m to the north-west of the site.

- 1.3.14 Excavations to the south of the Abbey, along the north bank of the River Kennet, revealed remains of wharfs, revetments, warehouses, buildings and smaller discrete features thought to be associated with the Abbey complex.
- 1.3.15 The site is shown on Speed's 1611 map of Reading as lying to the east of and outside the Abbey precinct wall within an area of flood meadow.

Post medieval and modern

- 1.3.16 The site is still depicted as flood meadow on Roque's map of 1761, however, by 1802 structures associated with the utilization of the Kennet are shown on Tomkin's map and identified as being associated with 'Blakes Wharf' and 'The Grange'.
- 1.3.17 Development expanded across the site in first half of the 19th century and by 1846 the Huntley and Palmer Biscuit Factory was opened on land encompassing the site. The factory expanded over the later part of the 19th century. The 1879 Ordnance Survey map depicts the factory buildings being densest towards Forbury Road, in the western half of the site, and continuing on the southern side of the River Kennet.
- 1.3.18 A detailed layout of the factory, including the 'New Biscuit Factory', flour stores, machine shops, a smithy, wharf buildings and the 'New Cake Bakery, is shown on the GOAD Insurance plan of 1895.
- 1.3.19 The factory was closed in the 1970s and the site was redeveloped during the later part of the 20th century.

1.4 Previous archaeological work

- 1.4.1 In addition to the aforementioned geoarchaeological investigations (see section 1.2.3), a trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in early 2019 (PCA 2019).
- 1.4.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches to depths of c 4.5m below ground level. Chalk bedrock was observed in the western part of the site and alluvium across the rest. Only a single feature, a pit dated to the 19th century and containing industrial waste, was identified that pre-dated the Huntley and Palmer factory.
- 1.4.3 The report on the evaluation concluded that the construction of the factory had significant impact upon the potential for earlier archaeological to survive. Furthermore, only basement and foundation structures associated with the factory survive due to the late 20th century redevelopment of the site.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to record and excavate any features during the course of the groundworks, and determine the character, quality and date of each feature or group of features.
- 2.1.2 The specific aims of the project were as follows:
- i. To determine the presence of any activity pre-dating the post-medieval / modern periods;
 - ii. To determine the presence of any late post-medieval / modern activity within the site associated with the Huntley and Palmer biscuit factory. How do the remains identify compare with the documentary sources detailing the layout of the factory? What can these remains tell us about the operations taking place within the biscuit factory?
 - iii. Establish the likely impact of past land use and development.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The proposed works comprised the excavation of eight trenches, one measuring 10m by 10m, six measuring 12m by 12m and one measuring 12m by 24m. The trenches were numbered 9 to 16 continuing the numbering used during the trial trench evaluation (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 The trenches were positioned to target key areas of the proposed foundation plan where this intersects with the footprint of the former factory. However, due to onsite constraints and previously completed demolition works, two of the proposed trenches could not be completed, Trenches 14 and 15. Similarly, the area to be investigated by Trench 12 had been grubbed out prior to archaeological attendance on site. This was confirmed through the excavation of a 2m by 2m test-pit. As such, Trench 12 was relocated further north in an undisturbed area. The relocated trench is referred to as Trench 12a (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.3 On-site constraints also caused the reduction in size of several of the trenches. Due to the presence on the main access road and modern services Trench 11 was reduced to 12m by 4m (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.4 Trench 16 was located in area of contamination which required specialist remediation. As such the excavation works were monitored from a safe vantage point beyond the remediation area, and the attending archaeologist was unable to access the excavation area. Archaeological recording comprised digital photography supplemented by notes. A similar approach was adopted in Trench 9 after the discovery of asbestos within the trench after the completion of the mechanical excavation.
- 2.2.5 At each trench location overburden deposits were removed using a mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation continued to either the surface of remains associated with the factory or until natural geology was encountered. Trenches edges were stepped to ensure safe access.

- 2.2.6 Were appropriate trench plans were drawn at 1:50 and sections drawn at 1:20 or 1:50. Digital photographs were taken of exposed archaeological remains and the works in general.
- 2.2.7 Upon completion of all excavation work the trenches were backfilled with the arising by the Principal Contractor.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are provided in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. wall 908 is a feature within Trench 9, while layer 1101 is a deposit within Trench 11.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The deposit sequence across all trenches was fairly uniform. Where observed, the natural geology comprised chalk which was truncated by the remains of the biscuit factory and overlain by late 20th century demolition deposits. Alluvial clays were present in Trenches 11 and 13, and gravels in Trench 13.
- 3.2.2 The demolition deposits were overlain by modern leveling layers and tarmac or concrete deposits associated with the redevelopment of the site into a retail park.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Due to presence of loose demolition deposits in all trenches, trenches edges were stepped to for stability and to enable safe access.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 With the exception of Trench 10, remains associated with the Huntley and Palmer biscuit factory were observed in all of the trenches. No features predating the factory were observed.

3.4 Trench 9

- 3.4.1 Trench 9 contained the best surviving elements of the former factory, unfortunately due to the presence of asbestos recording was limited to digital photography and an annotated sketch plan (Plate 1).
- 3.4.2 Natural chalk geology was observed on the eastern edge of the trench at approximately 38.55m aOD. The chalk had been truncated by the construction of the biscuit factory and later demolition works.
- 3.4.3 The factory remains comprised 10 walls and four floor surfaces which formed three separate rooms. A set of brick stairs was also located towards the southern limit of the trench, and a modern manhole was present in the north-west corner of the trench which truncated walls 900 and 901 which formed part of the factory.
- 3.4.4 Deposit 915 located at the southern extent of the trench consisted of a mixed demolition rubble and continued beyond the depth of the surviving factory remains and indicated this area had been previously disturbed, likely during the redevelopment of the site in the late 20th century.

