

Park Way, Newbury Phase 2 Evaluation



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SUMMARY

In June, July and September 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Park Way, Newbury in advance of a multi-use redevelopment. The evaluation revealed medieval and post-medieval deposits and features in the form of soil layers, pits, ditches, and a well constructed of chalk blocks. The early post glacial sediment sequence was also investigated and revealed an absence of Mesolithic activity at these locations. These remains are consistent with the current understanding of activity in this part Newbury as revealed by previous evaluation and excavation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between June and September 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation alongside the mitigation excavations at Park Way, Newbury. The development site occupies a 2.7ha area within the historic town centre of Newbury between the east side of Northbrook Street and Park Way on the north side of the River Kennet (NGR SU 471 673) (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 This investigation followed a primary phase of archaeological evaluation conducted by OA in 2005 and was designed to inform on the archaeological preservation within those areas not previously investigated (OA 2005). The excavation areas that were being undertaken concurrently with this evaluation had resulted from the Phase 1 evaluation. The Phase 2 evaluation was outlined and undertaken in accordance with the approved Project Design for excavation and evaluation (OA 2008a).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology map shows the underlying deposits as Pleistocene Gravel overlying Reading Beds and Chalk. The archaeological investigations undertaken to date have identified a sequence of peat deposits of varying thickness between 0.5 m and 2.0 m deep overlying the gravel. These are situated within a low-lying channel that runs approximately along the north-south line of the development area. The uppermost peat deposits are generally between 1.0 m and 1.5 m below the modern ground levels and are sealed by made ground deposits dating from the 12th century to present.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The background to the archaeological investigation has been previously stated in the desk-based assessment and 2005 evaluation produced by OA and these should be consulted for detail. It is not the intention of this report to repeat this information and it is suffice to reiterate that the site has significant potential to produce remains relating to the medieval occupation that fronted Northbrook Street.

1.3.2 In addition, further reported assessment work has since been undertaken in the form of a test pit evaluation to establish the potential for Mesolithic remains within the development boundaries (OA 2008b). This identified the sediment sequence and palaeotopography of the site as described above and concluded that there is limited potential for significant Mesolithic occupation within the development boundary.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 This phase of evaluation was undertaken to supplement that of the 2005 investigation where this was unable to access the northern and southern portions of the site. Therefore, the general aims as originally outlined apply. These are;

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

2.1.2 This evaluation is also specifically aimed at informing potential further mitigation strategies within the northern and southern areas of the development in light of the detailed development plans provided and the interim results of the excavations already undertaken. In addition, it is intended to add to the data already presented within the targeted Mesolithic evaluation and confirm the presence/absence of material from this period within these areas.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 Five evaluation trenches were originally intended (Fig. 2, Trenches 100-104) although access arrangements could not be established for the northernmost (Trench 104) prior to the compulsory purchase order and the start of the construction work. This area was also required from the outset of the construction programme for site accommodation and parking making it unavailable for trench investigation. Due to these limitations it was agreed between all parties that this area would remain substantially undisturbed until a later date when limited investigation could be undertaken to reflect the level of impact that the development would have here.

3.1.2 The trenches were excavated and recorded in two separate episodes. Trenches 102 and 103 were excavated in June and July whilst Trenches 100 and 101 were excavated in September.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated under close archaeological supervision using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation stopped at the top of the first archaeological deposit or the top of the peat deposits depending upon which was encountered first. Where only thin peat deposits and limited archaeological remains were encountered (Trenches 100 and 101), these were machine excavated to the surface of the gravel. Modern and low importance post-medieval deposits (mixed made ground) were machined in controlled spits to determine if any significant archaeological activity was present in the upper horizons.
- 3.2.2 Following machine excavation and a safety assessment of the depth and stability of each trench, these were hand cleaned where archaeological features or deposits were identified. All features were sample excavated by hand to fulfil the aims presented above where applicable. Each trench and all archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20 and their sections drawn at scales of 1:20 with levels recorded in relation to OS heights.
- 3.2.3 Excavated features were photographed using colour slide, black and white print film and a digital camera. A general photographic record of the work was made. All deposits uncovered in the evaluation were issued with a unique context number identifiable to each numbered trench. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Where encountered, finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.
- 3.3.2 Bulk samples were recovered from targeted deposits for the recovery of artefacts and ecofacts. The lower horizons of peat, the surface of the gravel deposit and any intervening deposits were also sampled for the recovery/identification of Mesolithic activity.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Presentation of results

- 4.1.1 The deposits and structures encountered during the evaluation are described below by trench with a full context inventory presented in Appendix 1. Detailed finds reports have not been prepared although comments, where pertinent, have been included for specific assemblages. Full assemblage quantifications will be included in the final published report for this project.

