

Archaeological Field Evaluation: Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, Berkshire RG9 3HU

April 2026



Report No. 2474



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Prepared for HCUK Group

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Project No.3288

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Summary

A field evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology England between 27th and 28th April 2026 at Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, Berkshire - National Grid Reference SU 78051 81482, in order to discharge Condition 7 of planning permission 223108. Prior to fieldwork, a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HCUK 2022) identified the potential presence of the former Victorian Temple Combe house within the development area, as depicted on historic mapping dating from 1875 to 1962.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the development area, revealing the fragmentary remains of a brick wall (1008) and a possible set of brick steps (1004), interpreted as relating to the earlier Victorian phase of occupation.

The results indicate that the site had been extensively landscaped prior to the construction of the existing house in 1963–1964, designed by D. Cottage of W.H. Headley & Partners.

No additional archaeological features, deposits, or artefactual evidence were encountered within the investigated areas.

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. Archaeology England (AE) was commissioned by HCUK (henceforth 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG9 3HU. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 78051 81482 (Figures 1-2).
- 1.1.2. The work relates to the proposed demolition of an existing dwelling and pool house and the erection of a new dwelling and detached covered car port along with associated landscaping and changes to the internal access road. The planning application reference is 223108.
- 1.1.3. As part of work submitted in support of the planning application, a Heritage Environment Desk Based Assessment was produced by HCUK (2022). This identified a high potential for the presence of post-medieval remains and moderate potential for Roman remains to be encountered on the site. Consequently, Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council, recommended that a condition be attached to the planning permission. Condition 7 of the planning permission reads:

Condition: No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of works) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition.

Reason: The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The condition will ensure that any archaeological remains within the site are adequately investigated and recorded in order to advance our understanding of the

significance of any buried remains to be lost and in the interest of protecting the archaeological heritage of the Borough.

- 1.1.4. The evaluation took place over two days between the 27th and 28th April 2026.
- 1.1.5. The project was managed by Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA (AE Project Manager), with groundworks monitored by AE Senior Project Officer Siân Thomas MCIfA and AE Senior Supervisor Daniel Moore.
- 1.1.6. The project number is 3283, and the site code was THB/26/EV. The OASIS ID is archaeol40-542258.
- 1.1.7. AE is a Registered Organisation with CIfA. All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023a) and the *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023b).

2. Site Description

- 2.1.1. Templecombe House is located in a rural area c. 2km to the south-east of Henley-on-Thames, 10km to the west of Maidenhead and 10km north-east of Reading - NGR SU 78051 81482 (Figure 1-2).
- 2.1.2. The site lies within the area of the Temple Combe estate. The existing house is a mid-1960s semi-circular building with an adjoining swimming pool complex to the north-west and a tennis court to the north-east. There is a winding access track leading from Wargrave Road/A321 to the south. The house sits in a band of woodland that runs roughly north-west to south-east, with open grassland to the north-east and south-west. To the south-west is the "Druid's Temple," a prehistoric stone monument transported from Jersey in the late 18th century and erected on the estate.
- 2.1.3. The buildings are located on a wide terrace overlooking the Thames Valley to

the south-west, at between 85m and 90m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The ground slopes gently down to the south-west before steepening down to the road at 50m aOD. The ground also slopes away to smaller valleys to the north-west and south-east.

- 2.1.4. The underlying geology is characterised by the chalk of the Lewes Nodular, Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations. These are sedimentary rocks of shallow marine origin formed between 93.9 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2026).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1.1. A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was carried out by HCUK (2022) in relation to the current project.
- 3.1.2. The DBA found little evidence for prehistoric activity before the Iron Age within a 1km search area of the site, with occasional finds of worked flint recorded on the HER. Two possible sites of Iron Age and Roman date have been found during archaeological investigations, including at Youngs Farm, c. 200m to the east, and near Remenham Hill, c. 800m to the north. The HER also records the existing line of Wargrave Road/A321, as a possible Roman road (HCUK 2022).
- 3.1.3. The site was historically part of the Park Place estate, which lies to the north-west, and it forms a part of the Park Place and Temple Combe Grade II* Park and Garden (LB 1000588). There is documentary evidence for Park Place estate from the 13th century, but it is not clear when Temple Combe became part of it. The land-use of the site during the medieval period is believed to have been agricultural with areas of woodland (ibid).
- 3.1.4. In 1752, the estate was purchased by General Henry Seymour Conway, who hired the architect and landscape designer Sanderson Millar to enlarge and embellish the park (HCUK 2022). Conway added various structures and follies,

including the prehistoric monument located south-west of the present site, from which Temple Combe derived its name. The stone passage grave was discovered in Jersey in 1785 and presented to Conway upon his retirement as Governor of Jersey. In 1787, he had it transported and re-erected at its present location (ibid).

- 3.1.5. The estate passed through several hands until 1867, when it was purchased by a Reading property developer, Charles Easton. Easton created Temple Combe as a separate estate, including building the first house at the current site between 1867 and 1870, as well as a farm, stables, and gardens to the north-east (ibid).
- 3.1.6. In 1947, the estate was put up for auction in several lots. Temple Combe House lot included the house, garages, stables, outbuildings, a gardener's house, entrance lodge, and the 'Druidic temple' (HCUK, 2022). In 1948, planning permission was granted for a change of use for the house to a boarding school, but by 1961, when the 1962 OS map was surveyed, the house was in ruins (ibid).
- 3.1.7. Planning permission for the current, semi-circular building on the site of the Victorian house was granted in 1961. It was built in 1963-1964, designed by D. Cottage of W.H. Headley & Partners (ibid).

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1. The main objective of the archaeological evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to sufficiently characterise these to inform the potential requirement for any further archaeological work.
- 4.1.2. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:
 - To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or

remains; To record the character, date, location, and preservation of any archaeological remains on Site; and

- To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.

4.1.3. The specific aims of the investigation were:

- To excavate three trenches to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground;
- To clean the base and representative sections of the trenches and record them in both plan and representative section;
- To partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date; and
- To inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological works on the site by means of an illustrated report.

4.1.4. The objectives of the project were:

- To undertake the archaeological evaluation to provide further information prior to the construction of the proposed development;
- To undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines;
- To archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance);
- To analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use;
- To produce a written account to include summary, site description, deposit descriptions, deposit levels (relative to Ordnance Datum) and conclusions;

- To disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological evaluation to produce as comprehensive a record as possible; and
 - Provide an ordered archive.
- 4.1.5. Regional research objectives for Berkshire are laid out in the Solent-Thames Research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014). As stated in the WSI (HCUK, 2023) there is potential for archaeological remains recorded within the evaluation to add to a number of aims and objectives within the Research Framework. These are:
- 4.1.6. Roman period:
- 12.4. Landscape and Land Use
 - 12.6. Settlement
 - 12.12. Communications and trade
- 4.1.7. Post Medieval period:
- 18.3. Landscape and Land Use
 - 18.3.4. Studies of significant gardens and parks, particularly those which are not on the Register of Parks and Gardens, should consider social issues, such as their roles as status symbols and in competition between members of the elite, as well as their design components.

5. Methodology

- 5.1.1. The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023a) and the *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring*

and Recording (2023b).

- 5.1.2. The original proposal comprised the excavation of three trial trenches within the application area, two measuring 10m in length by 2m in width and one measuring 20m in length and 2m in width. However, due to health and safety constraints encountered on site, the programme was revised and reduced to two trenches, measuring 13m in length and 2m in width and 10m in length and 3.5m in width respectively (Figure 2-3).
- 5.1.3. The trenches were excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon or natural substrate (whichever was reached first) using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The removal of the overburden soils was done under the supervision of a competent archaeologist.
- 5.1.4. Any archaeological remains encountered were hand cleaned, excavated, and recorded through the use of proforma recording sheets, high resolution digital photography, and GPS.

6. Evaluation Results

Trench 1

- 6.1.1. Trench 1 was 13m long, 2m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.26m below the ground level.
- 6.1.2. The natural substrate (1002) was encountered at 0.25m below the existing ground level. It comprised white chalk with occasional flint nodules. The natural was truncated by foundation cut [1003] for possible stairs, modern foundation cut [1005], and wall foundation cut [1007].
- 6.1.3. Foundation cut [1003] was linear in plan, orientated north-west to south-east, measured 0.24m wide by 0.7m long and contained the remains of a brick

structure, which was believed to have been a set of steps, (1004). The possible steps survived to a height of 0.24m, comprising two courses of bricks (Plate 1).

- 6.1.4. Foundation cut [1005] linear in plan. Oriented north-west to south-east and measured 0.6m wide and 4.6m long. The depth of the cut was not established as it was not excavated. The cut was filled with a deposit (1006) of moderately loose mid-yellow brown sand and chalk. The feature represented the foundation cut for the stairs leading to the front door of the current house (Plate 2).
- 6.1.5. Foundation cut [1007] was linear in plan and oriented south-west to north-east. It measured 2.9m in length, 0.5m in width, and 0.05m in depth. The feature extended across both Trench 1 and Trench 2. The cut was filled with deposit (1008), which comprised fragments of brick and chalk (Plate 3-4). The cut was believed to have been the base of a foundation cut for a brick wall, with the wall no longer surviving.
- 6.1.6. The fill of foundation cut [1005] was overlain by sand deposit (1001), which had a thickness of 0.18m and was only encountered at the south-eastern end of the trench. This was overlain by tarmac (1000), which had a thickness of 0.1m. Features [1003] and [1007] were overlain by the tarmac.

