



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

88 - 90 BRAYWICK ROAD, MAIDENHEAD,

BERKSHIRE

NGR SP 890 799

On behalf of

Spitfire Properties LLP,

JUNE 2016

REPORT FOR Spitfire Properties LLP,
I.M. House,
South Drive,
Coleshill
B46 1DF

PREPARED BY Steve Leech

ILLUSTRATION BY Autumn Robson

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

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ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel: 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on the west side of Braywick Road between Clifton Close and Walker Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR SU 890799). The evaluation consisted of three trenches; Trench 1 was 25m long, Trench 2 was 30m long and Trench 3 15m long. All the trenches were devoid of any archaeological features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site was located on the west side of Braywick Road between Clifton Close and Walker Road (NGR SU 890799). The site was residential including gardens and the underlying geology is Lambeth Group partly overlain by Head deposits (BGS 1981 sheet 269, Solid and Drift).

1.2 Planning Background

A planning application was refused by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of 88 Braywick Road and erection of seven new dwellings (14/02591). This was granted on appeal (APP/T0355/A/14/2229474). Berkshire Archaeology was consulted regarding this proposal and advised that a programme of archaeological work was required.

Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring an archaeological evaluation as a first stage of the programme.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site falls within an area of high archaeological potential. Important prehistoric sites and finds spots are recorded on the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Historic Environment Record in proximity to this site. These include the nationally important Scheduled Mesolithic (8,000 – 4,000 BC) site at Moor Farm, less than 1km to the south and the Neolithic (4,000 – 1,800 BC) site at Cannon Hill to the south-east. Iron Age (800-100 BC) pits were recorded at Courtlands to the north, while a possible Roman villa may have been located at Shoppenhanger, close to the putative line of a Roman road from Braywick to Cock Marsh. These last two sites are poorly evidenced, although two Roman coins were recovered nearby suggesting some form of Roman activity was taking place nearby. The intensity and wide date range of known archaeology reflects the importance of the gravel terraces of the River Thames and its tributaries for settlement and agriculture from the earliest prehistoric periods to the present day.

