

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ON

**CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK,
FINCHAMPSTEAD, WOKINGHAM**

NGR SU 78474 65050

On behalf of

Anthony Stiff Associates

SEPTEMBER 2015

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SUMMARY

This document represents an historic impact assessment of California Country Park on Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire (NGR SU 78474 65050). The assessment was carried out in relation to the proposed upgrading of the parks access roads and car parks.

The assessment revealed evidence of continued occupation of the area surrounding the park from the Prehistoric period to the present day. Although there is evidence of activity in the Palaeolithic period, the earliest settlement within the area is dated to the Bronze Age. The evidence consists of a field system indicating farming to the northeast of the park and a possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery to the southwest.

The archaeological work which identified the Bronze Age field system also provided evidence of the system being used until the early medieval period, with documentary evidence stating the presence of a Hagan in the area. It is assumed that the Hagan was placed within the existing field system and surrounding landscape. In addition to the field system a Roman settlement was identified within the immediate area, with additional Roman buildings located along the Devil's Highway, a Roman Road located to the south.

There is evidence of activity within the area continuing into the medieval and post-medieval period in the form of hedge boundaries. This indicates that there has been limited changes to land plots and that the development of the area has been based around agriculture.

The name California was initially associated with a brickworks located to the east of the Park, but transferred to the current location in the 1930s with the establishment of California-in-England Holiday Camp. Prior to this there appears to have been limited development within the area, with the only changes identified based on the quarrying of clay from the lake by the brickworks.

The holiday camp was partially closed during World War Two and the camp pavilions ground floor was used as a factory, providing engineering work for aircrafts. In addition to this the dance hall was used to host dances and entertainment for the local service personnel. Following the war, the holiday camp was reopened and expanded to include chalets, which are still in use in the California Chalet and Touring Park on the east side of the lake.

However, due to increasing competition the holiday camp was closed in the 1960s and abandoned until Wokingham Borough Council bought the land in 1973. The holiday camp was then converted into the country park and in 1980 designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origins of the Report

A Heritage Impact Assessment has been carried out at the request of Anthony Stiff Associates. The investigation examines the level of impact that upgrading the car park and access roads would have on the historical landscape of the California Country Park (NGR SU 78474 65050).

1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

The NPPF also makes provisions for protecting the significance of non-designated heritage assets (**135**), the setting of heritage assets (**137**) and stresses the desirability of the proposed development to make a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness (**131**).

The South East Plan was revoked on 25th March 2013 under the Regional Strategy for the South East (Partial Revocation) Order of 2013. The revocation of the South East Plan decentralises planning powers to local authorities. However, local authorities have a duty to co-operate with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and reflected in local plans.

The NPPF makes provisions for the continued use of the Local Plan for decision making in the authority (sections **58** and **126**). Due weight may be given to the policies in the Local Plan according to their degree of consistency with the NPPF. On the 29th January 2010 Wokingham Borough Council adopted the Wokingham Borough Core Strategy, including the policy CP3-General Principles for Development. The policy states that any development must take the existing natural and built environment into consideration.

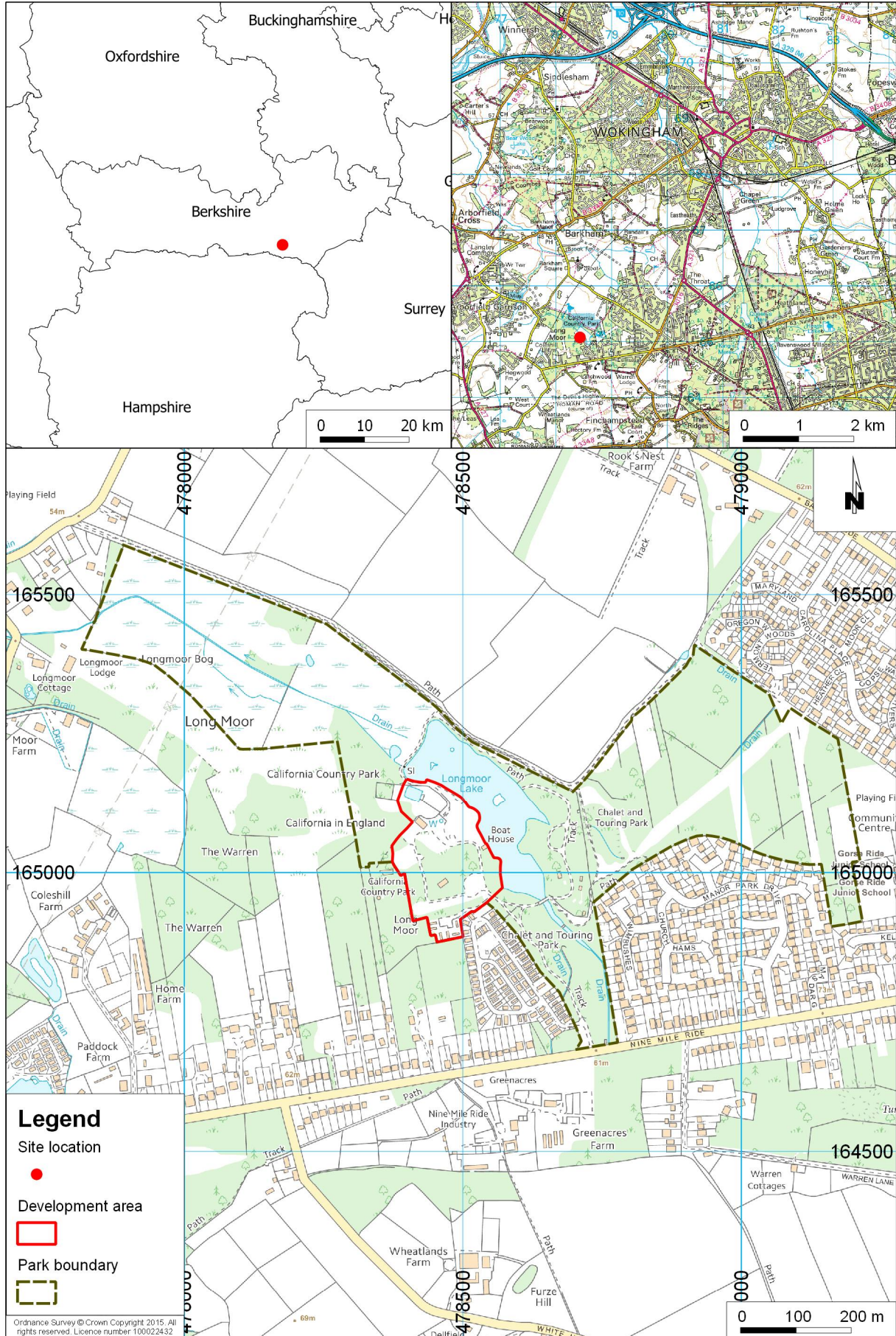


Figure 1: Site location

California Country Park is also highlighted in the Local Plan, stating that any development within the area would be expected to have a positive impact upon the infrastructure of the park. The Local Plan also reiterates that any development is expected to ensure that work within the area of the California Country Park must include flood mitigation measures.

1.3 Historic Environment Impact Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the Historic Environment or Heritage Impact Assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site and its setting. This follows the Government guidance in *NPPF* (2012) by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standard* definition of a heritage impact assessment (CifA 2014). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a heritage impact assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the historic environment impact assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.4 Historic Environment Impact Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (CifA 2014). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a

site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (CifA 2014).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic, photographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER)
- The Berkshire Record Office
- National Monuments Record photographic collection

The Berkshire Historic Environment Record, hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

The heritage values of the site will be assessed using English Heritage Conservation principles (2008b) guidelines, which state that people “value a place for many reasons beyond utility or personal association: for its distinctive architecture or landscape, the story it can tell about its past, its connection with notable people or events, its landform, flora and fauna, because they find it beautiful or inspiring, or for its role as a focus of a community”. These values can be summarised as:

- Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within an irregular polygonal shape located around the site (that is centred on NGR SU 78474 65050). The information about heritage assets both designated (scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings) and non-designated heritage assets within the search area have been collated to provide a wider picture of the historic development of the landscape and thus the potential of surviving heritage assets in the vicinity.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records located in the wider

polygonal search area. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation in the search area. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the relevant part of the Berkshire Historic Environment Record belongs to Wokingham Borough Council.