- 3.4.5 Walls 901, 902, 903 formed part a rectangular room in the north-east corner of the trench which had internal dimensions of at least 5m east-west and 3.2m north-south. These walls were previously observed in Trench 1 of the evaluation works and have been dated to between 1850 and 1950. The full extent of the room is unknown as the western extent had been removed by later construction.
- 3.4.6 A second room was located to the east, formed of walls 902 to the west, 901 to the north and 900 to the east. The southern extent is unknown due to truncation, but from the surviving remains the room appeared to form an 'L' shape with dimensions of at least 8m north-south by 5m east-west. A small door way linked this central room and the room in the NW corner of the trench. A black tile floor was present in the room at c 37.75m aOD. Two metal plates, 917, were located in the centre of the room. Although their function is unclear, it is suspected they cover a drain. Material hitting the metal plates during machining bounced off the surface which made a sound indicative of a cavity below. The plates also appeared to be hinged on the western edge.
- 3.4.7 The third room was located to the east of the metal plates and appeared to form a small storage space within the larger 'L' shaped room. Measuring 1.7m by 1.7m the room had a brick floor, 913, which appeared to be slightly (c 0.1m) lower than the floor in the main room. The storage room was separated from the main room by a wood doorway, the frame still partially surviving at the eastern extent of the room.
- 3.4.8 The upper surface of all the walls in Trench 9 were truncated, being recorded at 38.58m aOD. The comparative heights between the top of the truncated walls and the natural geology suggest the construction of the biscuit factory in this area has removed the potential for earlier features to survive.
- 3.4.9 The factory remains were overlain by the demolition deposit, 915, which in turn was overlain by modern made ground and tarmac.

3.5 Trench 10

- 3.5.1 Due to the presence of modern services at its western extent and the main site haul road running through the centre, Trench 10 was reduced from 12m by 24m to only 12m by 4m (Plate 2).
- 3.5.2 The chalk natural, 1003, was observed at 38.62m aOD and was truncated by a modern drain, 1008, and a service trench, 1004.
- 3.5.3 The chalk was directly overlain by a modern levelling deposit, 1009, and tarmac, 1010.

3.6 Trench 11

- 3.6.1 Measuring 10m by 12m, Trench 11 was excavated at the southern extent of the previous evaluation Trench 3. Natural geology was not observed within the trench, but a layer of alluvium was encountered at 2.5m below ground level or 36.51m aOD. The alluvium was identified in a sondage at the southern edge of the trench. The sondage was excavated though a deposit of mixed demolition material, 1102, suspected to be associated with the redevelopment of the site in the late 20th century and the demolition of the biscuit factory.

- 3.6.2 Surviving within the demolition deposit were two segments of in-situ brick wall, 1103 / 1104 and 1105 (Fig. 3). The walls were located in the north-east and the south-east corners of the trench and were heavily disturbed. Identified at 38.22m aOD and 38.25m aOD respectively, it is suspected that the two segments represent a single wall which has largely been truncated, and that it is the continuation of one of the walls identified in evaluation Trench 3 which were associated with the 'Machine' room. Two walls were recorded within the former evaluation trench of which one had a concrete rendering, no evidence for this was observed within Trench 11.
- 3.6.3 A second sondage was excavated into the demolition deposit and a large concrete slab, 1106, was exposed at c 36.55m below ground level. While it is likely this the same slab recorded in the evaluation trench, it is notably deeper having been exposed at 37.05m during the evaluation. This suggests a change in floor level within the 'Machine' room.
- 3.6.4 The demolition deposit was overlain by two modern drains associated with the redevelopment of the site in the late 20th century, two levelling deposit, 1101 and 1102, and tarmac 1100.

3.7 Trench 12 and 12a

- 3.7.1 The proposed location for Trench 12 was grubbed out prior to archaeological attendance on the site. A 2m by 2m test pit was excavated to confirm the impact of these works. The test pit was excavated to a depth of c 3m below ground level (36.05m aOD). A very short segment of wall did survive but given the level of truncation no useful information could be gathered from further excavation in the proposed area (Plate 3).
- 3.7.2 Therefore, an additional trench, Trench 12a, which measuring 8m by 6.5m was excavated 40m to the north, beyond the extent of the grubbing out (Fig. 4).
- 3.7.3 Natural chalk was observed in the southern half of the trench at approximately 38.44m aOD. Two short sections of heavily truncated brick drains, 1206 and 1207, were located in the south-west corner of the trench and truncated the natural geology. A short segment of brick wall, 1208, constructed on a concrete base was located along the eastern side of the trench. The trench was located within a structure labelled as 'Ovens' on the GOAD plan and it is possible the wall forms a support for the bases of the ovens or represents one of the partition walls shown on the plan.
- 3.7.4 The walls were overlain by a demolition deposit, 1204, which was truncated by substantial concrete foundations, 1205, associated with the retail units. A modern levelling deposit, 1209, abutted the foundations, and both were overlain by a large concrete foundation slab, 1203.

3.8 Trench 13

- 3.8.1 Trench 13 measured 12m by 12m and was excavated to a depth of 35.87m aOD (Fig. 5). A gravel deposit, 1306, was encountered at 36.47m aOD and was overlain by two alluvial deposits. The lower alluvium, 1304, was exposed at 36.97m aOD and comprised a Dark blackish grey silty clay. This was overlain by deposit 1303, a second layer of alluvium, which was encountered at 37.52m aOD and comprised a dark blueish grey silty clay. Sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from both deposits,

however, it is suspected these are intrusive rather than provide a date for the accumulation of the alluvium, and reflects the use of the area as a meadow and later the development of wharfs in the post-medieval period. A small fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) was also recovered from deposit 1303.