Trench 2

- 6.1.7. Trench 2 was 10m in length and 3.5m in width. It was excavated to 0.16m below the ground level, exposing the natural chalk (1002). Feature (1008) encroached into the trench. No other archaeological features were observed within the excavated area (Plate 5).
- 6.1.8. The feature was overlain by aggregate deposit (2001), which had a thickness of 0.05m and was encountered along the southern edge of the trench. This was overlain by tarmac (2000), which had a thickness of 0.1m.

7. Finds

- 7.1.1. No material of archaeological significance was recovered during the evaluation.

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1.1. Between 27th and 28th April 2026, Archaeology England undertook a field evaluation at Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG9 3HU. The site is centred on NGR SU 78051 81482. The field evaluation was carried out in order to discharge Condition 7 of planning permission 223108.
- 8.1.2. Prior to the field evaluation, HCUK Group completed a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of the site (HCUK 2022). This identified the potential presence the remains of the Victorian Temple Combe within the development as observed in historic mapping dating from 1875 to 1962. The trial trenches were positioned to establish whether remains of this structure survived below ground and to assess the presence or absence of any additional archaeological remains.
- 8.1.3. The results of the evaluation suggest that the area had been significantly landscaped prior to the construction of the house in 1963–1964, designed by D. Cottage of W.H. Headley & Partners.
- 8.1.4. The evaluation recorded fragmentary remains of a probable former brick set of steps (1004) and a brick wall (1008), likely associated with the earlier Victorian house that formerly occupied the site.
- 8.1.5. No other archaeological features, deposits, or finds were encountered during the field evaluation.

9. Archiving

- 9.1.1. Due to the limited archaeological evidence, the digital archive will be uploaded as an appendix to the report via OASIS (ID: archaeol40-534868).

10. Bibliography

British Geological Survey: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/>
Accessed March 2026.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023a. *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023b. *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording.*

HCUK Group, 2023. *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching. Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG9 3HU.*

HCUK Group, 2022. *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3HU.*

Hey, G. and Hind, J. 2014. *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas.*
<https://knowledge.oxfordarchaeology.com/2597> Accessed March 2026.



Figures

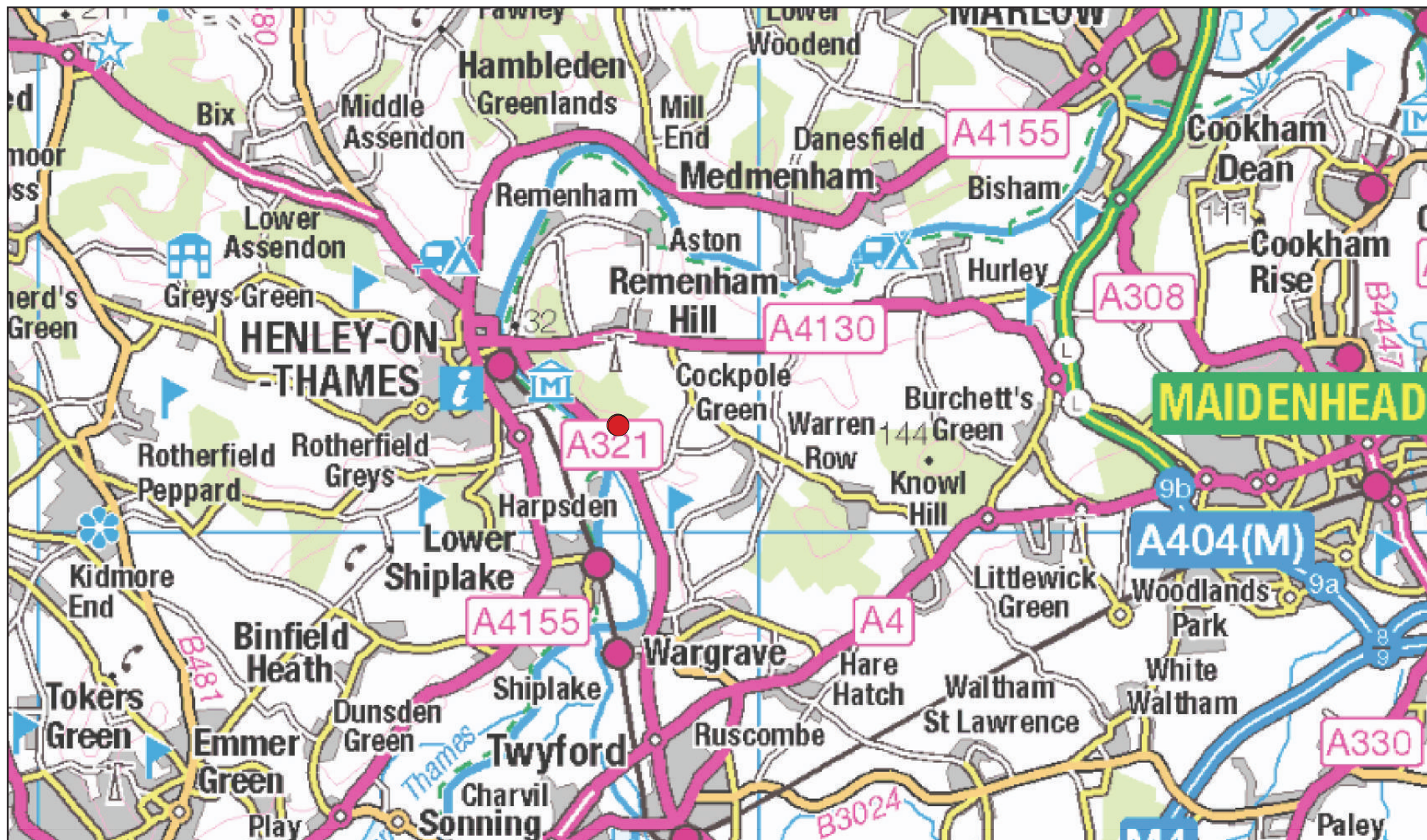
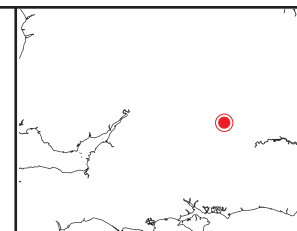


Figure 1. Location of site.

● The site



0 1 2 km



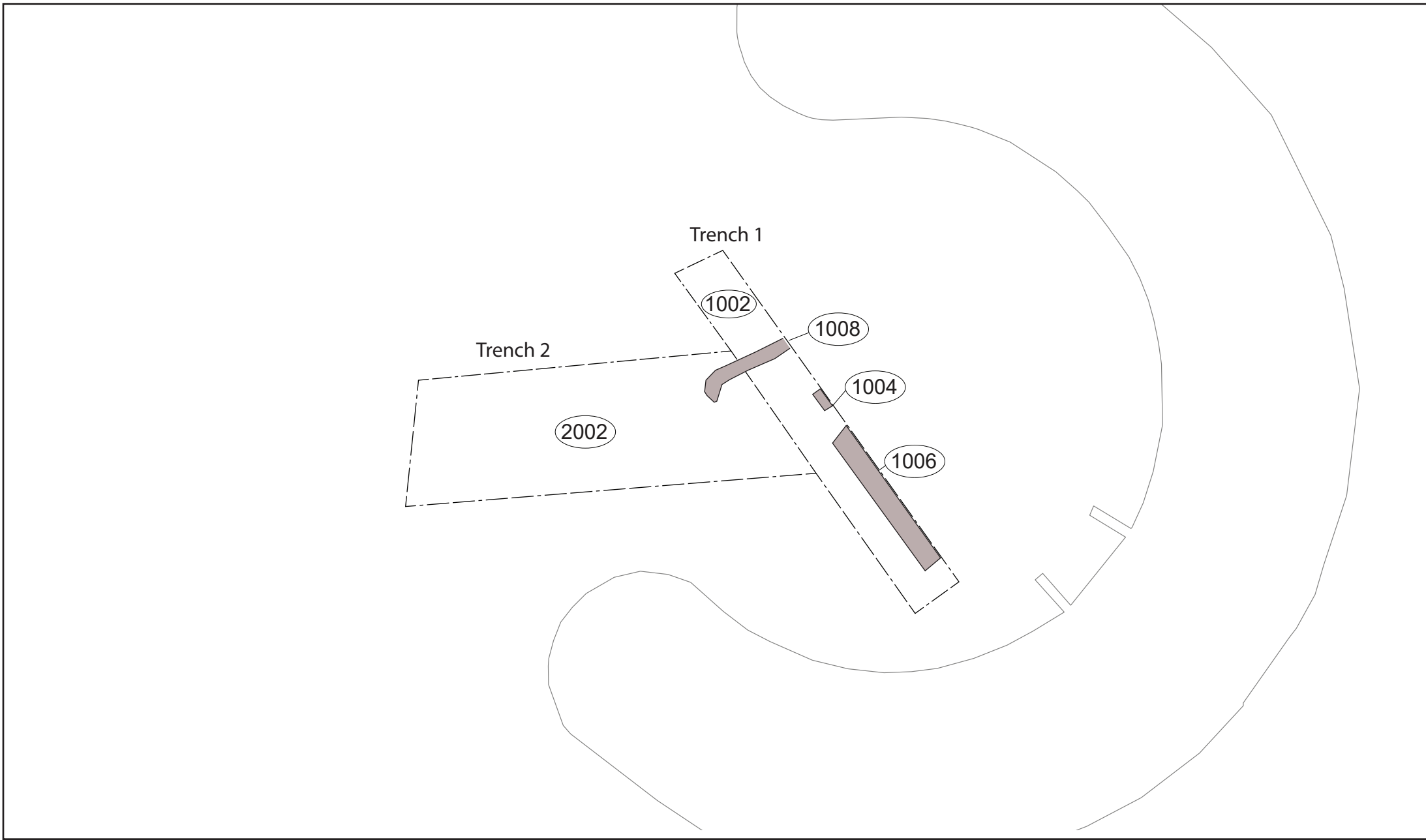
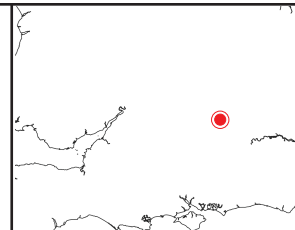