The advent of the NPPF (2012) has raised wider issues of impact on heritage assets; especially on scheduled monuments and grade I listed buildings, to involve not only physical damage but also visual impacts in a wider heritage or historic landscape. The visual impact assessment has been carried out under the following guideline documents Highways Agency (2007), English Heritage (2011a; 2011b), Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environment Management (2013), and the Landscape Institute (2011).

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

California Country Park is located within the historical parish of Finchampstead (NGR SU 78474 65050). The parish was historically within the Hundred of Charldon and the County of Berkshire. The site is now located in Wokingham Borough.

2.2 Description (Figure 1)

The park consists of a large lake with three buildings and several parking areas on the west side. On the east side of the southeast corner of the lake is a chalet and touring park, which the footpaths of the park encircles. Access to the park is gained from Nine Mile Ride; there are several dwellings located between the park and the road. There is an additional caravan park which borders the southwest corner of the park. To the northwest of the lake is Longmoor Bog which is also part of the park and designated as a Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI). Running along the northeast edge of the park is the Finchampstead and Barkham parish boundary.

2.3 Geology and Topography

Topographically the proposal site in the park is placed on a plateau within an area which slightly increases in height from the south to the north. Within the park there are some areas, mainly the footpaths that have been raised up. The proposal site is of a height between 53m and 62m Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology of the proposal site consists of a Bagshot Formation: sand sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

3 PROPOSED SCHEME

The proposed scheme is to upgrade the current car parks and the access roads into California Country Park.

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A historic impact assessment is designed to provide an independent assessment in accordance with CifA guidelines. This section thus contains a historical development of the area, the known archaeology of a surrounding search area, cartographic evidence, aerial photographic evidence and a site visit. Some information may thus be duplicated due to this process.

4.1 The Historical Development of Finchampstead

(Stephen Yeates and Kimberley Dowding)

In 1066 Finchampstead was held by Earl Harold and was valued at £8 (Morgan 1979, 1.19). The earliest recorded name for the village is *Finchamestede* in 1086 (Gelling 1973, i.95), which has an etymology of **finc hām-stede**, homestead frequented by finches.

Finchampstead is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as being held by King William (Morgan 1979, 1.19). The estate contained 5 hides that were exempt from tax, but made some payments to Reading. There were 15 ploughs with one being the lord's plough team and 14 associated with the men of the village. The total population recorded is 30 households, consisting of 16 villagers, 8 smallholders and 6 slaves. The additional resources recorded are 4 acres of meadow, woodland for 200 swine and 1 mill (Morris 1979, 1.19).

There were two manors within Finchampstead at the beginning of the 14th century, East Court and West Court, both of which were held by members of the Hussey family (VCH 1923, 241-247). However, both manors descended through different lines, with East Court manor eventually being owned by John Walter (VCH 1923, 241-247). Therefore, only East Court's history is explained as being relevant to the history of California Country Park.

By the mid 14th century East Court manor had come into the possession of John Foxley, and subsequently passed to various families until 1538, each of which had a family relationship to the Foxley family, when it was conveyed to Stephen Cawood (VCH 1923, 241-247). East Court was sold again in 1580 to Henry Hide and Thomas Harrison and the manor passed through the Harrison family until it was sold again in 1661 to Richard Palmer (VCH 1923, 241-247). The manor then remained with the Palmer family until it was sold by Charles Palmer-Fish's step-son John Gordon Sinclair in 1849 to John Walter (VCH 1923, 241-247).

Included within the purchase of East Court was the land to the north of Finchampstead, which would come to be referred to as the brickworks at California (VCH 1923, 241-247). The brickworks were located to the east of the current California Country Park. And was established by Henry Read in the early 1850s (Ottlewski 2015), for which the early name has not been defined. Shortly after the establishment of the brickworks it was incorporated into John Walter's estate (Ottlewski 2015) in association with his purchase of East Court.

The current California Park lies in an area that was called Longmoor, a name that is first recorded *c.*1605 as Longemoor, and was also known as Longmoor Bog and Lake (Gelling 1973, i.97). An area in the parish called the Moor was recorded as Mora in 1275-6 (Gelling 1973, i.98), and there are also references to Claypits. The names Moor and Longmoor indicate that the parish contained significant areas of moorland, which were undoubtedly associated with hunting.

Before 1873 the area that covers California County Park was part of Longmoor Farm. An estate was constructed across the region from the early 18th century to the end of the 19th century. This is evident in a bundle of documents held at the Berkshire Record Office. The earliest of these deeds concerns the purchase by Miles Jeudwine and Boughley Burgess of a freehold property called Longmoor Farm in 1716 (D/EWL T1/3). The second is a conveyance of wasteland from the king in May 1818 of land situated in Finchampstead to Reverend Henry and Ellis St John (D/EWL T1/2). A lease dated 1832 concerned a lease between Penelope Jeudwine and Rev Steven Ellis St John (D/EWL T1/4). Also in the 1830s there was a Re-lease of land between a Jeudwine and Boughley Burgess (presumably a descendant) to a Rev S E St John (D/EWL T/5). In 1843 there was a grant from Mrs Elizabeth St John to John St John (D/EWL T/6). This document appears to cover land associated with the advowson of Barkham church and a farm called Biggs at Barkham. Also in 1843 there is a bond of repayment (D/EWL T/7), and a further such document in 1849 (D/EWL T/8). In 1863 there was a conveyance from John Leveson Gower and John Edmund Leveson Gower to John St John (D/EWL T/6). In 1873 activity in the area becomes considerably active. There is a declaration in 1873 (D/EWL T/10) and a valuation (D/EWL T/11), besides a statutory declaration between Edward Roberts and John Clancy (D/EWL T/12). The most significant document of this date is a conveyance between John St John and Rev Paulet St John to John Walter. The document contains a map of the estate, which covers the area of the California County Park. This demonstrates the significance of these documents for this part of land. The remaining two documents of this year are a deed of covenant from Rev Edward St John to John Walter (D/EWL T/14), and also a demise constructed from John St John and Rev Paulet St John to Edward Walter and Francis L Loames (D/EWL T/15). John Walter and Edward Walter are associated with East Court Manor.

The name California and California Lodge are noted by Gelling as being recorded in the parish of Wokingham Without (Gelling 1973, i.143, 284). She also notes the name as being used on the boundary between Finchampstead

and Barkham. The name appears to have no reference identified beyond the 19th century maps of the Ordnance Survey and is logically interpreted as a transferred name from America.

After World War One, the Walter family suffered financial difficulties and sold off various parcels of land, including that of Longmoor (WBC 2013, section 2). The land was eventually bought in the 1920s by A. Carlidge, who used it as a destination for coach tours from London. Following the high success rate, Carlidge opened the 'California-in-England' holiday camp in the early 1930s (WBC 2013, section 3). It was at this time that the name California was transferred from the area of the brickworks to the park area.

The camp consisted of a variety of buildings including a pavilion, ballroom, games room, lounge room, cafe and shop (WBC 2013). There were also a variety of features surrounding the lake, including moorings for boats, areas for sports activities and a miniature railway track that encircled the boat (WBC 2013).

