

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

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28th July 2026

CONSULTATION RESPONSE re:- 252379 Land to South of Tope Crescent Arborfield Green Berkshire

Thank you for consulting Berkshire Archaeology regarding the above application. Berkshire Archaeology is part of Reading Borough Council's Museum and Town Hall Services and provides historic environment advice to the five unitary authorities of Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council. This response relates solely to buried archaeological heritage, the Council's Conservation or Built Heritage Officer should be consulted for any matters relating to the historic built environment.

There are potential archaeological implications with this proposed development as demonstrated by Berkshire Archaeology's Historic Environment Record. A trial trench evaluation of the site took place in 2018, and found features which may be archaeological in origin. These included linear ditches and gullies which are, so far, undated and although it has been assumed they may be post medieval in origin, it is noted that they may be older. Also found, an undated pit which contained charcoal and burnt material indicating some association with a fire. Further archaeological investigation will be required to facilitate a better understanding of past activity on the site, enable preservation by record, and mitigate the impacts of the development.

As shown, the application site falls within an area of archaeological significance and archaeological remains may be damaged by ground disturbance for the proposed development. It is therefore recommended that the following condition is applied, should permission be granted, in order to mitigate the impacts of development. This is in accordance with Paragraph 218 of the NPPF(2025) which states that local planning authorities should '*require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible*'.

Condition:

- A) No development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work, including a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the Reserved Matters phase(s), has been submitted to, and approved by, the local planning authority in writing.**

The WSI shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
2. The programme for post investigation assessment
3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

Berkshire Archaeology

An Archaeological Service for: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council & Bracknell Forest Council

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the WSI.

B) The Development shall take place in accordance with the WSI approved under condition (A).

The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason:

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly for, but not limited to, Post-Medieval remains. A programme of archaeological work is required in order to assess and, where necessary, mitigate the impacts of the development, and to ensure that the significance of any archaeological remains is properly understood. This is in accordance with national and local planning policy.

The proposed development will include construction of roads, housing and associated infrastructure and utilities which will remove or truncate any archaeological horizons. In view of the nature and scale of the development and the low likelihood of the potential archaeology, should it exist, meriting preservation in situ, a **focused scheme of works** including a **field excavation**, informed by the previous geophysical survey and evaluation, would represent an appropriate next phase of work.

Berkshire Archaeology would be pleased to discuss the approach with the applicant, or their archaeological consultant, should permission be granted.

Linden Ellicott
Archaeology Officer