Figure 3. Site plan.





Plates



Plate 1: Remains of brick wall (1004). View to the northeast. 0.5m scale.



Plate 2: Trench 1. View to the northwest with foundation cut for staircase [1005] to the right of the image. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Remains of wall (1008). View to the southeast. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Southeast facing section of wall (1008).



Plate 5: Southwest facing representative section of Trench 1. 1m scale.



Plate 6: Trench 2. View to the west-south-west. 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 7: South facing representative section of Trench 2. 1m scale.



Appendix I: Context Inventory

Context No.	Same as	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1000	2000	Layer		Modern surface	Tarmac	13m	2m	0.1m
1001		Layer		Modern levelling layer	Loose brown yellow sand	1m	2m	0.18m
1002	2002	Layer		Natural	Chalk with occasional flint nodules	13m	2m	0.01m+
1003		Cut		Cut of former steps	Unexcavated	0.24m	0.7m	
1004		Structure	1003	Brick steps	2 courses of red brick	0.24m	0.7m	0.24m
1005		Cut		Cut modern staircase	Unexcavated	4.6m	0.6m	
1006		Deposit	1005	Staircase foundation fill	Moderately loose mid-yellow brown sand and chalk	4.6m	0.6m	
1007		Cut		Sublinear cut of brick wall	Straight sides and flat base	2.9m	0.5m	0.05m
1008		Structure	1007	Brick wall	Fragments of red brick and chalk	2.9m	0.5m	0.05m
2000	1000	Layer		Modern surface	Tarmac	10.1m	3.5m	0.1m
2001		Layer		Modern aggregate	Compacted mid yellowish-brown aggregate.	10.1m	1m	0.05m
2002	1002	Layer		Natural	Chalk with occasional flint nodules	10.1m	3.5m	0.01m+



Appendix II: Selection Strategy

Project Information	
ID	3283
Name	Templecombe House, Wokingham
Project Management	
Project Manager	Irene Garcia Rovira
Post Excavation Manager	Rhiannon Philp
Organisation	Archaeology England
Stakeholders	
Collecting Institution(s)	ADS; OASIS; no museum repository accepting in the area
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Irene Garcia Rovira
Landowner / Developer	Atlantic Swiss Agency (ASA)/HCUK
Other	
Resources	No unusual resources required outside of AE normal operating equipment and personnel to implement this Selection Strategy.
Context	
Archaeological evaluation at Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG9 3HU. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 78051 81482. The work relates to the proposed demolition of an existing dwelling and pool house and the erection of a new dwelling and detached covered car port along with associated landscaping and changes to the internal access road. The planning application reference is 223108.	
Digital Data	
Stakeholders	
Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager), ADS, OASIS	

Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection and De-selection

DMP Attached as a separate document

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
30/04/26	OASIS only archive	Very limited archaeology – relevant archive will be included as an appendix to the report and uploaded to OASIS	AW, OASIS

Documents

Stakeholders

Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager)

Selection and De-selection

Selection

- 1.1. All original documentary material created during data gathering will be selected for inclusion in the final archive. Duplicates, photocopies of originals and research materials will be de-selected during archive completion
- 1.2. Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases:
 - Fieldwork
 - Reporting
 - Archive Completion
- 1.3. Relevant Standards and Guidance:
 - CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
 - CIfA. 2022 revision. Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology
 - Any information provided by Receiving Institutions
- 1.4. It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines

De-selection

It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates, re-productions, miscellaneous material, correspondence and GDPR/confidentiality created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore be retained to supplement AW/AE's research files. A copy of the complete

digital working archive incl. the preserved archive is stored on AW/AE's server.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
30/04/26	Documentary Archive will be deselected	Full digital copy will be made and relevant archive included as appendix to report in OASIS upload	AW, OASIS

Materials

Materials Selections Template

No	Find type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders
3.1	Pottery	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.2	CBM	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.3	Metals	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.4	Worked Stone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.5	Animal Bone	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving

		selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	institution
3.6	Lithics	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.7	Small Finds	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.8	Environmental Material	Retain until at least after Assessment. Further selection decisions to follow results of assessment.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution
3.9	Modern (post 20 th C) Material	Note in paperwork and discard on site.	Specialist; PXM; No available receiving institution

No	ALL	Material type	All categories
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Stakeholders

Rhiannon Philp (PX manager), Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager); Specialist

Selection

- a) All artefacts are returned to AW/AE Finds and Environmental processing facility and dealt with in accordance with the professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020). Selection may also be made prior to deposition based on Society of Museum Archaeologists' Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections guidelines (1993), and consultation of the receiving institution's deposition guidelines.
- b) Selection reviews will be undertaken after the following phases:
 - Fieldwork

- Assessment
- Analysis (if required)
- Archive Completion

c) Relevant Standards and Guidance:

CIfA. 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials

Historic England. 2025. Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (third edition)

Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections

d) It is not envisaged that the selection decisions will deviate from standard guidelines

Uncollected Material

All material will be collected in the first instance unless obviously modern (plastics/post 20th century artefacts).

De-Selected Material

After assessment stage material may be deselected based on the advice of the relevant material specialist and the requirements of the receiving institution. The selection strategy will be updated to reflect any decision made on de-selected material.

De-selected material will be assessed for educational value and retained/passed to an educational provider if deemed of use. If no further use is identified the de-selected material shall be discarded via Smiths Waste Management and deposited within their South Wales waste processing facility.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders
30/04/26	No finds selected	No finds recovered	AW

The logo for Archaeology England, featuring the text "ARCHAEOLOGY ENGLAND" in white capital letters on a dark purple rectangular background. To the right of the text are three overlapping, curved shapes in shades of purple and green, resembling a stylized stack of papers or a folded ribbon.

ARCHAEOLOGY ENGLAND

Appendix III: Data Management Plan

Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID / OASIS ID
• 3283 • THB/26/EV • OASIS ID: archaeol40-542258
Project Name
Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, RG9 3HU
Project Description
Archaeological evaluation to be carried out at Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, RG9 3HU. The site is centred on NGR 478051 181482
Project Funder / Grant reference
Atlantic Swiss Agency (ASA)
Project Manager
Irene Garcia Rovira, Project Manager, Archaeology England irene@arch-england.co.uk
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Irene Garcia Rovira, Project Manager, Archaeology England
Data Contact Person
Rhiannon Philp, Post Excavation Manager, Archaeology England rhiannon.philp@arch-england.co.uk
Date DMP created
20.4.26
Date DMP last updated
30.03.26
Version
V2
Related data management policies
This DMP is guided by the Project Brief, CIfA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (ADS) or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

Section 2: Data Collection

What data will you collect or create?		
The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for data collected / created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.		
Type	Format	Estimated volume (Data Archived)
Text/documents	PDF (.pdf and .pdf/a)	1 – All-in-one OASIS upload – sterile site

How will the data be collected or created?

Data Standards / Methods

- Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project, working to best practice guidance where applicable / available. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against ADS Guides to Good Practice. Specific or additional guidance relevant to this project are listed below, and will be updated as the project progresses.
- Methods of collection are specified within the Project Design (Garcia Rovira 2024) and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief, the organisation recording manual and relevant CIfA Standards and guidance.
- Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.
- Specific guidance:

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023. *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*.

Data storage / file naming

- The data produced will be uploaded at regular intervals during the project as a way of backing up the information.
- The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal organisational server. The internal organisation server is backed up to a cloud based storage system to maintain an up to date security copy of the organisation wide data.
- Project folders are named following established organisational procedures and the folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project.
- Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.
- File naming conventions following established organisational procedures, based on ADS file naming guidance, and include version control management.
- The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance.