4.2 Soils and ground conditions

4.2.1 The four excavated evaluation trenches (100-103) were positioned within enclosed parking areas to the rear of buildings fronting Northbrook Street. Surface conditions were good due to the hard surfaces surrounding each trench although Trenches 102 and 103 were excavated during prolonged wet spells. The excavated depth of these trenches, proximity of the excavated depth to the water table and the limited drainage possibilities led to these becoming flooded and it was not possible to work in these for several weeks.

4.2.2 The wet conditions during excavation and the loose made ground deposits encountered within the area of Trench 102 also resulted in this being abandoned after only a small trial pit had been excavated. Trenches 100 and 101 were excavated in September during dry conditions.

4.3 Trench 100

4.3.1 Trench 100 (Plate 1) was located within the southern limit of the development boundary and to the immediate north of the Woolworth Garden Centre.

4.3.2 Natural gravel (5100) was encountered at a depth of 1.75 m below ground level (74.22 m aOD) and was overlain by a sterile grey alluvial clay (5116) throughout the trench to a depth of 0.21 m. Processed samples from this deposit produced negative results for the presence of small flint artefacts despite the dryer conditions indicated by the lack of peat deposits suggesting that this may have been a favourable habitat.

4.3.3 Three circular pits were identified within the trench cut through the surface of the clay horizon (5116) and into the underlying gravel. Two of these (5102 and 5104) had approximate diameters of 1.15 m and were between 0.25 m and 0.35 m deep. Pit 5107 was smaller with a diameter of 0.5 m and 0.1 m deep. However, the upper limit of each feature had been removed by machine excavation to reveal the surface of the gravel so these were originally up to 0.2 m deeper. Each pit had a rounded profile and was infilled with a similar dark grey brown sandy silt deposit with mixed gravel inclusions. A total of 3 small body sherds of pottery in the Newbury B type fabric were recovered from the pit fills (5103 and 5105). Although these lacked diagnostic traits, this fabric has a date range of late 11th to mid 13th century.

4.3.4 A 0.25 m thick layer of grey slightly sandy silt and clay (5115) sealed the fills of each pit. This layer possibly represents a reworked or disturbed soil horizon that originated from the natural sediment sequence. The stiff grey clay is comparable to deposits recorded within some of the excavation areas towards the base of the peat sequence. Genuine thick peat deposits were absent from this area of the development and this deposit occupies the level above the gravel that this would otherwise be expected. A small pottery fragment of the same Newbury type fabric was recovered from this deposit with a sherd of flint and sand tempered peg tile. The presence of the peg tile indicates a date within the later part of the pottery date range.

4.3.5 A 0.4 m thick sequence of made ground gravel deposits (5114) sealed the lower clayey soil horizon and probably represents the deliberate raising of this area. This was capped by a 0.1 m thick deposit comprising a mixed brown sand, silt and gravel (5113) that may represent the surface or 'occupation horizon'. A mixed cultivation soil (5112) sealed the 'surface'. Despite a general lack of artefact inclusions this deposit almost certainly represents the late post-medieval garden soil with crushed brick and gravel deposits (5111 and 5110) sealing this as the foundation layers for the existing tarmac car park surface (5101).

4.4 Trench 101

4.4.1 Trench 101 (Plates 2 and 3) was located approximately 16 m to the northwest of Trench 100, also within the Woolworth parking area.