- 3.8.2 A roughly east-west aligned wall, 1305, was located at 38.57m aOD. The wall was formed of two courses of red brick but had been heavily truncated during the redevelopment of the site in the late 20th century. The wall is likely to be associated with structure labelled as 'Machine Shop' on the 1896 GOAD map, however beyond being an internal wall, the function of the wall cannot be ascertained given the level of preservation, nor any association with other structures.
- 3.8.3 The alluvial deposits and the wall were overlain by a 1.6m thick demolition deposit, 1302. This in turn was overlain by two modern levelling deposits, 1302 and 1301 and tarmac, 1300.

3.9 Trench 16

- 3.9.1 Due to the manner in which Trench 16 was excavated and restriction on the archaeological monitoring, only a broad assessment of the remains present can be provided. Please note, all depths provided are rough estimates.
- 3.9.2 Excavations works were undertaken to c 2m bgl (35.84m aOD) and stopped once a large metal surface was exposed, 1604 (Plate 4). The surface covered the extent of the area and was overlain by a 1.5m thick layer of demolition material, 1603. This was overlain by two modern level deposits, 1601 and 1602, which were in turn overlain by a c 0.3m thick layer of concrete 1600.
- 3.9.3 Trench 16 was located to the west of evaluation Trench 8, and contained a similar sequence of deposits. A large concrete slab was recorded as being constructed on a post-medieval reclamation layer and was overlain by demolition material. The concrete slab is believed to be associated with the structure labelled as 'New Cake Bakery' on the GOAD map, and the upper surface was recorded at 36.74m aOD, significantly higher than the metal floor surface recorded during these works (35.84m aOD). Also located within the footprint of the 'New Cake Bakery', the area in which Trench 16 was excavated is labelled as '9 Ovens' and therefore it is possible the metal surface is associated with an oven, however, this is far from certain. With the top of the metal floor surface being recorded at 35.84m aOD, the construction of the biscuit factory in this area has partially truncated the alluvial layers, recorded between 33.81m aOD and 36.31m aOD in evaluation Trench 8.

3.10 Finds summary

- 3.10.1 Two sherds of pottery were recovered during the works, both from alluvial deposits in Trench 13. The sherds date to the post-medieval period and but cannot be considered as indicative dates for the deposits in which they were found. A single fragment of post-medieval CBM was also recovered from the alluvium.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Due to the completion of certain demolition activities prior to archaeological attendance on site, the scope of works undertaken were reduced from those proposed. However, where undertaken the works provide a good assessment of the preservation levels of the remains of the Huntley and Palmer factory, and the impacts of both the construction of the factory and its subsequent demolition on the underlying geological deposits and the potential for earlier archaeological remains to survive.
- 4.1.2 It should be noted that the accuracy and extent of archaeological recording was limited due to the presence of contamination in two key areas, Trenches 9 and 16.

4.2 Objectives and results

- 4.2.1 One of the key aims of the watching brief was to identify any remains predating the late post-medieval development of the site. No remains earlier than those associated with the biscuit factory were present within any of the trenches. This reflects the results of the previous evaluation (PCA 2019) in which only a single pit was identified that pre-dated the 19th century development of the site. Two sherds of pottery dating to the post-medieval period were recovered from alluvial deposits and reflect the use of the site in the period as a meadow, to the east of the higher ground where Reading Abbey / Reading Goal are located, and then the later development of wharfs and warehouses in the areas associated with the River Kennet.
- 4.2.2 Remains of the factory were best preserved in Trench 9, certainly as a result of the trenches distance from the key structures of the modern retail buildings. The trench provides details of the layout of the basement level of the unnamed structure. However, no further insight was gained into the function of the individual rooms identified or the building itself. The truncation of the natural geology by the construction of basement levels of the factory is also demonstrated with natural geology encountered at 38.55m aOD and factory remains surviving to a depth of 37.75m aOD.
- 4.2.3 The evaluation report (PCA 2019) speculates that the upper chalk horizon was levelled during either the construction of the factory in the 19th century or the modern retail units as indicated by modern levelling deposits directly overlying the chalk. Evidence for this was observed in both Trenches 9 and 10.
- 4.2.4 Elsewhere within the site, the remains of the Huntley and Palmers factory were significantly more fragmentary as a result of the construction of the of the modern retail park. A heavily fragmented wall in Trench 11 is likely the continuation of those observed in evaluation Trench 3 and can be associated with a structure identified as a 'Machine' room on the GOAD Map, and a wall in Trench 13 can be associated with a second Machine Shop. However, the fragmentary nature of the remains limits the level of interpretation that be can be undertaken.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench consisted of a number of well preserved walls and floors relating to the biscuit factory. Three rooms, comprised of 10 walls and a brick floor were found along with a set of stairs in the south edge of the trench. A metal base was observed towards the south end of the trench and natural chalk deposits were seen at a depth of 0.55m bgl					Length (m)	12
					Width (m)	12
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Structure	-	0.15	Brick Wall	-	19 th C
901	Structure	-	0.15	Brick Wall	-	19 th C
902	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall	-	19 th C
903	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall	-	19 th C
904	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall		19 th C
905	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall		19 th C
906	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall		19 th C
907	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall		19 th C
908	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall		19 th C
909	Structure	-	-	Brick Wall		19 th C
910	Structure	-	-	Stairs		19 th C
911	Layer	-	-	Brick/Tile floor		19 th C
912	Layer	-	-	Brick/Tile floor		19 th C
913	Layer	-	-	Brick/tile floor		19 th C
914	Layer	-	-	Natural		-
915	Layer	-	-	Demolition backfill		19 th C
916	Group	-	-	Biscuit factory		-
917	Layer	-	-	Metal sheeting/floor		19 th C
918	Fill	-	-	Evaluation trench backfill		20 th C