Section 3: Documentation and metadata

What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

- Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above).
- A Collection Level Metadata Summary is included in all standard archaeological projects and will be completed as the project is delivered. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. The Collection Level Metadata Summary brings together the overarching project details and includes a register of data types and number of objects included in the archive, along with all other archive components.
- Metadata tables for each data type will be populated as the project progresses and will use the standard format for each data type as recommended by ADS, who are the intended repository for the digital data archive.
- Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology.
- An archive catalogue documenting both physical and digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and Trusted Digital Repository

Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

- The project archive will include the names and contact details of individuals who intend to volunteer or participate in the excavation and post excavation stages. We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is managed through a secure cloud-based database and not retained on the project specific folders.
- Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use.
- Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.
- Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, they will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?

- Organisational IT is managed by an external data management provider, who is also responsible for the management and verification of our daily back-ups and who supports access to security copies as needed

- Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server, which includes permissions-based access. The server is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in
- Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back up is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive).
- Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

- The Selection Strategy and DMP will be reviewed and updated as part of the Post Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design, and following full analysis. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages.
- Prior to deposition, the Selection Strategy and DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, ADS).
- Selection will be informed by the Project Design, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project results.
- The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via OASIS and as part of this the archive), with full access to research data
- The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP.
- Deselection will be undertaken automatically on any duplicate or unusable files, such as blurry or superfluous photographs.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

- The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, which is a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.
- The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.

Have you contacted the data repository?

- Reading Museum Services will be contacted once work has begun if it becomes apparent that a combined material and data archive will be recovered (as per their deposition guidelines).
- ADS is the intended repository for digital data.

Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?

- A costing estimate has been produced using the ADS Costing Calculator and sufficient resources to cover these costs, and to allow for the preparation of the archive, have been included in the project budget

Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?

- A summary of the project has been included on the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigation and the museum and digital archive repository will be updated as the project progresses.
- The museum and digital archive repository will be updated as the project progresses.
- The investigations are likely to result in the following documents: Project Design, Final Evaluation Report
- The final report is expected to be completed within 2 months of the completion of fieldwork.
- As the project progresses reports will be attached to the project OASIS record.
- A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record via OASIS, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.
- The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be included in the final report and added to OASIS when appropriate.
- The ADS will disseminate the digital elements of the Archaeological Archive online under a creative commons licence and the dataset will receive a unique identifier (DOI)

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

- A temporary embargo may be required on the sharing of the project results. If this is the case, specific details once agreed will be included in the updated version of this DMP and will be documented in the overarching Project Collection Metadata.
- Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargos which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive

Section 8: Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

- The Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager and Post Excavation Manager.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.
- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by an external company.

- Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post Excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.
- Details of the core project team can be found in the Project Design.

Appendix IV: Written Scheme of Investigation



Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation Trial Trenching

Templecombe
House, Wargrave
Road, Remenham,
Wokingham,
Berkshire
RG9 3HU

September 2023 | Project Ref 06429D



Project Number: 06429D
File Origin: \HCUK Group\6001-6500 - Documents\6401-6500\06429 - Templecombe House, Henley-on-Thames\6429D\ARCH

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NG, 12.09.2023	

No text or imagery within this report has been generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

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1. Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1** This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by James Meek MCIfA of HCUK Group on behalf of Atlantic Swiss Agency (ASA). It details a scheme of archaeological evaluation to be carried out at Templecombe House, Wargrave Road, Remenham, Wokingham, RG9 3HU. The site is centred on NGR 478051 181482 (Figure 1).
- 1.2** The Site comprises a modern (mid-1960s) semi-circular house with an adjacent indoor swimming pool complex, scattered small outbuildings to the west and northwest and a tennis court to the northeast, situated on elevated ground within the northwest part of the estate, with ground sloping down to the south and southeast towards Wargrave Road (A321) and the River Thames just beyond. A prehistoric stone monument, transported from Jersey in the late 18th century, stands within a small field on the southwest side of the house. A lodge stands at the roadside on the east side of the access drive from Wargrave Road.
- 1.3** An archaeological desk-based assessment was previously prepared for the site by HCUK in 2022¹, which placed the site in its archaeological and historical context. The built heritage was dealt with in Heritage reports also prepared by HCUK.
- 1.4** A planning application (223108) was submitted to Wokingham Borough Council for the '*proposed erection of 1 no. dwelling, amendments to the internal access road, erection of a detached covered car port and associated landscaping following demolition of existing dwelling and pool house*' (Figure 2). This was granted planning permission on 11th August 2023.
- 1.5** Following consultation with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council, the following information was provided:

¹ HCUK 2022

Thank you for consulting Berkshire Archaeology regarding the above proposal. In line with our response to the pre-application consultation, and as noted in the archaeological desk based assessment submitted with the application (HCUK, 2022), we would recommend that an archaeological condition is attached should permission be granted. This will secure a scheme of archaeological works to evaluate areas of the site where below-ground impacts are proposed, in order to assess for the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains. Should such remains be encountered, a further phase of mitigation works may be required.

This recommendation is on account of the potential at the site for archaeological remains to be present from all periods, as identified by the applicant's archaeological desk based assessment. This recommendation is in line with both national and local planning policy, namely Paragraphs 194 and 205 of NPPF (2021) and Local Plan Policy TB25.

Our recommended wording for the condition is as follows:

Condition: No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of works) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition.

Reason: The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The condition will ensure that any archaeological remains within the site are adequately investigated and recorded in order to advance our understanding of the significance of any buried remains to be lost and in the interest of protecting the archaeological heritage of the Borough.

1.6 This was subsequently added to planning permission as condition 7.

1.7 The WSI has been guided in its composition by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2022), Standard and guidance for the archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2020), the Management of Research Projects

in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) issued by Historic England (Historic England 2015) and adheres to paragraphs 189, and 194-195 of the procedural document National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023).

Geology and Topography

- 1.8** The British Geological Survey identifies the underlying solid geology across the Site as Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk and Newhaven Chalk Formations. No superficial deposits are recorded (Figure 2).²The soils are recorded as freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils with high fertility.³
- 1.9** The ground slopes up steeply from 50m AOD at the roadside adjacent to the river to 90m AOD at the northwest boundary of the Site, over a distance of c.330m. The house and outbuildings are situated on a wide terrace within the north-western part of the Site. The wooded western boundary slopes steeply down to Happy Valley whilst the eastern boundary is defined by a NNE-SSW valley, the ground sloping steeply from c.80m AOD on the eastern boundary down to c.60m AOD close to the drive, over a distance of c.90m.