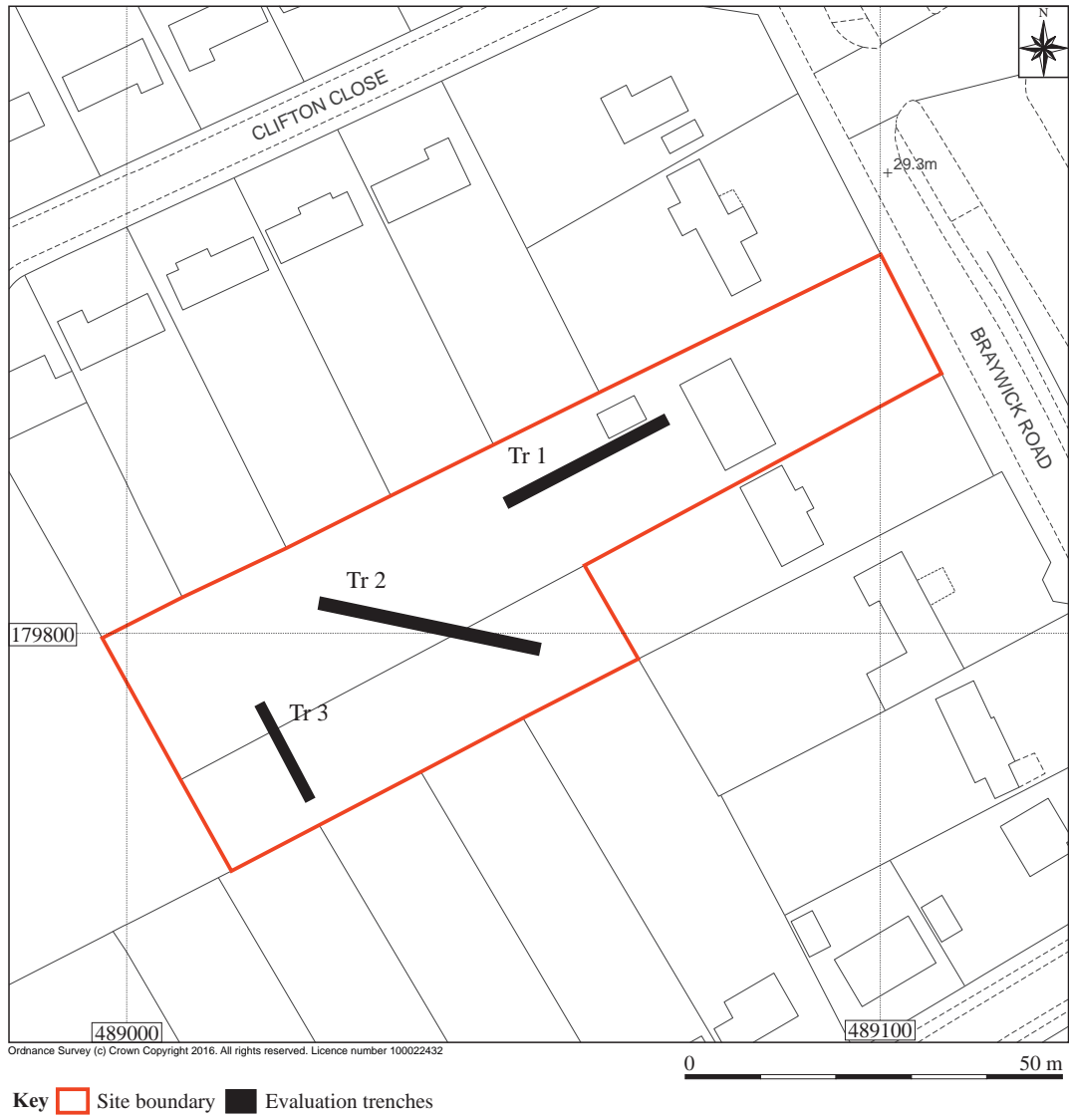
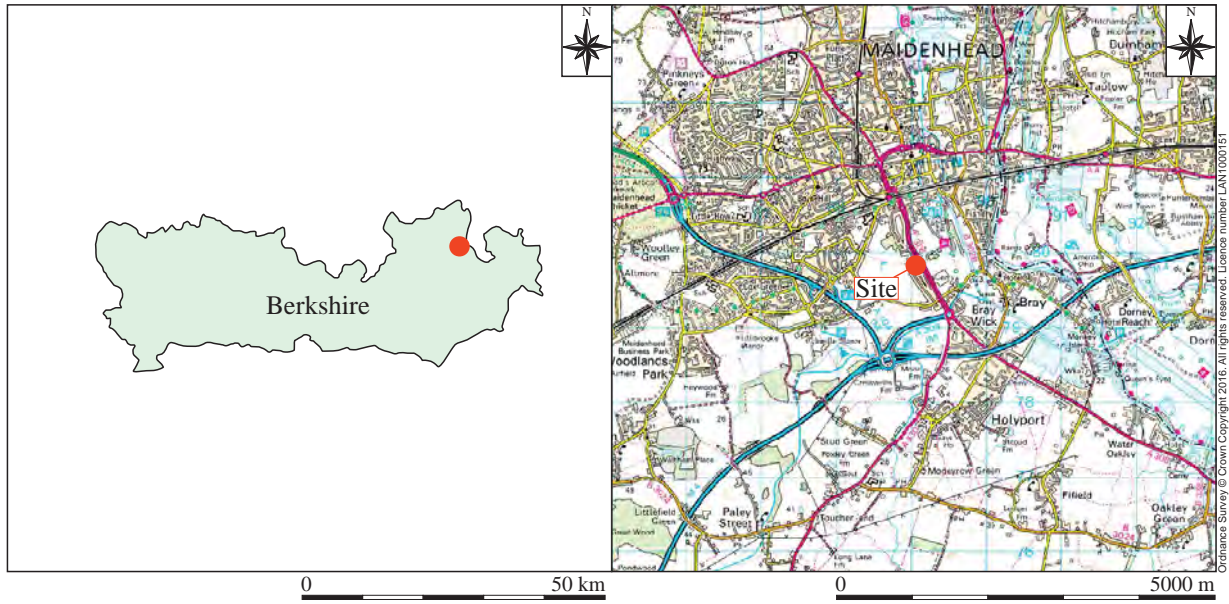