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consisted of concrete slab and crush overlying chalk natural. The NW corner foundations of the retail building formerly on site truncated much of the trench.					Length (m)	12
					Width (m)	4
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Structure	2.30	0.90	Brick manhole/drain	-	19 th / 20 th C
1001	Fill	2.00	0.90	Fill of drain/manhole	-	-
1002	Cut	2.30	0.90	Construction cut for [1000]	-	-
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural chalk	-	-
1004	Cut	-	-	N-S aligned service trench		
1005	Fill	-	-	Modern rubble backfill of [1004]	-	-

1006	Cut	-	-	E-W aligned drain	-	-
1007	Fill	-	-	Modern backfill crush of [1006]	-	-
1008	Structure	-	-	Modern concrete manhole base	-	-
1009	Layer	-	0.08	Modern crush levelling layer	-	-
1010	Layer	-	0.28	Modern tarmac layer	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench excavated in area with space constraints. Consisted of tarmac and made ground overlying small remnants of factory wall that contained rubble backfill. A concrete base was seen in the middle of the trench and alluvial was seen at a depth of 2.60m BGL					Length (m)	12
					Width (m)	10
					Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.15	Modern tarmac layer	-	20 th C
1101	Layer	-	0.15	Modern crush/levelling layer	-	20 th C
1102	Layer	-	-	rubble/backfill	-	20 th C
1103	Structure	1.50	-	Wall in SE corner	-	19 th C
1104	Structure	1.50	-	Brick floor	-	19 th C
1105	Structure	2.00	-	Wall in NE corner	-	19 th C
1106	Structure	>6.00	-	Concrete floor/machine base	-	19 th C
1107	Layer	-	>0.50	Dark grey-brown alluvial layer	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench consists of modern made ground overlying chalk natural. A small portion of wall relating to the factory was seen approximately 1.60m BGL					Length (m)	2m
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	3m
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1200	Layer	-	1.60	Modern made ground/crush	-	20 th C
1201	Layer	-	0.55	Structure- Factory wall found approximately 1.60m BGL	-	19 th C
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural- white chalk	-	-

Trench 12a						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench consisted of chalk natural , truncated by the foundations of the Homebase building that formerly stood on site					Length (m)	8
					Width (m)	6.5
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1203	Layer	-	0.30	Concrete slab	-	20 th C
1204	Layer	-	0.15	Modern crush levelling layer	-	20 th C
1205	Structure	0.75	-	Homebase concrete foundations	-	20 th C
1206	Structure	1.00	-	Brick drain	-	-
1207	Structure	0.90	-	Brick drain	-	-
1208	Structure	0.60	-	Wall? Heavily truncated	-	-
1209	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	20 th C
1210	Layer	-	-	White chalk natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench 13 contained a single brick wall associated with the former biscuit factory. Alluvial deposits were recorded c 2.5m below ground level. Demolition deposits and made ground were recorded across the trench.					Length (m)	12m
					Width (m)	10m
					Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.13	Tarmac	-	20 th C
1301	Layer	-	0.32	Modern crush bedding layer	-	20 th C
1302	Layer	-	1.60	Demolition deposit	-	20 th C
1303	Layer	-	0.50m	Alluvium – dark blue grey silty clay with infrequent gravels	-	-
1304	Layer	-	0.55	Alluvium – Dark black grey organic silty clay with infrequent shell and gravel inclusions	-	-
1305	Structure	1.10	-	Single course of red brick overlying concrete foundations.	-	19 th C
1306	Layer	-	-	Natural – gravels	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench not dug due to groundworks taking place in the area					Length (m)	-
					Width (m)	-
					Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench not dug due to groundworks taking place in the area					Length (m)	-
					Width (m)	-

					Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench excavated in an asbestos hotspot area. Consists of a metal factory base, overlain by modern demolition rubble which was overlain by crush and concrete slab relating to the former on-site shopping area.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	8
					Avg. depth (m)	2
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	-	Modern concrete slab	-	20 th C
1601	Layer	-	0.20	Modern made ground crush	-	20 th C
1602	Layer	-	0.30	Natural	-	20 th C
1603	Layer	-	1.50	Factory backfill. Brick/rubble backfill	-	20 th C
1604	Layer	-	-	Metal floor/factory base		19 th C

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 Two sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 102g were recovered from two contexts. Ordinary domestic wares were recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.
- B.1.2 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Description

- B.1.3 **Context (1303) Spot-date: c 1780-1900.** Description: 1 sherd (weight 98g). Rim sherd from a bowl in late post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric code: PMR). Straight, steeply flaring wall with a simple beaded rim. Fairly wide diameter (290mm). Fine smooth red fabric, resembling modern flowerpot, with a decayed clear light brownish glaze all-over internally. Very fresh condition. Possibly post-1850 rather than earlier?
- B.1.4 **Context (1304) Spot-date: c 1820-1900.** Description: 1 sherd (weight 4g). Rim sherd from a jug in Staffordshire-type yellow ware (Fabric code: YELL). Rim of plain everted form. Fairly good condition but possibly scorched causing a slightly blackened and crazed clear yellow glaze.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A single piece of CBM weighing 3g was recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

Description

- B.2.2 **Context (1303) Spot-date: 18th- to 19th-century?** Description: 1 piece (weight 3g). A scrap or flake from the flat surface of a roof tile (or less likely a brick?). Fairly sandy orange-brown fabric with a sandier flat outer surface. Not very diagnostic but probably of late post-medieval date.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.2.3 The piece is in very poor condition and, apart from dating purposes, has little or no potential for further research. It could be discarded if so desired.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