² <https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

³ <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

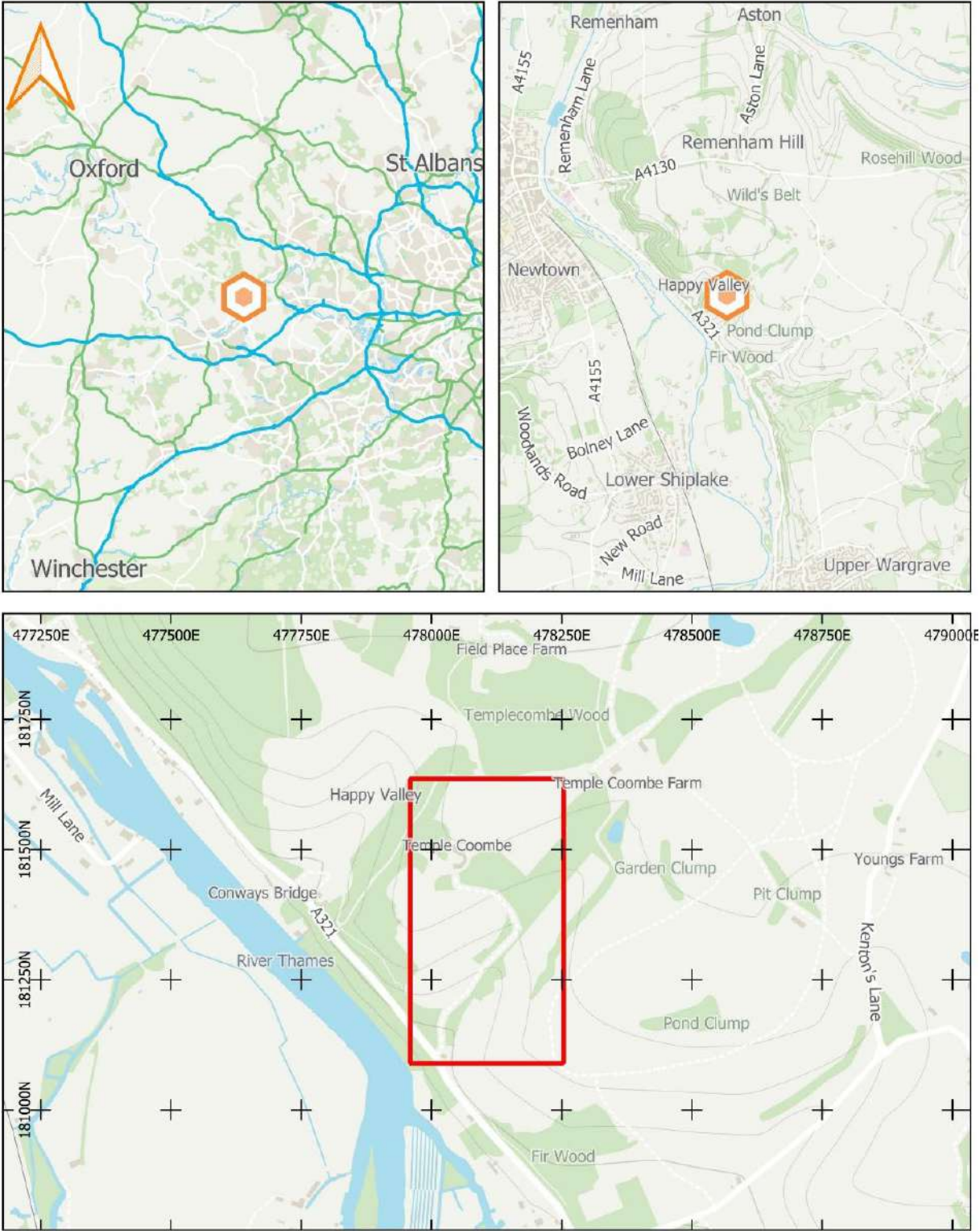


Figure 1: Site Location Plan

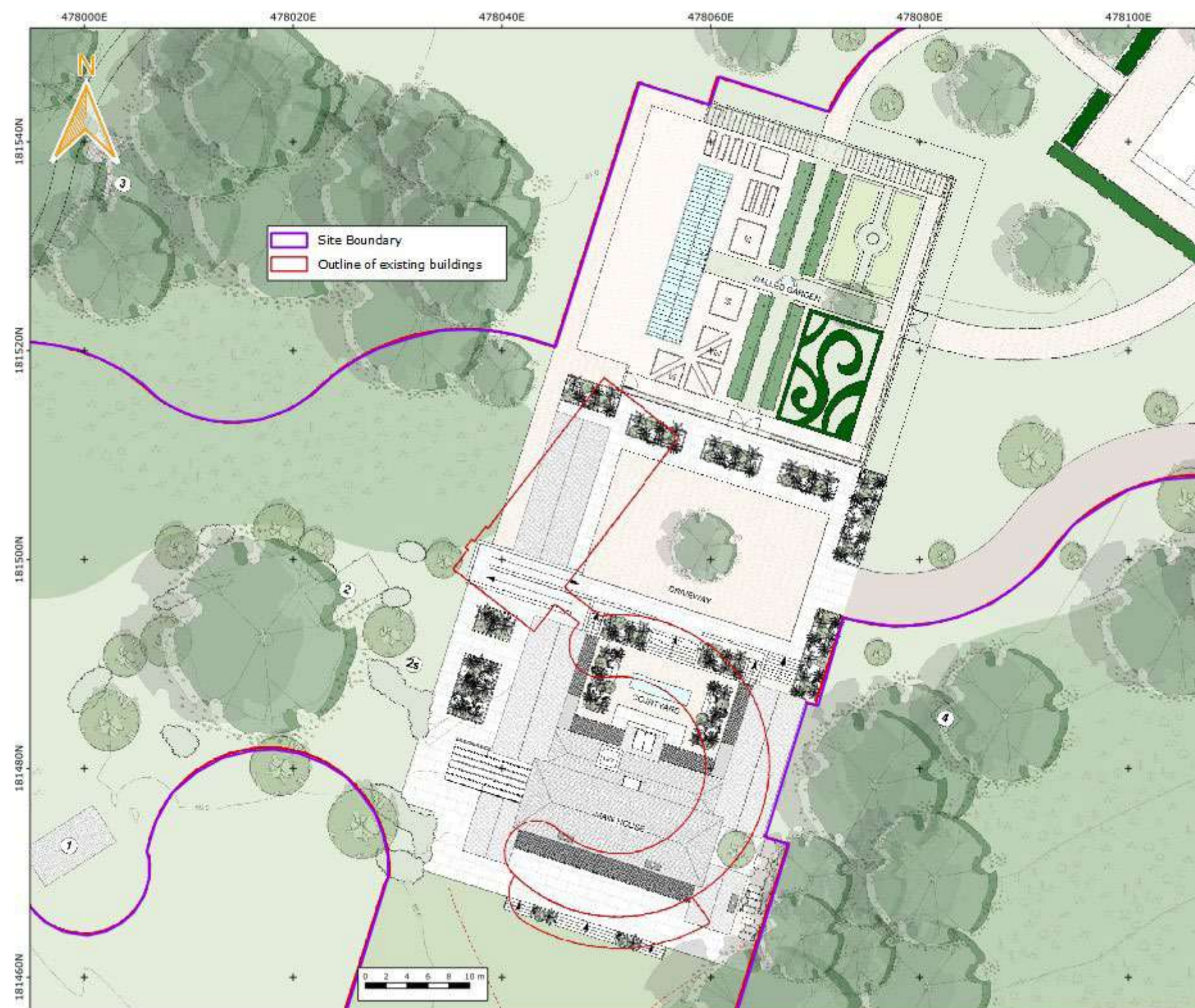


Figure 2: Development proposals (new house and pool house) with existing building footprints overlaid (Michaelis Boyd Associates)

Archaeological and Historic Background

1.10 The following archaeological and historical conclusions have been taken from the archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by HCUK in 2022. Information was gathered for a 1km study area around the Site from the Berkshire Historic Environment record (data references prefixed MRM) and Oxfordshire Historic Environment Records (data references prefixed MOX).

Prehistoric

1.11 Finds of Lower Palaeolithic handaxes have been made in river terrace gravels at Remenham Hill, within gravel quarries close to Remenham village, and at Harpsden, on the west bank of the river Thames.⁴ No finds of this period have been recorded within 1km of the Site.

1.12 Early Mesolithic flints were found within an assemblage of 17 flint fragments recovered from later residual features during archaeological investigation of a haulage road on the Park Place estate, c.385m northeast of the northern boundary of the Site (MRM16724).

1.13 Early Neolithic worked flints were recovered from unstratified contexts during archaeological evaluation at Park Place and Aspect Park Golf Course, c.440m north of the Site; no associated structural or occupation material was identified (MRM15986). Two Neolithic flint blade flakes were also found in an unstratified context in a Roman ditch during archaeological investigation on the northern edge of the 1km radius study area (MRM17512).

1.14 There is little evidence for Bronze Age activity within the 1km radius study area apart from a handful of early Bronze Age worked flints which occurred in the same unstratified and residual contexts as the early Neolithic flintwork described in the paragraph above (MRM15986 and MRM16724).

⁴ Wymer 1968:202.

- 1.15** A number of archaeological investigations within the Park Place estate have identified ditches and postholes and a possible enclosure representing settlement remains of Roman date close to Youngs Farm (formerly Hatchgate House), c.200m east from the northeast boundary of the Site (MRM15984). Some of the Roman ditches contained Iron Age pottery sherds, suggesting a later prehistoric predecessor.
- 1.16** Middle to Late Iron Age features dating from c.500 BC, including postholes, two storage/rubbish pits and linears possibly representing field boundaries were identified during archaeological investigations at several locations on the former Aspect Park Golf Course, both north and south of Pond Clump, c.350-400m east and southeast of the eastern boundary of the Site (MRM15943), west of Youngs Farm (MRM15984) and north of Temple Coombe Farm.
- 1.17** An area of early Iron Age occupation was identified by archaeological evaluation and excavation in 1995 within the northern part of the study area, close to Remenham Hill, 800m-1km north of the Site. The area of occupation comprised postholes containing pottery sherds ranging in date from the early Iron Age to the early Roman period (MRM15782). Further Iron Age features, including a pit, posthole and ditch were identified in close proximity, close to the northern boundary of the study area (MRM17510).
- 1.18** A pit containing a single sherd of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery was recorded in 1995 at a location c.660m north of the Site (MRM15783).
- 1.19** The Oxfordshire HER records a rectangular enclosure with an entrance on the northeast side, together with associated linears (ditches) and pits visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, which may represent a possible late prehistoric or Roman settlement site, located on the west bank of the river at Harpsden on the southern outskirts of Henley-on-Thames (MOX7741).
- 1.20** The steep topography of much of the Site, particularly south of the house and along the eastern boundary would not have provided optimum conditions for settlement, and consequently there is considered to be a low potential for encountering activity

relating to the later prehistoric remains within the Site. If present, any remains are likely to be of low (local) significance.

Roman

- 1.21** The Berkshire and Oxfordshire HERs hold six records of Roman date. Three refer to the line of the Roman road linking Dorchester-on-Thames with the Roman town of Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*), crossing the river at Henley-on-Thames, whose course is then largely followed by Wargrave Road as far as the George and Dragon Inn at Wargrave (MWK4808 & MOX27238).⁵ A
- 1.22** At least two later prehistoric occupation sites recorded within the study area appear to have continued in occupation throughout the Roman period. The closest to the Site lies c.270m to the northeast, close to Youngs Farm (MRM15984), possibly occupied from the 1st-4th centuries AD. A series of early Roman ditches was identified together with prehistoric material during an evaluation in 1995 close to the northern boundary of the study area (MRM15781). A further Roman ditch, of 2nd century date, was revealed during an archaeological evaluation close by (MRM17511). A single fragment of Roman tile was recovered during a watching brief at The Laundry, Park Place (MRM16368).
- 1.23** The cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure identified from aerial photographs on the west bank of the river, on the southern outskirts of Henley-on-Thames, may represent another later prehistoric-Roman settlement site (MOX7741).
- 1.24** The potential for encountering Roman activity within the majority of the Site is considered to be low due to the topography of the site and terracing works undertaken for the former Victorian building. There may be a moderate potential for Roman remains on land alongside the southern boundary close to Wargrave Road, which follows the course of a Roman road. If present, remains are likely to be of low (local) importance.