California Country Park is also mentioned in The Buildings of England series where the establishment of the camp is dated to the 1950s (Tyack, Bradley and *et al* 2010, 308). This conflicts with other information which has dated the establishment of the holiday camp to the 1930s.

The date for the establishment of the holiday camp in the 1930s is supported by the record which states that the camp was closed during World War Two. During the war the camp pavilion's ground floor was used as a factory, providing engineering work for aircrafts (WBC 2013). The ballroom was also used during the war to provide entertainment and dances on Sunday evenings for the service men and women stationed within the area (WBC 2013).

Other documents associated with the California County Park exist at the county record office. These include a plan of the pavilion dated 1948 (Q/AC15/25), which show the extension for a new building to the rear of the main pavilion. There are other drawn plans of the pavilion, a north elevation and a map of 1832 which has been updated (Berks XLVI.NW).

The second document was a brochure associated with California-in-Berkshire and dated about 1958 (D/EX 812/1). This described a gift or novelty shop opening at Easter in 1958, a cinema, a cafeteria, boating, miniature railway, train, swings and crazy golf. There was a further building opening in September 1958.

Following the closure of the park the dance hall was converted into a nightclub. However, in 1976 there was a fire which destroyed most of the building and it was decided that it would not be re-opened (WBC 2013).

In 1971 California Conventional district was created and became a parish in 1980, but was re-incorporated into Finchampstead parish in 2009 (D/P189). In 1973 Wokingham Borough Council bought the land which had been abandoned after the closure of the holiday camp and opened California

Country Park (WBC 2013, section 5). In 1980 the land within the park was designated as a SSSI (WBC 2013, section 5).

To the north of the holiday camp was the California Speedway track, which was home to the California Poppies (WBC 2013). The speedway track was opened in 1933 in conjunction with the holiday camp. Due to the Auto Cycle Union banding admission charges on Sundays in 1956, the team was not able to raise the funds necessary to keep the track open (WBC 2013). As a result in 1957, the team was relocated and the track was closed (WBC 2013). There is now little trace of the track within the northern area of the park.

4.2 Known Archaeological Sites (Figures 2)

Prehistoric

As part of the investigation into the historic development of the site a HER search was carried out covering an area of 1km radius from NGR SU 78474 65050. The search revealed that the earliest activity within the area dated to the Palaeolithic period. The evidence for activity in this time consists of two waste flakes found at the Nine Mile Ride (**JMHS 1:** 06048.00.000-MWK15066: SU 79416 64749), besides which there was an acheulean pointed handaxe with iron staining and rolling indicating deposition in a river bed (**JHMS 2:** MWK16393: SU 792 647).

The only known evidence of Mesolithic activity within the area is a flint microlith recovered during archaeological work (**JMHS 3:** 01005.01.000-MWK1320: SU 79200 64590)

To the southwest of California Country Park is a Bronze Age Bell Barrow (**JMHS 4:** 01005.01.000-MWK1320: SU 79200 64590), which is a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England ID 1013244 formerly 12057) that consists of a surviving mound, outer bank and ditch. During the 1960s a series of archaeological investigations were carried out on the barrow (Event ERM1499). Another barrow was recorded to the east of the bell barrow and has thus given rise to the belief that this was part of a barrow cemetery (**JMHS 5:** 01005.00.000-MWK1319: SU 79290 64541).

In addition to the finds recorded at the barrow a collection of sherds of flint tempered pottery was made (**JMHS 6:** 06502.00.000-MWK15485: SU 78120 65680) during a field walking survey (Event EWK26).

To the northeast of the park a possible field system was identified during an archaeological evaluation and watching brief (Event EWK1164). The work revealed several phases of activity at the site, with the earliest dated to the Early Bronze Age period (**JMHS 7:** MWK16527: SU 7880 6586). The features related to this phase of activity included a series of ditches and gullies that ran parallel to each other, that did not produce any finds; however, two Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flakes were recovered from the topsoil. The features may be part of an early agricultural landscape.

The second phase of activity within the field system was dated from the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age (**JMHS 8**: MRM16528: SU 7891 6597). As with the earlier phase, there was no definitive dating evidence and the features consisted of ditches and gullies.

A third phase of activity was identified in the field system as dating from the Iron Age period to the early medieval period (**JMHS 9**: MRM16529: SU 7890 6593). During the archaeological work it became apparent that the features are likely to be associated with a hagan which is recorded on a 10th century charter. A hagan is a bank and ditch enclosing an area of woodland, and it is evident with some of these features across the country that they originate as Iron-Age nemetons or sacred groves. This feature appears to define the use of the area as a wooded landscape associated with hunting activity, and the continued use of the landscape as a hunting waste is evident on later maps such as that of Rocque in 1761.

In association with the ditch system a possible settlement was identified and dated from the Early Iron Age period to the Roman Period (**JMHS 10**: MRM16533: SU 7887 6598). The features that were identified consisted of postholes and ditches with charcoal pits, indicating possible industrial components at the site. Several highly burnt flint nodules and glass residue were recovered during the work, which provides evidence of industrial activity associated with fiancé glass. Using others sites within the area it has been assumed that the site was a temporary Iron Age industrial site placed at the edge of the woodland enclosure which would have provided fuel to heat the flints.

Roman

Several cropmarks have been identified in the vicinity of Wheatlands that have been interpreted as the remains of Roman buildings (**JMHS 11**: 01006.00.000-MWK1322: SU 78268 63944). The buildings are located along the side of the east-west Roman road that runs from Silchester to London and is designated as a scheduled ancient monument (National Heritage List for England ID 1006968; VCH 1923, 241-247). Further buildings have been identified in an adjacent field, and a Roman villa is reputed to be located in the area. This site appears to be the location of a small Roman town. Landscape analysis elsewhere in the country has shown that Roman small towns are a key feature of the landscape (Yeates 2008, 59-89). *Civitates* and *Colonia* were established over tribal groups, such as the *Atrebates*, and these were subsequently divided into vicus, towns. The key feature of these areas is the small town. Usually these towns territories develop into an early medieval *parochia* (large parish), but this cannot be demonstrated here, although the territory could be associated with the folk name *Wokingeham* recorded in 1146 (Gelling 1973, 139).

In addition to the buildings, various collections of Roman pottery sherds have been found within the area during field walking and archaeological work (Event EWK29; EWK30; EWK26) (**JMHS 12**: 00772.00.000-MWK8609: SU 7850 64460; **JMHS 13**: 06511.00.000-MWK15488: SU 78531 65917; **JMHS**

14: 06512.00.000-MWK15489: SU 78343 66003; **JMHS 15:** 06514.00.000-MWK15491: SU 78102 65826).

Medieval

A series of medieval ridge and furrows were recorded during work carried out at Rook's Nest, which would suggest that there was continued activity within the area until the late medieval period (Event EWK1164; **JMHS 16:** MRM16534: SU 7882 6587).

Between 1979 and 1993 a survey of the hedge and boundaries of farms was carried out within the parish of Finchampstead in order to determine their age (Event EWK582). Based on the assumption that a hedgerow would gain one new species every 100 to 200 years, two hedgerows were identified as dating from the medieval period. The first hedgerow was dated to the early medieval period and located primarily along footpaths, including those located near the church (**JMHS 17:** MRM16734: SU 78144 63653). The second hedgerow of note was dated from the high to late medieval period and were associated with the farm boundaries as drawn on the map from 1752 (**JMHS 18:** MRM16735: SU 78327 63659).

There appears to have been activity (that may just be agricultural) within the vicinity of the Bronze Age Bell Barrow (JMHS 4) during the medieval period. This is based on the recovery of a 13th to 14th century pottery sherd recovered during the work carried out at the barrow (**JMHS 19:** 01005.01.000-MWK1320: SU 79200 64590).