4.4.2 Natural gravel (5201) was encountered at a depth of 2.10 m below ground level (73.58 m aOD) and was overlain by a sterile white/light grey alluvial clay (5203) throughout the trench to a thickness of 0.15 m. The pale clay graded into a more consistent light grey alluvial clay (5204) which, in turn, graded into an organic clay/peat deposit (5205). This had a maximum thickness of 0.20 m and represents the sole peat deposit encountered within the southern part of the development area (Trenches 100 and 101). As with the samples taken from the equivalent deposit(s) within Trench 100, the samples from this trench also produced negative results for the presence of flint artefacts.

4.4.3 A mixed grey clayey garden soil (5206) with a maximum thickness of 0.58 m sealed the peat deposit although its clayey appearance probably reflects that this originated as part of the lower sediment sequence. This soil is comparable to 5115 within Trench 100 and also produced a single non-diagnostic sherd of Newbury B type fabric.

4.4.4 Cut into the surface of soil horizon 5206 was a well (5200). This was neatly constructed in an octagonal form with faced chalk blocks and chalk packing pieces (5200) set within a circular construction cut (5213). Due to the high water table the construction pit was only cut to a total depth of 1.1 m below the surface of 5206 just penetrating the gravel below the clay and peat levels. The backfill (5214) of the construction cut comprised rubble and some tile. The interior of the well was infilled with a sequence of three deposits variously comprising grey silt clay and brown clay backfills (5215, 5216 and 5217) from which two very small 17th century sherds of pottery were recovered. The top of the well structure was capped by a stiff yellow brown clay deposit, the purpose of which is not entirely clear.

4.4.5 Overlying the infilled well and the surface of the cultivation soil 5206 was a clay and gravel levelling layer or made ground (5207/5218). The clayey inorganic appearance of this deposit suggests that it was not cultivated as a garden soil although this was not present across the entire extent of the trench so it may represent only a localised raising or levelling of the ground. This was overlain by a thick accumulation of

garden soil (5221 and 5209) that had a Victorian brick drain (5222) constructed within it.

4.4.6 Modern gravel and brick rubble levelling deposits (5210, 5211 and 5212) sealed the soil sequence forming the foundation for the existing tarmac parking surface (5202).

4.5 **Trench 102 (4000)**

4.5.1 Trench 102 (also referred to as Area 4000) (Plate 4) was located to the north side of a historical small property fronting on to Park Way. The trench was machine excavated during poor weather conditions and abandoned after only a trial pit measuring *c* 5 m by 2 m and 1.75 m deep had been excavated.

4.5.2 Natural deposits, including the sediment sequences that were recorded as deep units close by within this area of the development, were not encountered within this trench. The trial pit was excavated to a total depth of 1.75 m below ground level through various deposits of loose made ground. Due to the poor cohesion of the deposits, these continually collapsed into the trench resulting in its abandonment. A section of the made ground deposits was rapidly recorded.

4.5.3 The earliest deposit revealed was a sand and gravel layer (4006) approximately 0.1 m thick. This was sealed by a thick layer of very mixed made ground (4004) principally comprising stone rubble, brick, tile, glass, pottery and animal bone waste. The artefacts had a date range from the 17th to early 19th century although the majority of the assemblage appears to date from the late 18th century. This was sealed by successive sandy soil and rubble deposits (4002 and 4003). The upper levels of the sequence were represented by the modern graded stone rubble foundation (4001) and a 0.2 m thick concrete surface (4000).

4.6 **Trench 103 (5000)**

4.6.1 Trench 103 (also referred to as Area 5000) (Plate 5) was located to the rear (west) of a modern office block fronting on to Park Way. The trench was machine excavated to the surface level of the peat deposits that were encountered at *c* 1.7 to 2.0 m below the modern ground level. Due to the depth of the trench, the wet conditions and the high water table, this trench flooded shortly after machine excavation of the overlying deposits and it was not possible to access this for several weeks.

4.6.2 A 1 m x 1 m test pit was excavated through the peat and sediment sequence in the base of the trial pit within its western end. This encountered natural gravel (5016/5017) at a depth of 2.74 m below the modern ground level (72.74 m aOD). This was overlain by a sequence of two major peat bodies (5015 and 5007), 0.80 m and 0.65 m thick respectively, although both contained distinctions within them that could represent surface horizons. Samples recovered from the top of the gravel and the base of the peat did not produce any evidence for Mesolithic artefacts.