⁵ Margary 1973: Route 160cc.

Saxon/Early Medieval

- 1.25** The Berkshire and Oxfordshire HERs hold two records for assets of early medieval date within the study area. These comprise a linear feature containing sherds of 12th century coarse ware pottery in its fill, found during an evaluation at Park Place and Aspect Park Golf Course, c.580m north of the Site (MRM15985); and a late Saxon spearhead dredged from the River Thames below Marsh Lock, Sonning, close to the northwest boundary of the 1km radius study area (MWK8477).
- 1.26** The potential for encountering early medieval archaeology within the Site is considered to be low. If present, remains are likely to be of low (local) importance.

Medieval

- 1.27** The HER holds three records for assets of medieval date within the study area. A piece of tile with a date range of 1200-1500 found during a watching brief at The Laundry, Park Place (MRM16369); a stoneware jug of 16th-17th century date found in the River Thames between Poplar Eyot and Marsh Lock (MWK8489); and a possible medieval (or post-medieval) trackway and medieval pit was found during test pitting along the line of a proposed haulage road, c.520m northeast of the Site (MRM16657).
- 1.28** The Site lies within the parish of Wargrave, close to the boundary with the parish of Remenham, which runs along Happy Valley immediately northwest of the Site before crossing Templecombe Wood to the north.
- 1.29** The manor of Wargrave '*Weregrevae*' (Old English meaning '*grove by the weirs*'), is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was held by Queen Edith. There was a population of around 250, comprising 41 villagers, 14 smallholders and 6 slaves. The arable land amounted to 29 ploughlands, with 2 lord's plough teams and 25 men's plough teams. In addition, there were 16 acres of meadow, woodland sufficient to support 100 swine, a mill valued at 9 shillings, and three fisheries. Following the Conquest, the manor remained a royal manor, held directly by King

William. The value of the manor, which was worth 31 pounds in 1066, had decreased to 27 pounds, 6 shillings and 7 pence by 1086.⁶

- 1.30** The principal centres of medieval population in the vicinity of the Site were the town of Henley-of-Thames, a late 12th century royal foundation, and the villages of Remenham and Wargrave. Wargrave was held by the Bishops of Winchester throughout the medieval period.⁷
- 1.31** Historically the Site formed part of the Park Place estate. There is documentary evidence that the estate was held by the Strode family in the 13th century, and later by the Vyne family (by 1479).⁸ By 1676 it was held by Roger Draper, at which time the house was known as 'Perkes Place alias Strowdes'.⁹
- 1.32** The date at which the Site, situated within the neighbouring manor of Wargrave, was integrated with the Park Place estate, whether during the medieval period, or significantly later, remains unknown.
- 1.33** There is little evidence for medieval land-use within the Site, which is presumed to have been agricultural land, probably fringed with woodland, as documented in later periods, so the potential for medieval remains is thought to be low. Any archaeological remains of this period are likely to be associated with agricultural activity with low (local) importance.

Post Medieval & Modern

- 1.34** The Berkshire and Oxfordshire HERs hold records for eighteen archaeological heritage assets of post-medieval or modern date within the Study Area. Many are not relevant to the site
- 1.35** There is a single specific HER Post-medieval record within the Site, the so-called 'Druids Temple', a prehistoric stone monument transported to the Site from Jersey in 1788 (MWK1035). As the Site was originally part of the more extensive Park Place estate, it is also included within two HER records covering the ornamental

⁶ Morris 1979: 1,15.

⁷ Ditchfield & Page 1923.

⁸ Ditchfield & Page 1923.

⁹ Ditchfield & Page 1923.

gardens, pleasure grounds and landscaped parkland of the wider estate (MWK1054 & MWK6294).

- 1.36** The prehistoric stone-built monument was discovered near St Helier in Jersey, and was presented to General Conway by the residents of Jersey upon his retirement as Governor of Jersey (MWK1035) and re-erected on the estate during his period of ownership of Park Place. The present 'Templecombe' placename derives its name from the introduction of this 'druidic temple'.
- 1.37** The 1840 Wargrave Tithe Map shows that both the Site and Park Place were in the same ownership, that of Ebenezer Fuller Maitland, who is recorded as occupying the majority of the land plots within the Site, apart from the two fields on the eastern boundary, which were tenanted by Joseph Maynard. The southern half of the Site was known as Weedon Hill. The 'Druid's Temple' was approached by a tree-lined avenue from the northeast. The tithe map shows a pattern of woodland similar to the modern configuration. No house was present at this date.
- 1.38** The whole estate, including 'Temple Combe' was first leased to Mr John Noble (of Noble's Paints and Varnishes) in 1869, and then sold to him 1870.¹⁰ Park Place House was destroyed by fire soon afterwards and rebuilt by John Noble who employed architect Thomas Cundy to remodel the house in a French Renaissance style. The work was completed by 1874.
- 1.39** Various elements of the Park Place house and estate are recorded by the Berkshire HER: the house itself (MWK1055), the ornamental gardens, pleasure grounds and landscape park (including Templecombe) (MWK6294), the terraced gardens adjacent to the house, and the wider landscaped parkland with grotto, passage grave and other features (including Templecombe) (MWK1054), the Laundry (MRM16371), and four obelisks (MRM16436). The park in which the Site lies is a Grade II* Registered Park & Garden.¹¹
- 1.40** The 1875 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch scale map, surveyed in 1874 is the earliest mapping which shows the new 'Temple Combe' house. The house was sited

¹⁰ Ditchfield & Page 1923.

¹¹ HCUK Group 2022.

to take advantage of access from the tree-lined avenue, which had originally approached the 'Druids Temple' from the northeast. The farm was built on the east side of the avenue, c.320m northeast of the house. The map also shows a small quarry within a stand of woodland on the north side of the access track, which passed from the lodge northwards to the farm, curving both south and north of the farm to meet the tree-lined avenue approaching the front of the house. A second track branching north-westwards from a point near the small quarry, on the line of the current drive, led to the rear of the house.

- 1.41** The whole estate was put up for auction by the Noble family in October in 1947 in a number of separate lots: two mansions (Park Place and Temple Combe), four smaller country houses, 27 cottages, and two farms, together with woodland, parkland and river frontage land with boathouses.¹²
- 1.42** The 1962 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map, surveyed in 1961, shows the house as a ruin; the footprints of the ancillary buildings to the northwest were still mapped unchanged.
- 1.43** Planning permission was granted in December 1961 for the current dwelling to be built on the site of the old house.¹³ The present house was built in the period 1963-4. The architect was Mr D Cottage of W.H. Headley & Partners of Harrow, Middlesex.¹⁴ By this time, the house was no longer connected to the farm and avenue to the northeast, and was accessed solely by the current drive from the Wargrave Road.
- 1.44** There is considered to be a high potential for encountering the remains of the Victorian house below the existing building and on its southwestern side. Garden features and possible ancillary structures associated with the Victorian mansion may also be encountered on the northeast side of the proposed new house where landscaped gardens are proposed.
- 1.45** There is a high potential for encountering evidence for post-medieval and modern agricultural activity within undisturbed parts of the Site, such as the area of the

¹² *The Reading Standard*, March 29th, 1946.

¹³ Planning Application: 211/61 4th December 1961.

¹⁴ Pevsner, Tyack & Bradley 2010.

pool house and the northern part of the landscaped gardens, although such remains are likely to be of low (local) significance.

Conclusions

1.46 In summary the site has the following potentials by period:

- Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Neolithic) – Low potential for stray finds. These would be of local archaeological importance.
- Later Prehistoric (Bronze Age and Iron Age) - Low potential for activity, although there is quite a lot in the general area, the potential may be higher on lower and more level ground.
- Roman - The potential for encountering Roman activity within the majority of the Site is considered to be low due to the topography of the site and terracing works undertaken for the former Victorian building. There may be a moderate potential for Roman remains on land alongside the southern boundary close to Wargrave Road, which follows the course of a Roman road. If present, remains are likely to be of low (local) importance.
- Saxon/Early medieval – low potential for any remains of this date.
- Medieval – low potential for any remains of this date.
- Post medieval – high potential for encountering the remains of the Victorian house below the existing building and on its southwestern side. Garden features and possible ancillary structures associated with the Victorian mansion may also be encountered on the northeast side of the proposed new house where landscaped gardens are proposed.

2. Aims and Objectives

Regional Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.1** The Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment provides the archaeological research agenda for the Site¹⁵.
- 2.2** The following topics may be relevant to archaeological works undertaken within the Site:
- Roman period:
 - 12.4: Landscape and Land Use
 - 12.6 – Settlement
 - 12.12 – Communications and Trade
 - Post Medieval Period
 - 18.3 – Landscape and Land Use (specifically para 18.3.4 regarding landscaped gardens)
- 2.3** These research aims and objectives will be revised as necessary both during and after fieldwork in consultation with Berkshire Archaeology. The findings of the fieldwork with regards to dating, phasing, and evidence of different uses of the site will be key to informing these aims.