Figure 1: Site location

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine whether remains relating to the known prehistoric and putative Roman landscapes are present on the site.
- To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* and *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To address some of the key issues highlighted in the Solent Thames Research Framework. This will depend on the type and date of remains encountered.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisors to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

The investigation of the development site involved the mechanical excavation of three evaluation trenches. Each trench was 1.65m wide with Trench 1 25m long, Trench 2 30m in length and Trench 3 15m long (Fig. 1). There was a contingency for a further 10m length of trenching that proved to be un-necessary. Mechanical trenching was supplemented by limited hand investigation of any archaeological deposits. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits was not compromised.

Excavation was undertaken by a 7 ton excavator using a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of “natural” deposits.

Adequate notification was given to Berkshire Archaeology prior to the start of work to allow monitoring to take place. Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology was unable to visit at the time of the evaluation.

Site procedures carried out followed Cifa guidelines and the requirements of Berkshire Archaeology.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figures 1 & 2))

Trench 1 was orientated northeast / southwest, 25m long, 1.65m wide and 0.85m deep. It contained a 0.23m thick layer of a mid-brown sandy silt (1/01), a topsoil that overlay a 0.62m thick layer of a mid-brown silty clay (1/02), a colluvial subsoil that overlay the natural sandy clay and gravels (1/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking southwest

Trench 2 was orientated east / west, 30m long, 1.65m wide and 0.66m deep. It contained a 0.2m thick layer of a mid-brown sandy silt (2/01), a topsoil that overlay a 0.46m thick layer of a mid-brown silty clay (2/02), a colluvial subsoil that overlay the natural sandy clay and gravels (2/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking east

Trench 3 was orientated northwest / southeast, 15m long, 1.65m wide and 0.85m deep. It contained a 0.23m thick layer of a mid-brown sandy silt (3/01), a topsoil that overlay a 0.62m thick layer of a mid-brown silty clay (3/02), a colluvial subsoil that overlay the natural sandy clay and gravels (3/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 3. Trench 3 looking southwest

No finds were recovered from either the topsoil or subsoil from all three trenches. The upper surface of the colluvial subsoil was examined for archaeological features before excavating down to the natural horizon in each trench and a sondage was excavated at the end of each trench to confirm the natural horizon. The evaluation was conducted on well-drained ground in changeable weather conditions with good light conditions. The natural horizons were clear and the reliability of the results is considered to be good.

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from any of the deposits in all three trenches.

6 DISCUSSION

All three trenches were devoid of any archaeological features. The upper surface of the colluvial subsoil was examined for archaeological features before excavating down to the natural horizon in each trench and a sondage was excavated at the end of each trench to confirm the natural horizon.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to a suitable repository when one is available.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological Field Evaluation*

JMHS 2015 *88 Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DE Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation* (unpublished report)

APPENDIX 1 Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Mid-brown sandy silt	0.23m	1.65m	25m	-	Topsoil	-
1/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.62m	1.65m	25m	-	Subsoil	-
1/03	Deposit	Orange / brown sandy clay and gravels	-	1.65m	25m	-	Natural	-
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Mid-brown sandy silt	0.2m	1.65m	30m	-	Topsoil	-
2/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.46m	1.65m	30m	-	Subsoil	-
2/03	Deposit	Orange / brown sandy clay and gravels	-	1.65m	30m	-	Natural	-
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Mid-brown sandy silt	0.23m	1.65m	15m	-	Topsoil	-
3/02	Deposit	Mid-brown silty clay	0.62m	1.65m	15m	-	Subsoil	-
3/03	Deposit	Orange / brown sandy clay and gravels	-	1.65m	15m	-	Natural	-