Post-medieval

Two grade II listed buildings were identified within the search radius to the southwest of the California Country Park. The first building is a late 16th century thatch cottage with timber frame and brick infill and a 20th century rear extension (**JMHS 20:** DRM2485: SU 78156 64432). The second building is a 17th century cottage with timber frame with painted brick infill and old tile gabled roof, which was altered in the 20th century (**JMHS 21:** DRM2421: SU 77764 64406). The survey that identified the medieval hedgerows also identified two hedgerows of post-medieval to Modern date (**JMHS 22:** MRM16736: SU 78160 63589; **JMHS 23:** MRM16737: SU 78233 63688).

Modern

To the northwest of California Country Park was the Arborfield Remount Depot established in 1904 (**JMHS 24:** MRM17490: SU 7716 6559). The depot was closed in 1937 and the only remaining building is the Infirmary Stables.

Unknown

To the west of California Country Park a series of cropmarks and earthworks were identified on aerial photographs, indicating the presence of a small enclosure (**JMHS 25:** 01110.00.000-MWK1902: SU 77900 64880). Another feature identified but not dated was a discontinuous linear cropmark that appears to be a ditch (**JMHS 26:** 01114.03.000-MWK1909: SU 78980 64300).

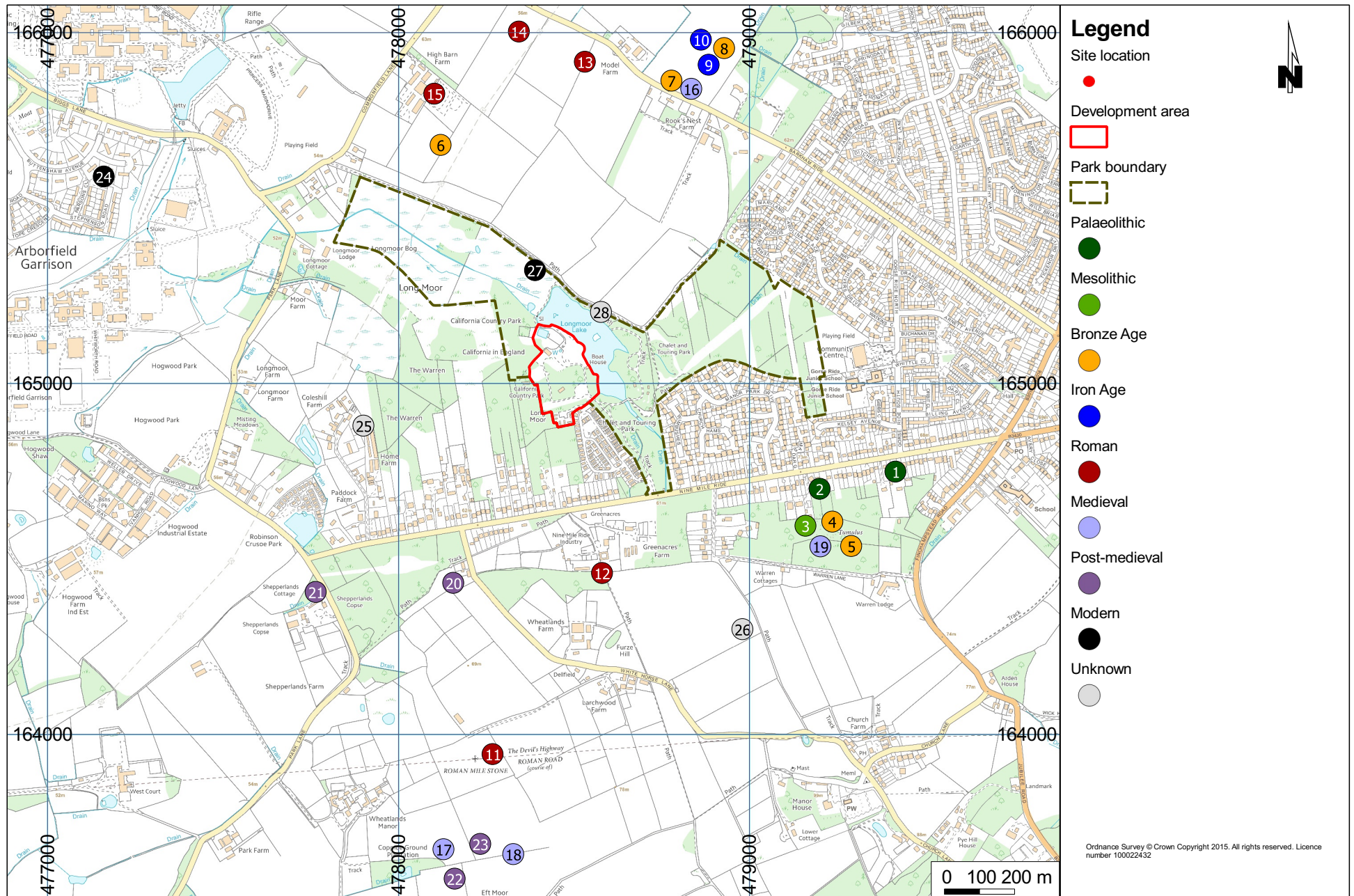


Figure 2: Historic Environment Record Sites

4.3 Cartographic Research (Figures 3 to 11)

A series of historical maps dated from the 18th century to the 20th century were identified that covered the proposal site. The earliest map was Roque's map of Berkshire from 1761 (T/M 128), which depicts the area of Longmoor with a small lake (Fig. 3). The map also shows a road running along the north edge of the lake, which may be associated with the track on the parish boundary.

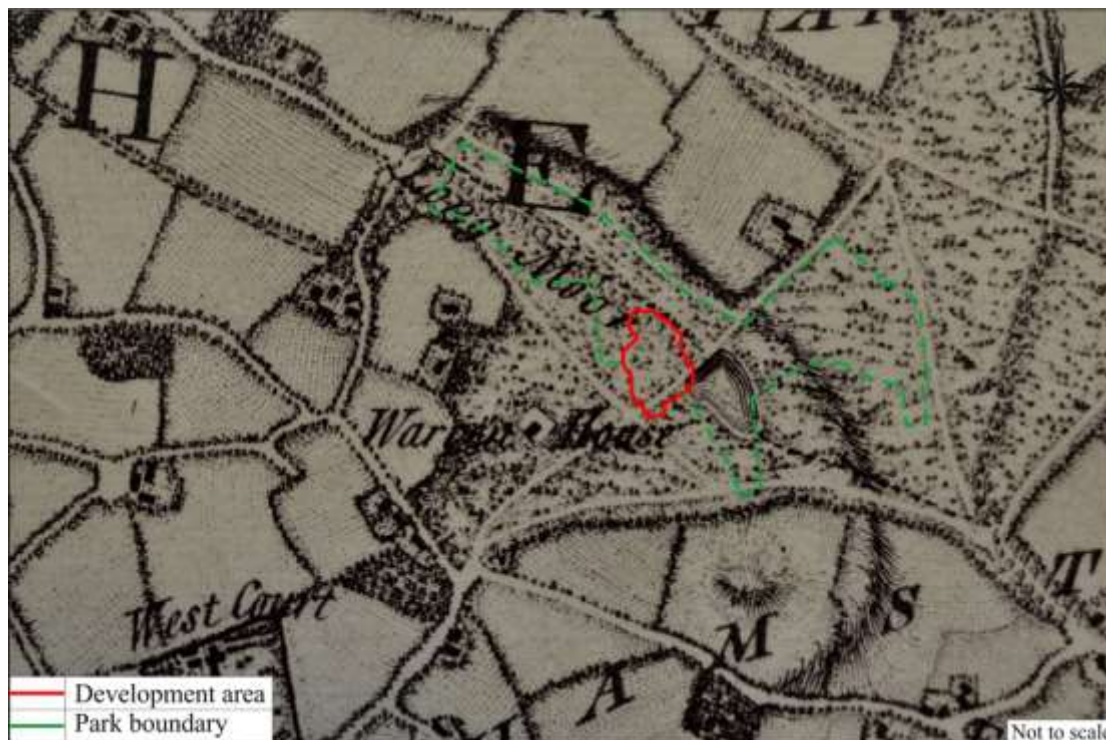


Figure 3: Roque's 1761 map

The first map of the 19th century is the 1817 Inclosure Map (D/P56/26B). The map shows that the area of the California Country Park is over parts of plots 129, 130 and the east side of 131 (Fig. 4). Also the lake is labelled as Longmoor Pond and the road that is depicted in the 1761 map is not visible. Therefore, it would appear the road was removed by early 19th century. However, there is a road to the south that is no longer visible; it could be that the road was drawn in a different location in each map. The next map examined was Greenwood's map from 1829 (D/ERu P5). The map has little detail, but does indicate the location of Longmoor Lake (Fig. 5). In addition to this, the map does not indicate the presence of the additional roads that are shown on the earlier maps.