Evaluation Aims and Objectives

- 2.4** The general aims of the archaeological evaluation are:
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;

¹⁵ <https://library.oxfordarchaeology.com/2597> . Edited by Gill Hey and Jill Hind, 2014 Oxford Archaeology Ltd

- To record the character, date, location, and preservation of any archaeological remains on Site; and
- To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remain on site.

2.5 The specific aims of the investigation are:

- To excavate three trenches to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground;
- To clean the base and representative sections of the trenches and record them in both plan and representative section;
- To partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date; and
- To inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological works on the site by means of an illustrated report.

2.6 The objectives of the project are:

- To undertake the archaeological evaluation to provide further information prior to the construction of the proposed development;
- To undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines;
- To archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance);
- To analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use;
- To produce a written account to include: summary, site description, deposit descriptions, deposit levels (relative to Ordnance Datum) and conclusions;
- To disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological evaluation to produce as comprehensive a record as possible; and
- Provide an ordered archive.

3. Methodology

3.1

It is proposed that three archaeological evaluation trenches will be opened within the site area. These will be located within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. These will be located outside of the footprint of the existing building and will target areas of the new dwelling. These trenches will also target the footprint of the 19th century Templecombe House.

- Trench 1 will be located on the northwestern side of the proposed new structure and target the northern corner of the Victorian house. It will measure 10m x 1.8m and be aligned roughly north-northeast to south-southwest.
- Trench 2 will be located on the northern side of the proposed new structure and across the northeastern edge of the former Victorian house. It will measure 10m x 1.8m and be aligned roughly east-northeast to west-southwest.
- Trench 3 will be aligned roughly west-northwest to east-southeast and measure 20m x 1.8m. This trench will run across most of the width of the proposed new dwelling outside of the footprint of the existing house. It will also run across much of the footprint of the Victorian house.

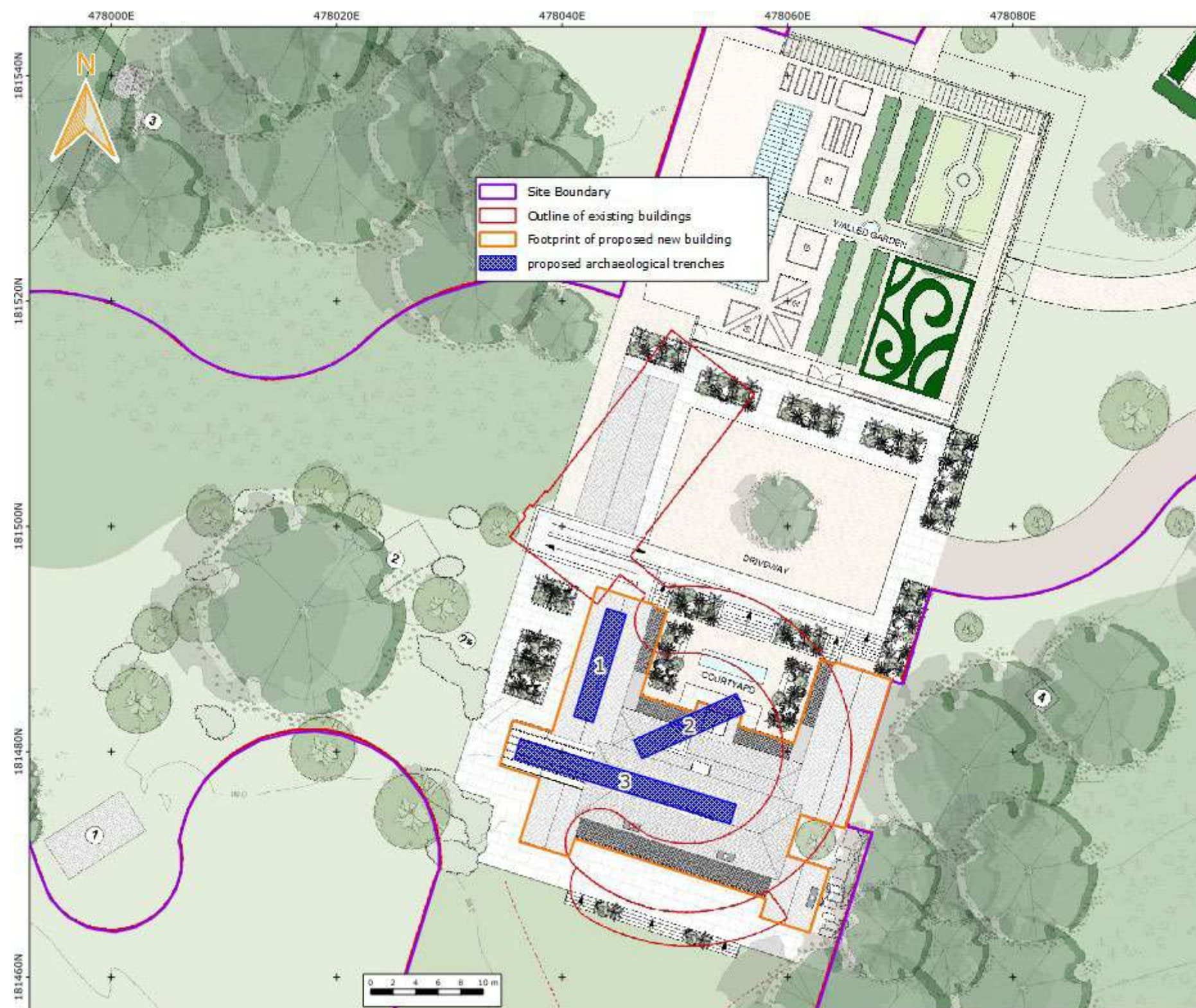


Figure 3: Development proposals (new house) with existing building footprints overlaid and proposed trench locations (Michaelis Boyd Associates)

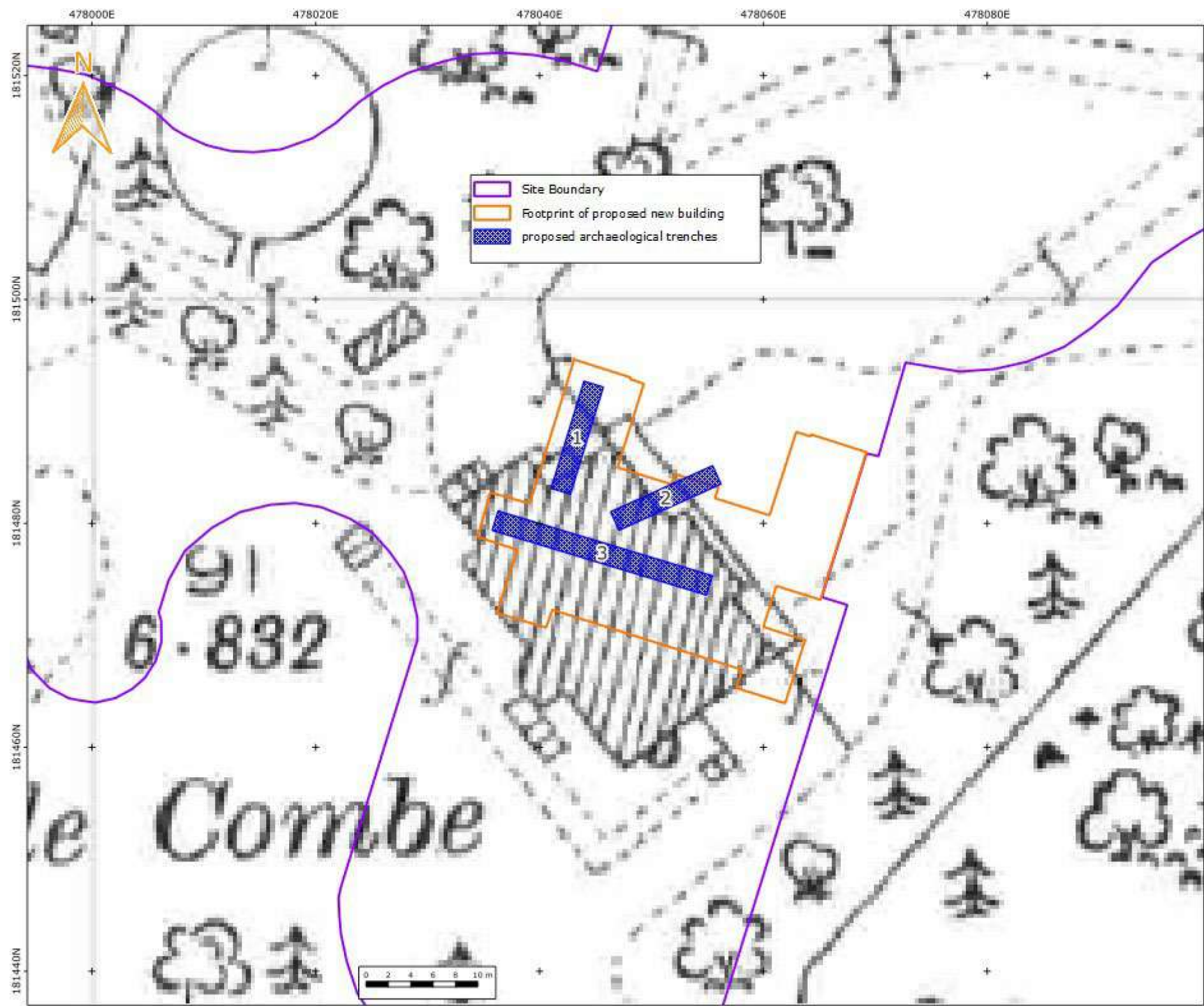


Figure 4: Outline of development proposals (new house) and proposed trench locations overlaid on the 1925 Ordnance Survey Map

