



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF
GEOTECHNICAL PITS**

AT

LION HOUSE, PETERSFIELD AVENUE,

SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE

NGR SU 97975 80297

On behalf of

Seven Capital (Grosvenor) Ltd

NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT FOR Seven Capital (Grosvenor) Ltd
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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during an excavation of six geotechnical test pits at Lion House, Petersfield Avenue, Slough, Berkshire (NGR SU 97975 80297). A 1m to 1.5m thick layer of modern disturbed ground overlay the natural gravels. No archaeological features or horizons were encountered within any of the test pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at Lion House, Petersfield Avenue, Slough, Berkshire (NGR SU 97975 80297). The site lies at approximately 29m aOD. The underlying geology is Lambeth Group - Clay, Silt and Sand with superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel.

1.2 Planning Background

Slough Borough Council has granted planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of a part four, part seven storey building and a part five, part seven storey building comprising residential accommodation, basement car parking, landscaping and associated works. Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site. This was in line with NPPF and Local Planning policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

This is documented in the desk based assessment (The Historic Environment Company 2017) with a search over a 1km radius of the site and is only summarised here:

Prehistoric

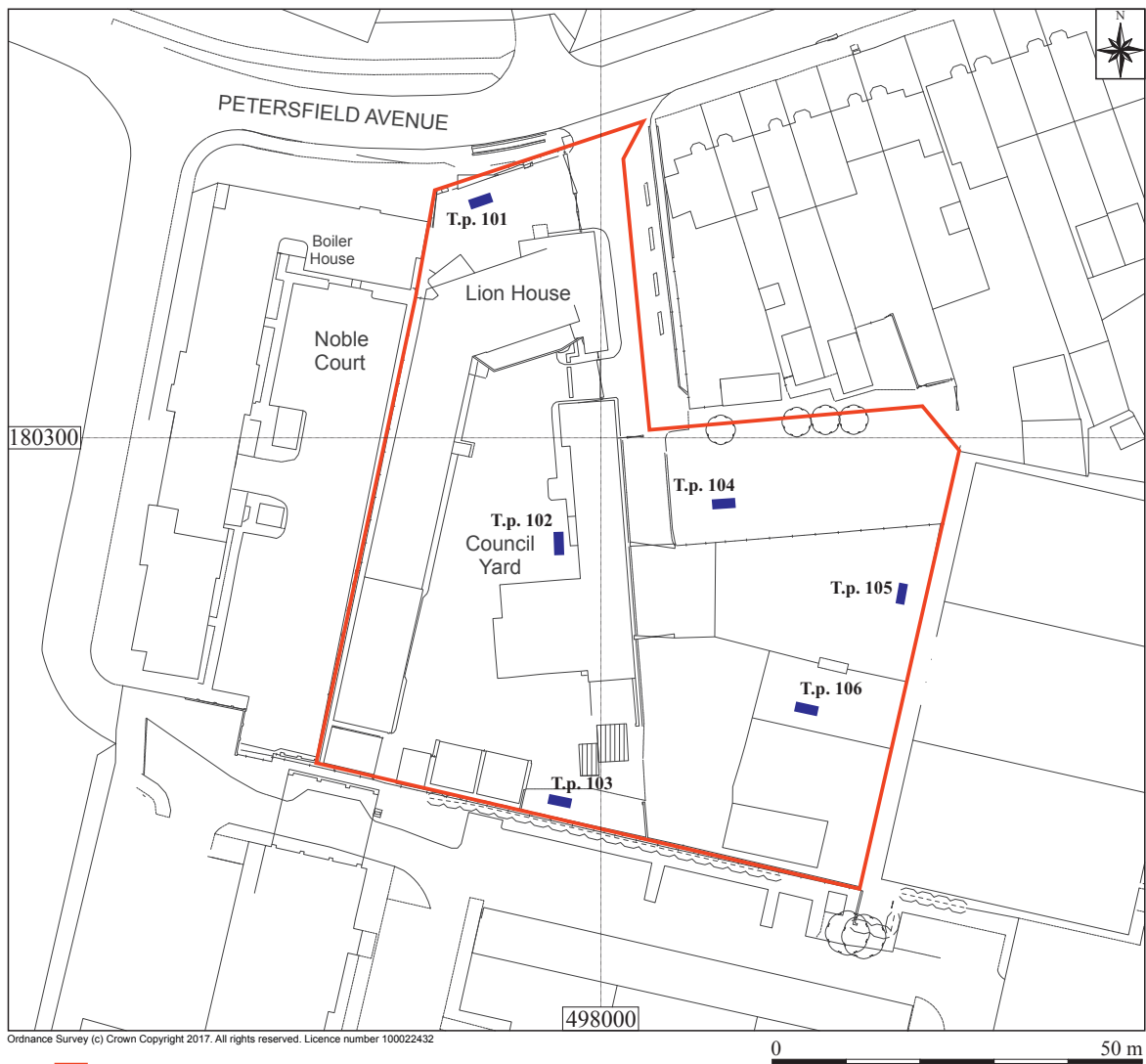
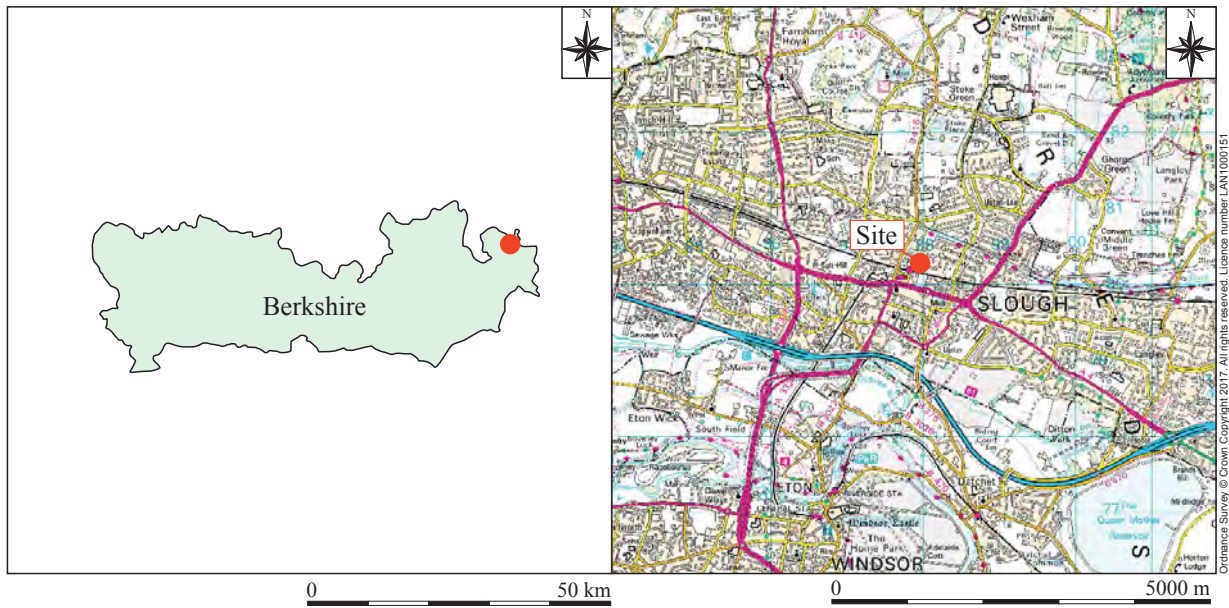
Little prehistoric evidence is known from the Borough of Slough. Finds of Palaeolithic handaxes have been made at 4 Chalvey Park (c. 880m SW) and on Slough High Street (c. 700m WSW). No other prehistoric remains are known from within 1km of the development.