Figure 4: Inclosure map 1817



Figure 5: Greenwood's 1829 map

The next map examined was the 1846 Tithe Map (D/D1/56/1). The map depicts the park and Longmoor Bog as covering several tithe plots numbers: 412 and 430 to 433 (Fig. 6). The map also depicts the road that was drawn on the 1761 map as a boundary between two fields on the west side of the park and the lake as Longmoor Pond. A map from 1873 (D/EWL T1/13) appears to be a replica of the tithe map, including the size of Longmoor Lake and it being

referred to as a pond (Fig. 7). This would indicate, that either the clay removal from Longmoor Lake had not had that much effect on the size, or that the 1873 map was copied from the 1846 map and re-labelled where necessary.



Figure 6: Tithe map 1846



Figure 7: 1873 map

The last map dated to the 19th century is the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1899 (Berks 46.6). The map depicts the first time that Longmoor

Lake is referred to as a lake and that it is of a similar size to the current feature (Fig. 8). The map also depicts the surrounding area of the lake as bog lands and an area of trees. The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1911 (Berks 46.6) depicts the same as the Second Edition (Fig. 9).

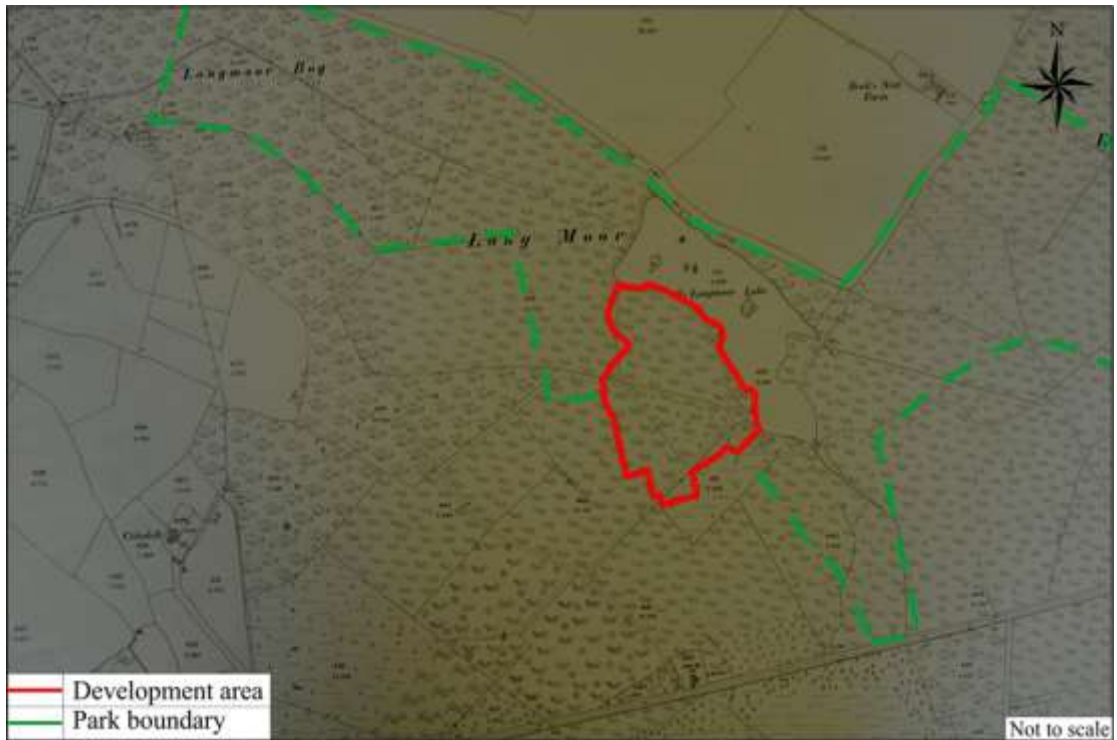


Figure 8: Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1899

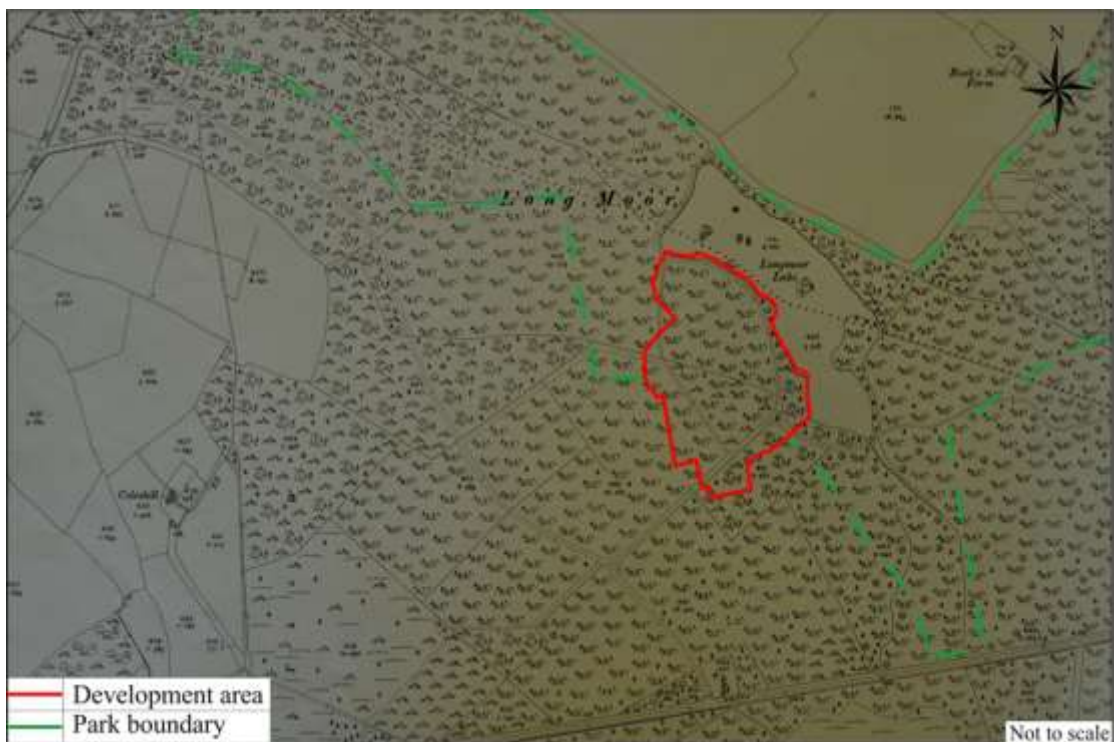


Figure 9: Third Edition Ordnance Survey map 1911

The last map examined was the Fifth Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1932 (Berks 46.6) which is the first map to show the park after Cartlidge established the California-in-England holiday camp. The map depicts two buildings located on the east side of the lake and several buildings and plots of land along the north edge of the Nine Mile Ride (Fig. 10). A map from 1948 (Q-AC15-25-6 1948), which is mentioned previously as showing a planned extension to the rear of one of the buildings within the camp appears to have been based on the Fifth Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 11



Figure 10: Fifth Edition Ordnance Survey map 1932



Figure 11: 1948 planning map

4.4 Aerial Photographs

A series of aerial photographs dated from 1946 to 1996 was seen at the National Monuments Record at Swindon. The aerial photographs from 1946 (RAF/106G/UK/1646; RAF/106G/UK/2213) show the camp layout immediately after World War II. The buildings for the camp are limited to the centre of the west side of the camp, primarily within the curve of the lake with the speedway track to the northwest of the camp. There is limited development within the surrounding area, with houses and plots of land mostly on the north side of the road and several plots ending on the south side of the camp.