3.2 Trenches will be opened using a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat bladed, toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological direction. Excavation will extend down to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposits or to the surface of natural undisturbed ground, whichever is uppermost. This will be monitored by a qualified field archaeologist. The only occasion where the use of a toothed bucket will be accepted is where large obstructions such as concrete bases need to be extracted and once this has been completed, the toothless bucket will be refitted

3.3 Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. At this stage it is intended to only partially excavate features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and if possible date. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features will be investigated by hand and all features will be recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench will be recorded in full. The sampling strategy will be employed in order to fully understand the archaeological results, however, typically, this will mean:

- Sections are cleaned sufficient to determine the layers and any cut features/structures present. This information is critical to understanding the depth at which significant archaeological remains are encountered. This information is pertinent as it can be compared with information about impact depth of the proposed development;
- Linear features (ditches) should usually be sampled using a x1m slot;
- Discrete anomalies are normally sectioned (50% sample);
- If areas of complex, inter-cutting remains are encountered, the recovery of datable material and a detailed plan of the remains may be sufficient, investigation within a trench may be counter-productive; and
- Information of geo-archaeological deposits and environmental remains (e.g. waterlogged plants) should also be sought at this stage.

3.4 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered that are worthy of preservation in situ, excavation will cease. A site meeting of HCUK Group Ltd, the

archaeological contractor, Berkshire Archaeology, and client will be held to assess the significance of the deposits and to decide on a strategy for sampling them to provide sufficient data for a useful assessment or subsequent mitigation strategy.

- 3.5** All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Accordingly, the project team will abide by the CIfA's code of approved practice.

Finds

- 3.6** All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of Berkshire Archaeology.
- 3.7** Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 3.8** All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 3.9** All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of the local museum.
- 3.10** The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive at the appropriate museum. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of the local museum.
- 3.11** All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 3.12** Any human remains will be left in situ, covered, and protected. If removal is essential, it can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice licence. Furthermore, if removal is essential, such removal will be in accordance with the Excavation and post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human

Remains¹⁶ and the Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains¹⁷ as set out by the CIfA.

3.13 Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged, and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 'Conservation Guideline No. 2'¹⁸. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections¹⁹ and the current CIfA guidelines²⁰ will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, First Aid for Finds²¹. Any necessary, conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.

Environmental Sampling

3.14 Environmental sampling during the evaluation will target a representative range of contexts from each phase. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, they will be taken and processed in line with Historic England guidelines²² and our internal policy. Provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- Bulk samples of 40-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'float' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues;
- Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples;

16 Mckinley & Roberts 2003..

17 Brickley & Mckinley 2004.

18 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1983

19 Museums and Galleries Commission 1992.

20 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020.

21 Leigh, Watkinson & Neal 1998.

22 English Heritage 2011.

- Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples;
- Bulk samples of 100 litres for coarse sieving on site for specific artefacts such as animal bone;
- Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples;
- Monolith samples which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis; and
- Monolith samples for soil micromorphology.

3.15 All environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analyses by an environmental specialist.

3.16 Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible or discarded with the agreement of Berkshire Archaeology. Residues will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

Scientific Dating

3.17 Where appropriate, samples for scientific dating will be taken. Provision will be made for:

- Dendrochronological analysis from timbers;
- C14 dating from organic material, which may be taken as sub-samples from bulk or;
- monolith samples; and
- Archaeomagnetic dating from hearths or other suitable deposits.

Recording System

3.18 A site code will be allocated ahead of any fieldwork commencing. This code will be used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.

- 3.19** The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual²³. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide²⁴.
- 3.20** A site location plan at an appropriate scale will be prepared by showing investigation area and development site in relation to surrounding locality.
- 3.21** This will be supplemented by a detailed plan, also at an appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the overall site boundary.
- 3.22** Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:50 or 1:20.
- 3.23** The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 3.24** Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 3.25** Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 3.26** At least one section of each of the trenches will be drawn or a representative part, including a profile of the top of the natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc, if the trench has not been fully excavated). Other sections, including the half-sections of individual layers of features may be drawn as appropriate to 1:10 or 1:20.

²³ Museum of London Archaeology, 1994.

²⁴ Museum of London Archaeological Service. 1994.

- 3.27** An adequate photographic record will be made of and any significant archaeological remains, including photographs of sections. This will comprise high resolution digital photography, and must illustrate, in both detail and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. A photographic register detailing as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot will accompany the photographic record. The register will be kept on standard forms.

4. Staffing and Programming

Staffing

- 4.1** The project will be managed on behalf of the client by HCUK Group. Full details of the contractor and the specialists likely to be used (who will be a CIfA Registered Organisation), will be provided to Berkshire Archaeology once appointed. Summary CVs can be supplied as required.

Programming and Resources

- 4.2** The start date for the commencement of the site works is not confirmed as yet.

Monitoring

- 4.3** The project will be monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Berkshire Archaeology. HCUK Group will make every effort to allow proper monitoring of the archaeological investigation. Any variations to the brief or this specification will be put in writing and approval sought.
- 4.4** Should the fieldwork take place during the Covid-19 pandemic, effective monitoring of the work may be possible via phone calls, emails (containing photos where appropriate) and/or video Skype meetings from Site.

Access and Safety

- 4.5** Reasonable access to the Site will be arranged for Berkshire Archaeology who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 4.6** Before any site work commences, a full risk assessment document will be produced setting out the site-specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety. This risk assessment will take into consideration and identify safe working procedures in light

of Covid-19 restrictions. In addition to this risk assessment, the following considerations will also be made:

- 4.7** All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 4.8** No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. No excavations will be undertaken below 1.2m depth as a maximum, but this may be less where ground conditions indicate less stability.
- 4.9** All site staff and site visitors will adhere to the Principle 5 of the CIfA (2022) Code of conduct; 'All accredited members and Registered Organisations have a duty of care to employees, colleagues and volunteers' and Rule 5.2; 'A member shall give due regard to the requirements of health and safety legislation relating to employees or to other persons potentially affected by their archaeological activities'.

5. Reporting, Archiving and Dissemination

Project Specific Reporting Requirements

5.1 A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared on completion of the fieldwork. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation²⁵ and will include:

- Non-technical summary (abstract);
- Introductory statements and site background;
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation;
- A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the investigation, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if appropriate;
- Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary;
- A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports;
- A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance;
- An index of the contents and location of the archive;
- Sources consulted;
- A copy of the WSI; and
- A copy of the OASIS record sheet.

²⁵ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020b.

- 5.2** The report will be submitted to Berkshire Archaeology for comment within three months of completion of the fieldwork. Following approval, a digital copy of the report will be sent to the client. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, one digital copy (PDF file) of the report will be submitted to the Berkshire Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of the report.
- 5.3** Provisions will be made for post-excavation assessment of the results should significant archaeological remains be encountered. Following completion of the fieldwork, discussions will be held with the Berkshire Archaeology on the appropriateness or need for post-excavation assessment and subsequent analysis, reporting and/or publication. The archaeological contractor will retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.4** Any information deposited in the Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purposes.

Archive

- 5.5** The site code will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs, and other site material during excavation.
- 5.6** The site archive will be organised in accordance with CIfA's (2020b) Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives²⁶ and any relevant local guidance.
- 5.7** On completion of the finds analysis, the landowner will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer, transferring title of the finds to the appropriate local repository.

²⁶ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020b

- 5.8** The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in Appendix 2 of the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment - The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide²⁷. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn, and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary, and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 5.9** United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage²⁸ will be followed. With consent of the landowner, arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate local repository.
- 5.10** Pursuant to these agreements, the archive will be presented to the appropriate local repository within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the LPA). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.
- 5.11** The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.
- 5.12** The recipient museum shall be granted licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, as long as such use is non-profit making and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights Regulation 2003.

Dissemination

- 5.13** A fully illustrated report will be submitted for approval to Berkshire Archaeology.
- 5.14** Following submission and approval of the report:
- A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the LPA. The report will include the findings of the investigation as detailed above;

²⁷ Historic England 2015.

²⁸ Walker, K 1990.

- One digital copy of the report will be provided to the Berkshire Historic Environment Record;
- The archive will be prepared as detailed above and will include two bound copies of the report;
- The (on-line) OASIS form will be completed for the project and the summary sheet included within the report.

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