Roman

There are only occasional Roman-British finds in Slough. No remains of Roman date are known from within the search area.

Early Medieval – Pre 1066

A small Late Saxon-Viking spear was found during alterations to the old Crown Hotel,



Key Site boundary Test pit

Figure 1: Site location and test pit locations

Medieval – Post 1066-1485

Archaeological work at Arbour Vale Sports Centre, Stoke Road (650m N) revealed evidence for possible quarry pits within an irregular small enclosure.

Documentary evidence suggests a brick kiln was established at Slough in 1442 to supply bricks for the construction of Eton College.

Post Medieval 1485-1700

The works at the Arbour Vale School Sports Centre (650m N) recorded two late post-medieval/early modern driveway ditches and a post-medieval boundary ditch.

A corn mill is shown on the 1876 First Edition OS map and was demolished sometime between 1925 and 1942. This was located approximately 17m west of the development area.

An evaluation at 2 Brunel Way (c. 490m SW) recorded a possible former area of brickearth quarrying infilled and levelled with dumped layers of demolition and industrial waste of 19th century origin.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To determine if any archaeological remains exist on the development area

In particular:

- To assess the condition, survival, quality and significance of any archaeological remains found.

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 Slough Borough Council.

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

3.2 Methodology

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. 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.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned and metal detected for finds relating to all periods.

The archaeological work involved the monitoring of the excavation of six geotechnical test pits located within the development area (Fig. 1). The test pits were 1m wide, 1.5m long and up-to 3.5m deep.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Geotechnical pits

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

Test pit 101 (Fig. 1 and Plate 1) was 3.5m deep and consisted of a 1m thick layer of a grey / brown silty clay (01) that contained frequent amounts of 19th and 20th century debris that directly overlay the natural gravels (02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains.

Test pit 102 (Fig. 1) was 3.5m deep and consisted of a 1.3m thick layer of an orange / brown silty clay (01) that contained frequent amounts of 19th and 20th century debris that directly overlay the natural gravels (02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains

Test pit 103 (Fig. 1) was 3.2m deep and consisted of a 1m thick layer of an orange / brown silty clay (01) that contained frequent amounts of 19th and 20th century debris that directly overlay the natural gravels (02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains.

Test pit 104 (Fig. 1) was 3.5m deep and consisted of a 1.5m thick layer of a reddish brown silty clay (01) that contained frequent amounts of 19th and 20th century debris that directly overlay the natural gravels (02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains.

Test pit 105 (Fig. 1) was 3.5m deep and consisted of a 1.3m thick layer of a grey / reddish brown silty clay (01) that contained frequent amounts of 19th and 20th century debris that directly overlay the natural gravels (02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains.

Test pit 106 (Fig. 1) was 3.5m deep and consisted of a 1.2m thick layer of a reddish brown silty clay (01) that contained frequent amounts of 19th and 20th century debris that directly overlay the natural gravels (02). The trench was devoid of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The excavations were undertaken in good weather conditions and the stratified deposits were clearly visible and the reliability of the results is considered to be good.



Plate. 1 Test pit 101

5 FINDS

No finds other than 19th and 20th century debris, that was not retained, were recovered from any of the test pits.

6 DISCUSSION

The six test pits revealed a 1m - 1.5m thick layer of modern disturbed ground overlay the natural gravels. No archaeological features or horizons were encountered within any of the test pits.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

Physical record

None

The project report
The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be added to that of any further stages of archaeological work and transferred to the appropriate museum when space becomes available.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

The Historic Environment Consultancy, 2017 *Heritage Statement: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Lion House, Slough – 2017/1340* (unpublished client report)

The Historic Environment Consultancy, 2017 *Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Monitoring of Engineers Test Pits, Lion House, Slough – 2017/1405* (unpublished client report)