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CgMs 2019, Land south of Kenavon Drive, Reading, written scheme of investigation of an archaeological watching brief, CgMs Heritage / RPS Group, unpublished client report

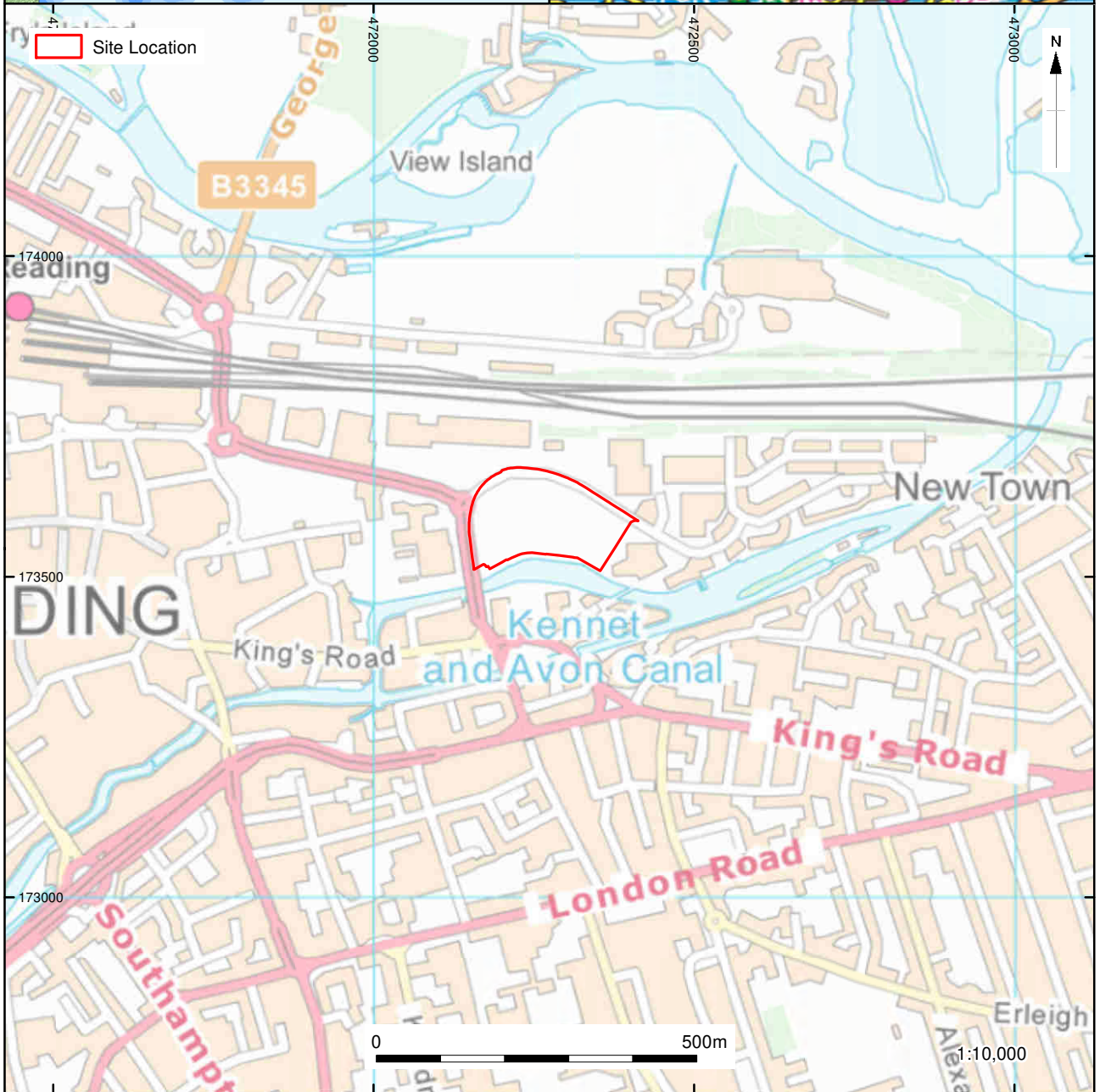
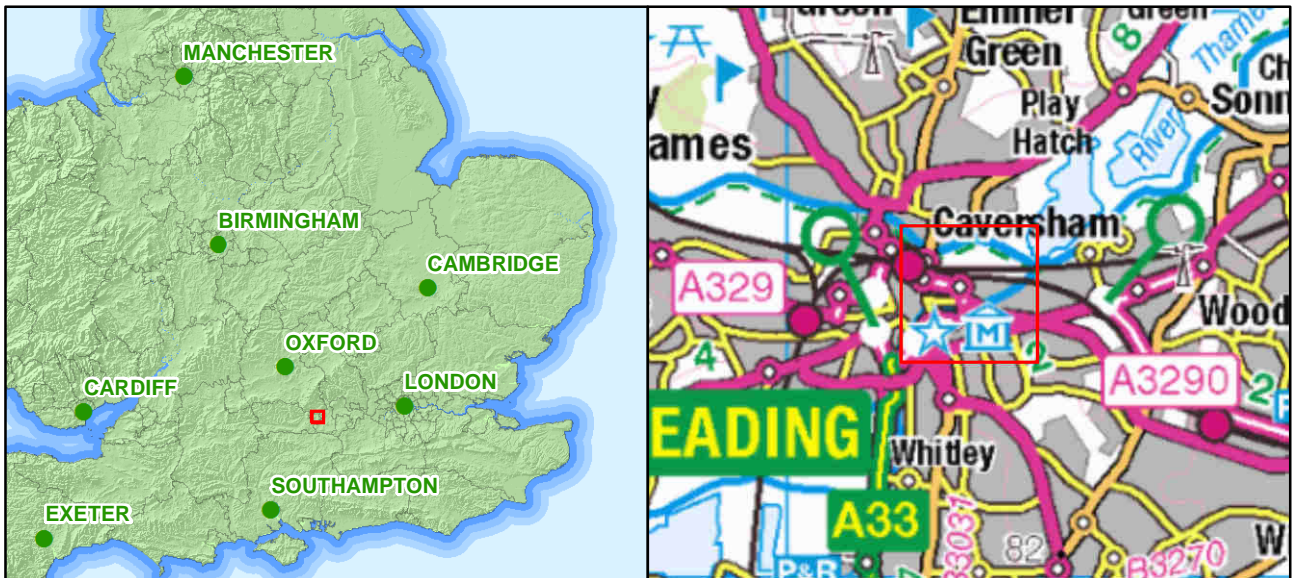
MoLA 2014, London medieval and post-medieval pottery codes, Museum of London Archaeology, <http://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes> (Accessed 11 Jan 2019)