- 4.6.3 The surface of the peat deposits was overlain by a relatively thin layer of mixed silt and gravel (5006). This extended throughout the trench and appears to be comparable to similar deposits recorded within the excavation areas also sealing the peat and reflecting the primary land reclamation of this low-lying area in the late 11th and 12th centuries. However, no dating material was present within this deposit although this may substantially reflect the fact that it was removed almost entirely by machine during the initial excavation of the trench.
- 4.6.4 The relationship between layer 5006 and the cut features recorded in this trench is not totally clear. Two linear ditches (5000 and 5010) that were aligned north to south and a small pit (5008) were recorded in this trench. The pit was clearly cut through layer 5006 whilst the relationship between the ditches and the layer was less clear. No conclusive dating evidence was present from any of these features although peg tile fragments with a general 12th century or later date were recovered from the ditches. Each ditch also produced small, but well preserved, animal bone assemblages. In addition, the fills of ditch 5010 produced scrap off-cuts of leather and a small fragment of a wooden comb showing excellent waterlogged preservation. This is comparable to that encountered within the excavation Area 3000.
- 4.6.5 A 0.2 m thick layer of dark grey brown silty clay with gravel inclusions (5005) overlay the medieval gravel deposit (5006) and sealed the fills of the cut features. This seems most likely to be a cultivation soil although no artefacts were present to date this deposit. This was, in turn, overlain by another cultivation soil (5004) that was 0.72 m thick representing a prolonged accumulation. This had a more humic appearance to that of the underlying horizon. Although no artefacts were recovered from this deposit a post-medieval date seems most likely.
- 4.6.6 A brick rubble layer (5003) and the current tarmac surface (5002) completed the sequence.

4.7 Table of significant horizons

- 4.7.1 The following table presents the significant horizons encountered within each trench. These are shown both in metres below the ground level at the time of the evaluation and as m aOD figure (i.e. 0 m, 76.79 m). Where medieval (assumed or proven) deposits were not encountered (Trench 102) the base of the post-medieval deposit sequence is given.

| | Trench 100 | Trench 101 | Trench 102 | Trench 103 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Current surface level | 0 m, 75.97 m | 0 m, 75.68 m | 0 m, 75.45 m | 0 m, 75.48 m |
| Base of post-medieval deposits/top of medieval deposits | * 0.80 m, 75.17 m | 1.10 m, 74.58 m | ** 1.75 m, 73.70 m | *** 1.36 m, 74.12 m |
| Top of peat | N/A | 1.59 m, 74.09 m | N/A | 1.44 m, 74.04 m |
| Top of gravel | 1.75 m, 74.22 m | 2.10 m, 73.58 m | N/A | 2.74 m, 72.74 m |

* Trench 100. This horizon was not clearly dated but, on the balance of evidence and in comparison to similar deposits recorded across the development, this seems most likely to represent the top of the late medieval occupation.

** Trench 102. This level indicates the base of the excavated sequence. The date of the underlying deposits was not established and it is unclear if further post-medieval or earlier deposits were present.

***Trench 103. It is not clear if the interface between deposits 5004/5005 or that between 5005/5006 represent this horizon. Deposit 5006 is undoubtedly a medieval layer so this is the height given although it is also quite possible that layer 5005 is of later medieval origin although this clearly overlies the medieval features recorded within this trench.

4.8 **Finds**

4.8.1 Detailed finds reports have not been compiled due to the very small dated assemblages that were present. Where relevant, these have been included within the trench and context descriptions above. Full quantification and reporting will be included within the final publication that will result from this project.

4.9 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

4.9.1 Environmental samples were recovered and processed during the evaluation. These are not commented upon in detail here due to the limited dating evidence recovered from the features making it difficult to place the significance of any remains in context. However, moderate amounts of charred inclusions were noted within the pits features recorded in Trenches 100 and 101 and waterlogged potential was also noted in the features cut into the surface of the peat deposits within Trench 103 as would be expected.