A series of aerial photographs were taken in 1954 in March (RAF/82/866), June (RAF/58/1472), August (RAF/540/1571) and December (RAF/540/1497). The photos show that between 1946 and 1954, the camp expanded to the north and south on the west side, with additional buildings to the north and west. The surrounding area was also developed with additional buildings along the north and south side of Nine Mile Ride.

The aerial photographs from the 1960s show a decline within the park and the speedway. The photos of 1961 (OS/61034; RAF/543/1426) show that the additional buildings that were visible in the 1954 photographs were no longer standing and the speedway track was still clearly identifiable. The 1961 photographs also show the beginning of the chalets that are located on the south side of the east shore of the lake. However, the photographs from 1963 (OS/63195) clearly show that the speedway track had been abandoned at this time, with little deterioration to the buildings and layout of the park since 1961. The photographs from 1967 (RAF/543/3859) continue to show the

deterioration of the speedway track as its outline becomes less clear, with little change noticeable to the camp.

The aerial photographs from the 1970s (OS/72291; OS/73369) show that there were few changes to the camp before being bought by Wokingham Borough Council in 1973. The changes that are visible are the development of the caravan park on the east side of the lake and the continued deterioration of the speedway track. The surrounding area also shows continued development with the increased number of housing estate to the east of the camp and to the south.

In contrast to the earlier photographs that showed limited changes, the photographs from the 1980s (OS/82184; OS/86156) indicate significant change. The buildings that had been visible within the camp have now been removed with only two buildings being visible within the park. The remainder of the area consists of open areas within the tree cover. The caravan park is evidently still in use with the construction of a road connecting it to the housing estates to the east.

The aerial photographs from 1996 (OS/96642; EA/AF/96C/486; EA/AF/96C/497) are the most detailed photographs, providing a clear layout of the park. There has been limited change since the 1980s photographs, with the only noticeable differences being the removal of the old buildings and the construction of new buildings.

With the exceptions of the developments previously mentioned, there were limited changes within the surrounding area. Also any possible archaeological features were not visible in the later photographs or where shown to be agricultural features.

Using the aerial photographs from 1954, 1961 and the layout of the proposed plans a diagram was created to demonstrate if any of the remains of the buildings from the holiday camp could be affected (Fig. 12). The diagram shows that on the northeast edge of the proposed Top car park is the edge of a building, which overlays into the car park by a maximum 4 metres on the southeast side.

Within the proposed East car park, the diagram shows a collection of building on the west side of the proposed junction of the road at the site entrance. These buildings are shown on the 1954 aerial photograph, but not the 1961 aerial photograph. Therefore, indicating that the buildings were gone by 1961. The only other possibly remains within the proposal site would be within the east corner of the Overspill car park. However, it is unclear if the area has any structures, or if it is just an open area.

The diagram also shows that the pathways will cross the footprints of buildings from the holiday camp. In addition to this the Emergency services turning area will be placed on a previous car park at the side of the lake.

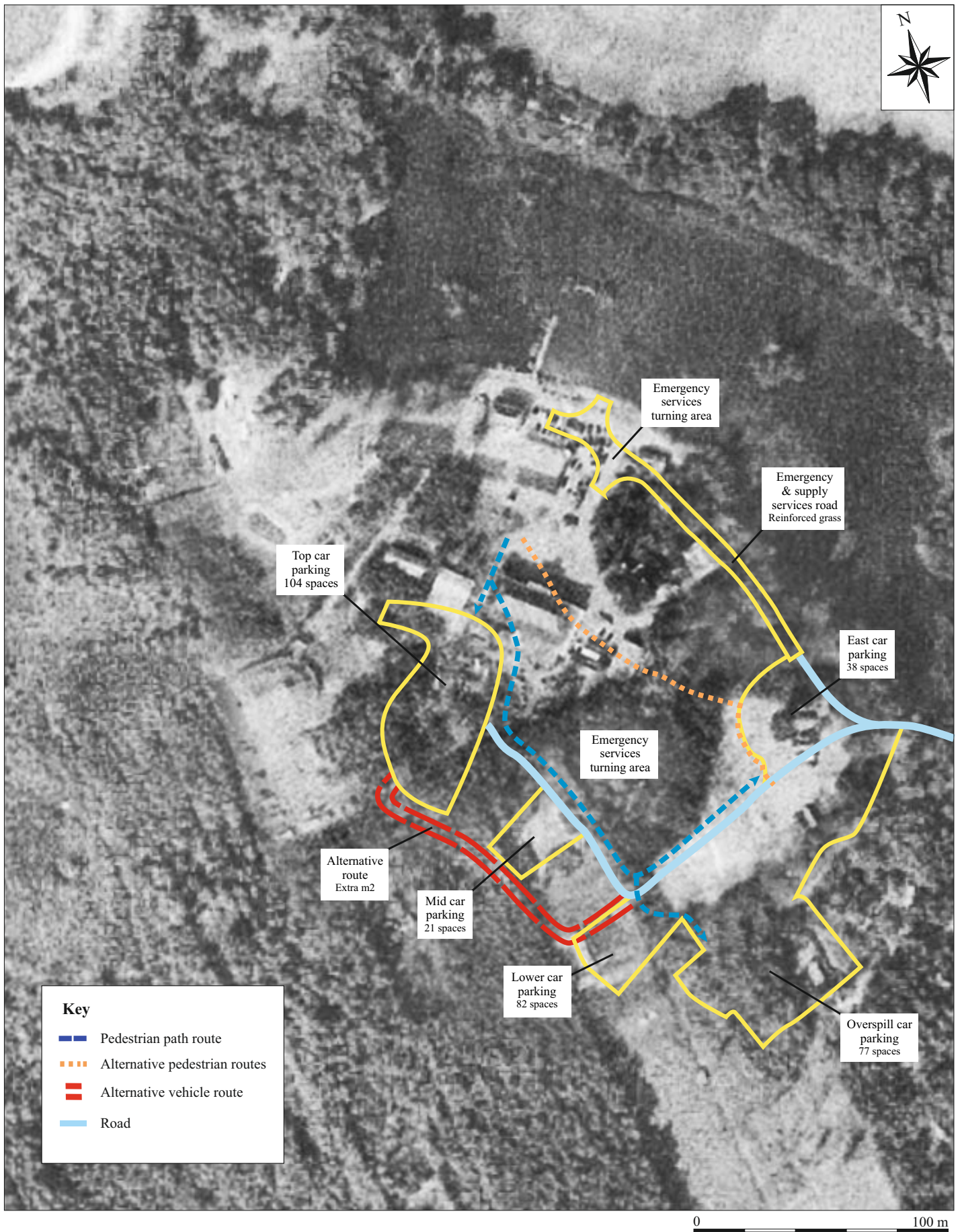


Figure 12: Car parking and road plan

4.5 Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on 26th August 2015, during which photographs were taken of the existing area. During the site visit it was established that none of the original buildings from the holiday camp remained within the park boundary or traces of them could be seen.