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Quest 2016, Land south of Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire, Geoarchaeological deposit model report, unpublished client report

APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

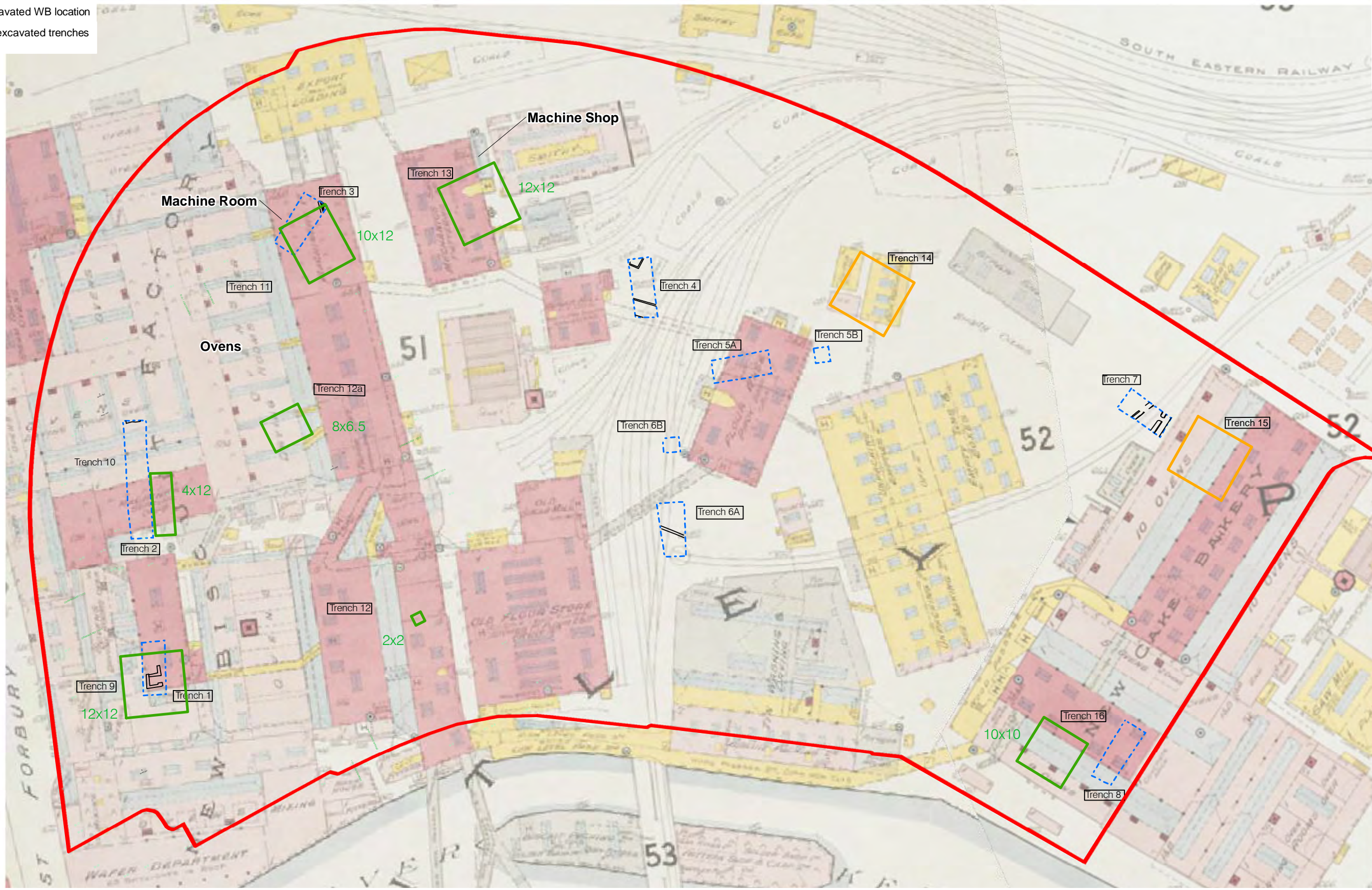
Site name:	Land South of Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire
Site code:	REKAN19
Grid Reference	SU 72271 73602
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	April to July, intermittent.
Area of Site	2.5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Archaeological Data Service in due course.
Summary of Results:	<p>Over the course of April, May and July 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook a pro-active watching brief at the site of a residential development. The work comprised the excavation six trenches which were positioned to investigate key impact areas of the proposed development.</p> <p>The site, currently a retail park, was formerly occupied by the Huntley and Palmers biscuit factory which was demolished in the late 20th century.</p> <p>The heavily truncated remains of the basement structures associated with the factory were recorded within several of the trenches. The results of the work support those of the previously undertaken trial trench evaluation (PCA 2019) and the conclusion that development within the site during the 19th and 20th centuries has significantly reduced the potential for remains of earlier date to survive within the site.</p> <p>No remains predating the 20th century were identified during the watching brief.</p>



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Figure 1: Site location

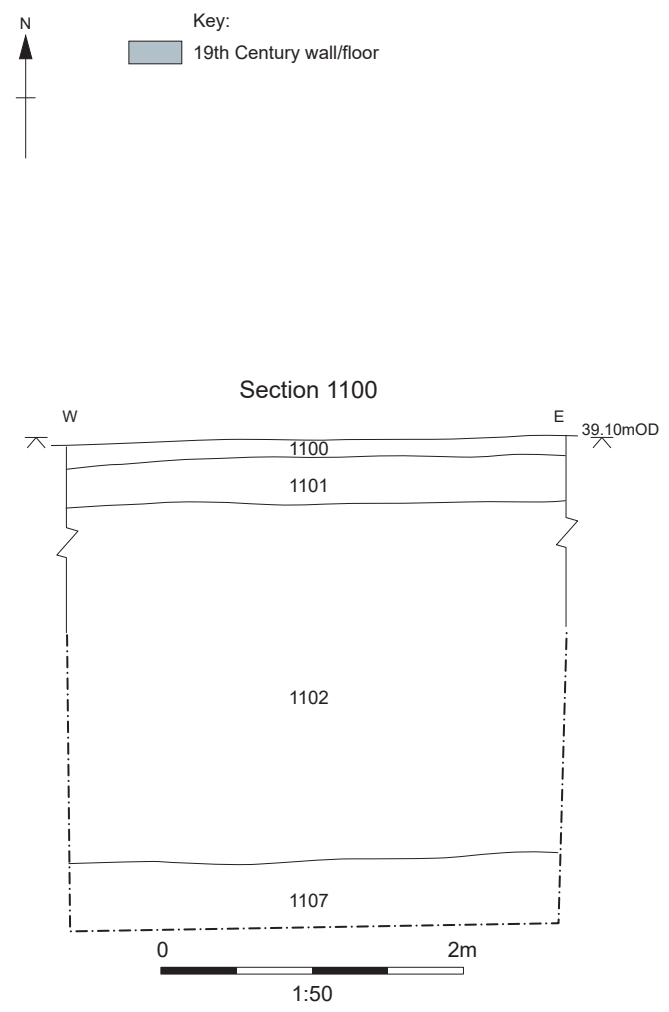
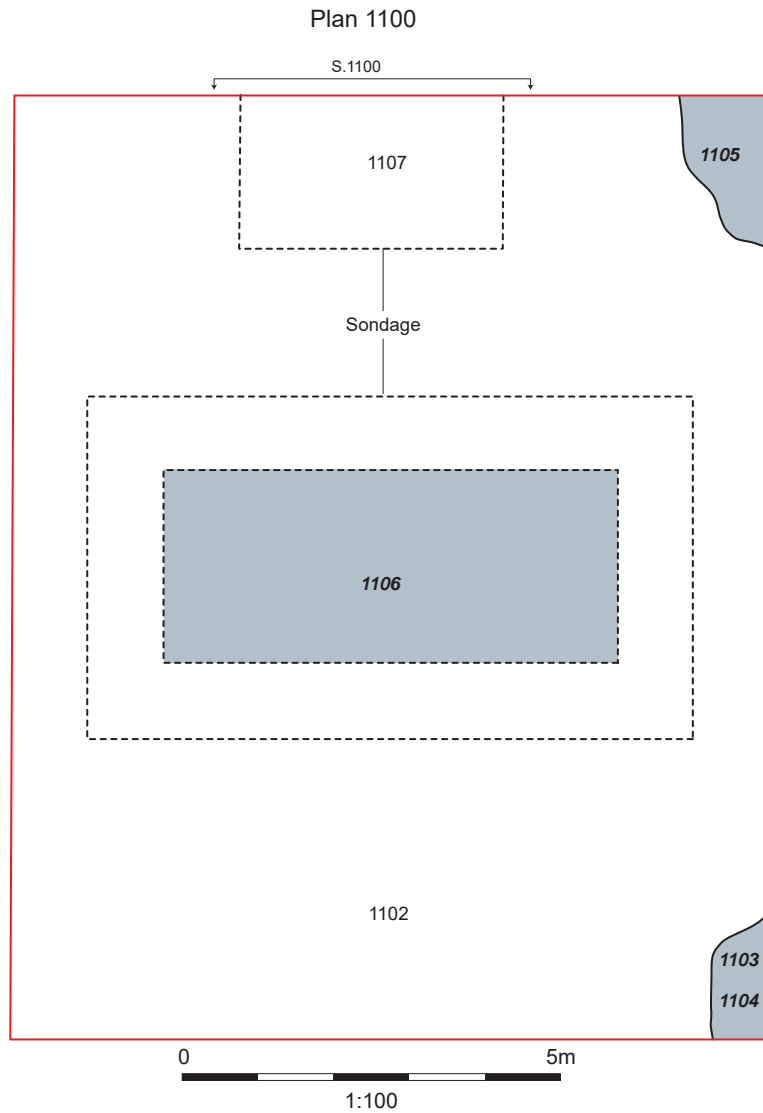
- Site Boundary
- Excavated WB location
- Unexcavated trenches