Within the park there were four parking areas identified, each of which had a base of either gravel or grass and which were enclosed by trees and connecting roads (plate 1-4). None of the parking areas appeared to contain any features of significance. The only feature identified was a possible man made bank enclosing the southeast parking area, which is probably of a modern date (plate 5).



Plate 1: Southeast car park



Plate 2: South car park



Plate 3: West car park



Plate 4: Cafe car park



Plate 5: Banking in southeast car park

The pathway also appears to have been built up at the northwest end of the lake, which has created a dam (**JMHS 27**: SU 78389 65232) that controls the flow of water from the lake into the bog (plate 6). The path on the south side of the lake has also been raised, allowing for the creation of smaller bogs and the entrance into the caravan park (plate 7).



Plate 6: Northwest pathway



Plate 7: South pathway

Previous research by the council noted that the chalets built as part of the holiday camp were still in use within the caravan park on the east side of the lake (WBC 2013). Although access to the caravan park was unavailable, it was possible to identify several wooden chalets which run along the edge of the lake (plate 8).

To the east of the lake, outside of the park boundary, a bank and ditch with trackway was identified that is not on the HER (**JMHS 28**: SU78577 65204). This bank appears to follow the line of the parish boundary and is likely to be a boundary maker (plate 9-10).



Plate 8: Chalets in Chalet and Touring Park



Plate 9: Possible boundary banking (northeast view)



Plate 10: Possible boundary banking (north view)

5 DISCUSSION

The proposed development was briefly outlined in section 3. A discussion of the heritage data was discussed in section 4 (4.1 Historical, 4.2 Archaeological, 4.3 Cartographic, 4.4 Aerial Photography, and 4.5 Site Visit). Section 5.1 offers a simplified over view in a chronological overview.

5.1 The Landscape of the Search Area

There were a limited number of archaeological sites indicated within the search area, with the majority dating to the Prehistoric and Roman periods.

A cluster of sites is on land adjacent to the park on the northeast side indicating long-term settlement dated from the Neolithic period to the early medieval period. The significant boundary banks identified here appear to be part of a hagan, which is a boundary bank creating an enclosure for trees. Such features are often derived from Iron-Age nemetons or sacred groves.

The second group was a series of Bronze Age barrows to the southeast which has been interpreted as a barrow cemetery and had evidence of activity as early as the Mesolithic period to the medieval period.

To the south of the site in the area of Wheatlands cropmarks indicate the presence of a significant Roman settlement, located along the Devil's Highway Roman Road.

5.2 The Archaeological Potential of the Proposal Area

There is a limited potential for archaeological remains within the proposal site based on the HER search results, as they did not indicate any known sites within the proposal area. However, there is still a potential for archaeological remains as there has been limited work previously carried out in regard to the car park and access roads, which is where the proposed work is concentrated.

5.3 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains

Due to the site already having been developed, both during the 1930s and the 1970s to 80s, the level of possible archaeological remains within the site is low. The main form of archaeological remains would be based around possible remains of the buildings from the holiday camp. The most likely areas in which the remains of the buildings could be identified are the Top and East car park and possibly the Overspill car park.

The development of the site during the 1970s following the purchase of the land by Wokingham Borough Council is likely to have removed all other traces of the holiday camp. This is due to current buildings associated with the park being predominately within the area of the buildings for the holiday camp.

5.4 The Impact of the Proposal on non-designated heritage assets

There was not any known non-designated heritage assets recorded within the proposal site, but during the site visit a possible parish boundary bank was identified along the east side of the lake. Due to the boundary banks location in relation to the proposal area within the park, any development will be of negligible impact.

The known non-designated heritage assets are located in clusters to the northeast, southeast and southwest with a few individual assets to the south, west and northwest. Due to the distance that the assets are from the proposal site any impact would be negligible.

Although there were no visible remains of the buildings from the holiday camp identified during the site visit, it is possible that some of the foundations of the buildings remain. The aerial photographs indicate that on the northwest edge of the proposed Top car park, part of a building cut into the car park by a maximum of 4 metre. In addition to this there is a building indentified on the aerial photograph within the East car park at the junction of the road. Any remains of this building could also be impacted upon during the relaying of the road.

The remainder of the car parks will likely have negligible impact as there are no buildings indicated within these areas. Also the Emergency services turning area will have a negligible impact as the road will consist of reinforced grass, which will require limited disturbance to the ground. In addition to this, the proposed route of the road will not cross any previous buildings and will be placed within a previous parking area around the exterior of a building.

The proposed pedestrian route ways will have a negligible impact as, even though they cross previous buildings, their depths will not be significant enough to impact any possible remains.

The greatest impact on the site will be related to the introduction of drainage on the site. This will be necessary as there is historical evidence of clay within the area, as indicated by the quarrying of clay from the lake. This will require digging to a greater depth and therefore increasing the possibility of disturbing remains from the previous buildings.

5.5 The Impact of the Proposal on scheduled heritage assets

There are two scheduled ancient monuments (SAM) located in the search area. This designation means that the site is considered to be an archaeological site of national and in some cases international importance. Such sites are legally protected and can only be disturbed legally when sanctioned by the proper authorities (in this case Historic England). This legal protection is provided under the “Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979”.

The scheduled ancient monuments were located to the south of Nine Mile Ride and are of a distance away from the park, which means any work carried out would not be of any impact.

5.6 The Impact of the Proposal on listed heritage assets

A listed designation means that a building is considered to be of nationally or internationally important. There are three ranks of designation that are I, II* and II. The legal back-ground for designation is provided by the “*Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*”. Any alteration or destruction has to be legally sanctioned by the proper authorities with a listed building consent.

There were two listed buildings identified within the HER search, both of which are of post-medieval date and located to the southwest of the park. Due to the buildings distance away from the park, there would be no impact on the building during any work carried out at the park.

5.7 The Impact of the Proposal on known burial sites

‘The *Burial Act 1857* makes the removal of buried human remains an offence unless a Home Office (now Ministry of Justice) licence, or in relevant circumstances, a faculty from the diocesan consistory court, has first been obtained’ (HO 2004).

Burials only become designated heritage assets if they are part of a listed cemetery structure in a churchyard, a burial in a church, or part of a scheduled monument like a long barrow, round barrow, a burial mound inside a later designated structure for example a hill-fort or are a secondary or satellite cemetery to a listed or scheduled structure. In all these cases it can be argued that the individual burial or cemetery is thus protected. In other cases where past burials have been or become located they are essentially non-designated heritage assets as their presence will become added to the Historic Environment Record. In any event burials can only be moved with the permission of the Ministry of Justice and should not be touched by building contractors.

The only identified burial sites within the vicinity of California Country Park are the scheduled ancient monument Bronze Age bell barrow and associated barrows located to the southeast. Due to the location of the barrows in relation to the park, any development at the park would have negligible impact on the burial sites.

The cropmarks at Wheatlands appear to be part of a Roman small town. If this is the case one would expect further burials to be located around this settlement.

6 CONCLUSIONS

A Heritage Impact assessment was carried out regarding the impact that upgrading the car parks and access roads of California Country Park would have. The park was established following the purchase of land in 1973 by Wokingham Borough Council and was designated as an SSSI in 1980. The park consists of Longmoor Lake on the east side, Longmoor Bog to the north and the main park area to the south west.

There is evidence of continued activity within the area from the Prehistoric period onwards. To the northeast a possible Prehistoric field system, Iron Age to Roman settlement and Iron Age to Early Medieval hagan were identified during archaeological work. In addition to this, a possible barrow cemetery was interpreted to the southeast, which also includes a Bronze Age bell barrow which is scheduled and shows activity within the vicinity during the medieval period.