0 1:750 @ A3 50 m

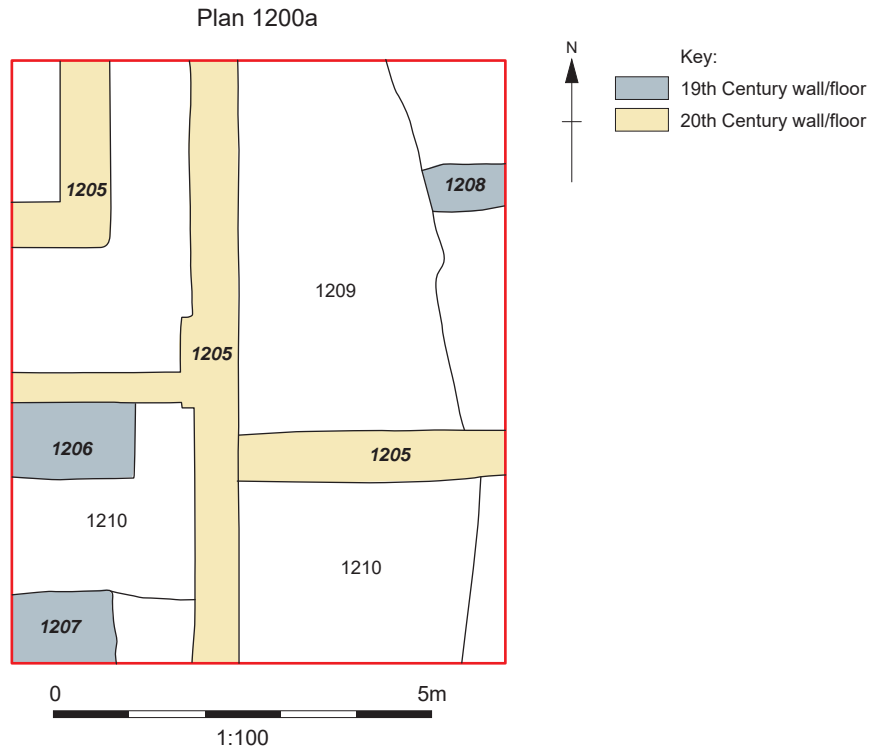
X:\Reading Kenavon Drive\010\geomatics\03 GIS Projects\REKEN19_Figure2_2019-08-06_Updated.mxd\benjamin.brown\06/08/2019

Figure 2: Excavated Watching Brief locations



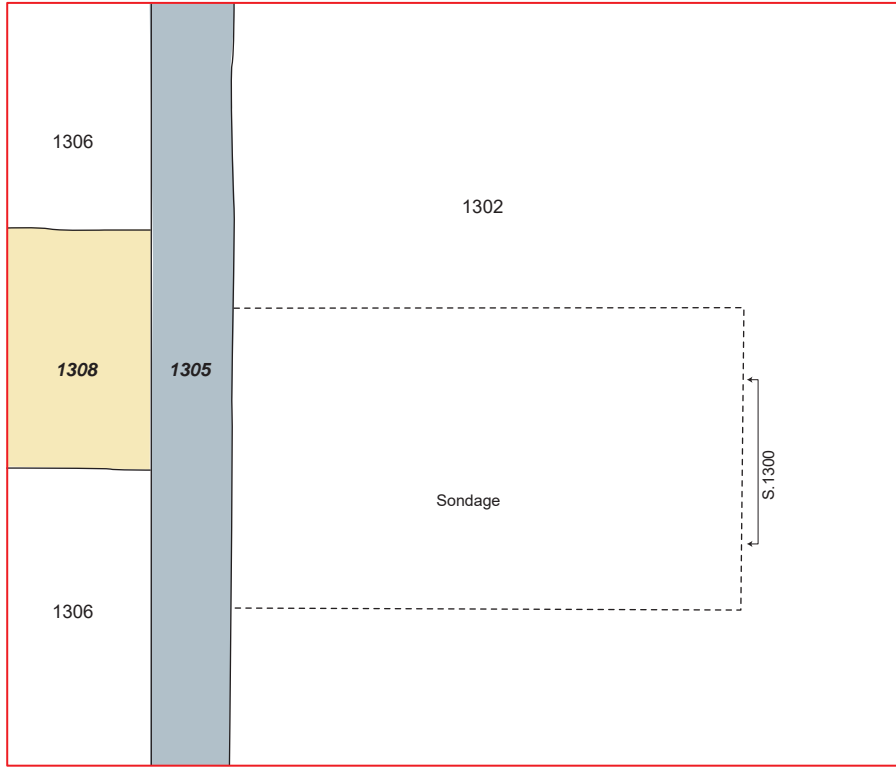
Trench 11, view to SW

Figure 3: Trench 11



Trench 12a, view to NW

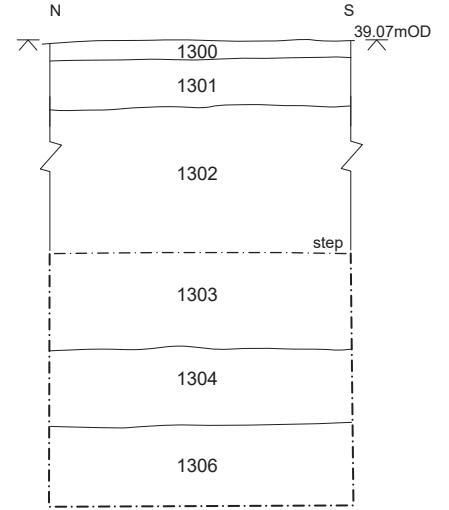
Plan 1300



Key:

- 19th Century wall/floor
- 20th Century wall/floor

Section 1300



0 5m
1:100

0 2m
1:50



Trench 13 view to NW

Figure 5: Trench 13



Plate 1: Trench 9, view to S



Plate 2: Trench 10, view to N



Plate 3: Trench 12, view to NW



Plate 4: Trench 16, view to E



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