Additional evidence of continued use can be assumed by the Roman road which runs to the south of the park and possible Roman buildings identified along the road. The extent of the archaeological features may indicate that this was the previous location of a Roman *vicus*. Also a collection of Roman pottery sherds have been recorded within the area to the north and southwest of the park.

Following the Roman period, the area appears to have been used primarily for agricultural purposes, with limited changes to the field boundaries. This is indicated by the presence of medieval hedges that have been used as field boundaries and were identified during survey work within the area.

Although there has been continued use of the land, there appears to have been limited developments until the middle of the 19th century. It was at this time that the name California is first recorded within the area, approximately 2 miles east of the park. The name was originally associated with a brick-making site, which used clay gathered from Longmoor Lake. It was due to the quarrying of clay from the lake it increased in size to the north.

The name California appears to have been transferred to its current location in the 1930s when, following the purchase of the land by A. Cartlidge a holiday camp called California-in-England was established. The holiday camp was the first of its type and consisted of several buildings.

The camp was closed temporarily during the Second World War and the ground floor of the pavilion was used as a factory, providing engineering work for aircrafts. The camps dance hall was also used during the war to provide entertainment to the local service personnel.

At the end of the war the camp was reopened and expanded to include several chalets which were located on the east side of the lake. These building are still in use within the California Chalet and Touring Park which is based within the perimeter of the park.

The holiday camp was closed in the 1960s as it could not compete with the increasing number of holiday camps within Britain. Following the closure of the camp some of the buildings were converted for different use, but later abandoned until bought by Wokingham Borough Council.

The maps and aerial photographs show that there were no developments within the proposal area until the park was established. Following the initial construction of buildings for the holiday camp, there were several alterations to buildings and the layout of the camp, which will have most likely removed any archaeological remains within that part of the park. Archaeological potential in the vicinity of California County Park is low. However, there is a possibility of archaeological remains surviving within the car park areas, including the remains of some of the buildings from the holiday camp.

After Wokingham Borough Council purchased the land and converted it into the park, the buildings from the holiday camp were replaced. Therefore, the only remaining buildings of the holiday camp are the chalets in the chalet and touring park.

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7.2 Historic Maps

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D/EX 812/1 c1958 Brochure of California-in-Berkshire

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D/P56/26B 1817 Inclosure Map

D/ERu P5 1829 Greenwood's Map of Berkshire

D/D1/56/1 1846 Tithe Map

D/EWL T1/13 1873 Map attached to deed, probably based on the Tithe Map

Berks 46.6 1899 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Berks 46.6 1911 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Berks 46.6 1932 Fifth Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Gazetteer: On Historic Environment Record

ID	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Period	Description
1	06048.00.000-MWK15066	479416	164749	Palaeolithic	Waste flakes - 164 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire. Two waste flakes
2	MWK16393	479200	164700	Palaeolithic	Acheulean handaxe-rear of 146 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, Berkshire. Acheulean pointed handaxe found in 1963
3	01005.01.000 - MWK1320	479200	164590	Mesolithic	Scheduled Monument-Bell Barrow 160m north-west of Warren Lodge, Finchampstead, Berkshire. Single Mesolithic microlithic found during archaeological work carried out at the Bell Barrow
4	01005.01.000 - MWK1320	479200	164590	Bronze Age	Scheduled Monument-Bell Barrow 160m north-west of Warren Lodge, Finchampstead, Berkshire. SAM ID1013244. A large Bell Barrow with maximum diameter of 30m and a height of c.3m
5	01005.00.000-MWK1319	479290	164541	Bronze Age	Barrows-northwest of Warren Lodge, Finchampstead, Berkshire. A large bell barrow and possible bowl barrow
6	06502.00.000-MWK15485	478120	165680	Bronze Age	Bronze Age pottery sherds-High Barn Farm, Commonfield Lane, Barkham, Berkshire. Small sherds of flint tempered pottery
7	MRM16527	478800	165860	Bronze Age	Phase 1: Early cultivation? activity at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. Features recorded during archaeological work indicating the presence of Bronze Age cultivation
8	MRM16528	478910	165970	Bronze Age to Iron Age	Phase 2: Bronze Age to Iron Age field systems? activity at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. Features indicating the replacement of earlier cultivation activities
9	MRM16529	478900	165930	Iron Age to Early Medieval	Phase 3: Iron Age Nemeton or later Hagan? at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. An early medieval Hagan set within the features of an Iron Age settlement
10	MRM16533	478870	165980	Iron Age to Roman	Phase 4: Possible Iron Age and Roman settlement? at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. A possible settlement was identified at Barkham Ride comprising of undated features such as postholes and ditches with charcoal deposits
11	01006.00.000-MWK1322	478268	163944	Roman	Roman buildings East of Wheatlands Manor, Finchampstead, Berkshire. SAM ID 1006938. Scheduled Monument comprising of cropmarks of Roman buildings adjacent to Roman road
12	00772.00.000-MWK8609	478580	164460	Roman	Roman tile and a pottery sherd-Finchampstead, Berkshire. A sherd of a Roman storage jar and several fragments of tile
13	06511.00.000-MWK15488	478531	165917	Roman	Pottery sherds-Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. Three Romano-British pottery sherd found during fieldwalking
14	06512.00.000-MWK15489	478343	166003	Roman	Romano-British pottery sherd-Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. One sherd of Romano-British pottery found during fieldwalking
15	06514.00.000-MWK15491	478102	165826	Roman	Roman-British pottery sherds-High Barn Farm, Commonfield Lane, Barkham, Berkshire. Two Romano-British pottery sherds found during fieldwalking

Gazetteer: On Historic Environment Record

ID	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Period	Description
16	MRM16534	478820	165870	Medieval	Phase 5: Medieval ridge and furrow? at Rooks Nest Farm, Barkham Ride, Barkham, Berkshire. Remains of possible ridge and furrows
17	MRM16734	478144	163653	Medieval	Early Medieval hedgerows at Finchampstead. Hedgerows believed to be of Early Medieval date
18	MRM16735	478327	163659	Medieval	Medieval hedgerows at Finchampstead. Hedgerows believed to be of Medieval date
19	01005.01.000-MWK1320	479200	164590	Medieval	Scheduled Monument-Bell Barrow 160m north-west of Warren Lodge, Finchampstead, Berkshire. Sherd of medieval pottery, possible dated 13th/14th century found during archaeological work carried out at the Bell Barrow
20	DRM2485	478156	164432	Post-medieval	Thatch Cottage. Listed building: Grade II. Late 16th century timber framed building with thatched gable roof. 20th century alterations, including extension
21	DRM2421	477764	164406	Post-medieval	Shepperlands Cottage. Listed building: Grade II. 17th century timber framed building with painted brick infill and old tile gabled roof. 20th century alterations
22	MRM16736	478160	163589	Post-medieval to Modern	Post-medieval hedgerows at Finchampstead. Hedgerows believed to be of Post-medieval date
23	MRM16737	478233	163688	Post-medieval to Modern	on historic maps but now removed. Boundaries identified on historic maps, which have now been removed or replaced with fences
24	MRM17490	477160	165590	Modern	Arborfield Remount Depot (Arborfield Garrison), Arborfield, Berkshire
25	01110.00.000-MWK1902	477900	164880	Unknown	Cropmark features-Wheatlands Manor, Finchampstead, Berkshire. Short linear earthworks forming small enclosures visible on aerial photographs
26	01114.03.000-MWK1909	478980	164300	Unknown	A discontinuous linear cropmark-Finchampstead, Berkshire. Located north of Church Farm
27		478389	165323	Modern	Dam on the northwest edge of Longmoor Lake. Identified during the site visit and appears to be of modern date.
28		478577	165204	Unknown	Possible boundary bank. Identified during site visit. A bank which is running along part of the parish boundary between Finchampstead and Barkham, of an unknown date