5 **DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

5.1 **Archaeological interpretation and significance**

5.1.1 The investigation of the post glacial sediment sequence immediately above the surface of the gravel remained consistent with the results of the targeted Mesolithic evaluation (OA 2008b). No evidence was present to suggest any significant activity of this date at the locations tested. The sequence recorded in Trench 103 within the northern part of the development boundary also confirmed that deep peat sequences are present across the majority of the site and that the surface of the underlying gravel is comparatively low-lying. This suggests that most of the site would have been very wet bog during the Mesolithic period rather than the elevated drier locations that appear to be preferred, such as suggested at Faraday Road (ibid.). However, the surface level of the gravel was significantly elevated within Trenches 100 and 101 to the degree that either no, or only very shallow, peat deposits had been able to form and tufa deposits were entirely absent. These indicate that this part of the site formed part of a raised gravel spur towards the junction of the low-lying ground to the east and the River Kennet to the south. This is likely to have created

the type of habitat thought to be favourable for hunting or possible base camps. However, these trenches did not produce any artefactual evidence for activity.

- 5.1.2 The medieval remains encountered are consistent with those recorded in the Phase 1 evaluation (OA 2005) and the excavation areas. Primary land reclamation and cultivation deposits were present Trenches 100, 101 and 103 along with pits and ditches. Very limited artefactual remains were present within any of these suggesting the these may have been positioned away from the main focus of occupation towards the medieval frontage of Northbrook Street.

5.2 **Impact of the development**

- 5.2.1 Details of the construction method have been supplied for this development. The main portion of the site, the basement car park, has been mitigated by the excavation areas already undertaken and by future watching brief recording. This evaluation assess the potential of the areas outside of this to the north and south.
- 5.2.2 The southern area (Trenches 100 and 101) has demonstrated a degree of archaeological potential although the construction method in this area is complex and will work to a precise timetable. This will not allow additional recording for the majority of this area.
- 5.2.3 The northern portion of the development has a lesser impact on the below ground deposits. Within the area of Trenches 103 and 104 (not excavated) the structures will be built upon foundations of piles and ground beams. The general pile cap and ground beam impact will be *c* 1 m below construction level (yet to be defined) although the pile plan supplied suggests some areas may be subject to considerable, but very localised, disturbance or destruction. However, the evaluation has demonstrated only relatively sparse archaeological deposits are present although it may be significant that the trench locations are limited to the lower-lying ground towards Park Way rather than the focus of occupation nearer Northbrook Street. Comparison against the pile plan (not illustrate here) suggests that the area around Trench 103 and possibly 104 is unlikely to be significantly affected by this development (depending upon the final construction level) although the arrangement of dense piles within the western portion of this northern block may have a significant impact on, as yet, unknown deposits.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Width (m)</i> | <i>Thick. (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Trench 100, 7 m x 2,4 m x 2 m deep | | | | |
| 5100 | Layer | | | Natural gravel |
| 5101 | Layer | | 0.10m | Tarmac |
| 5102 | Cut | 0.98m | | Pit |
| 5103 | Fill | | 0.27m | Fill of 5102 |
| 5104 | Cut | 1m | | Pit |
| 5105 | Fill | | 0.28m | Fill of 5104 |
| 5106 | Fill | | 0.18m | Fill of 5104 |
| 5107 | Cut | 0.44m | | Posthole |
| 5108 | Fill | | 0.10m | Fill of 5107 |
| 5109 | Layer | | 0.10 m | Gravel layer |
| 5110 | Layer | | 0.18m | Levelling deposit (gravel) |
| 5111 | Layer | | 0.23m | Demolition Layer |
| 5112 | Layer | | 0.45m | Modern garden soil |
| 5113 | Layer | | 0.10m | Made ground |
| 5114 | Layer | | 0.42m | Made ground |
| 5115 | Layer | | 0.25m | Garden soil |
| 5116 | Layer | | 0.21m | Alluvial Clay |
| Trench 101, 10 m x 2.5 m x 2.2 m deep | | | | |
| 5200 | Structure | 0.42m | | Wall |
| 5201 | Layer | | | Natural gravel |
| 5202 | Layer | | 0.05m | Tarmac |
| 5203 | Layer | | 0.15m | White clay |
| 5204 | Layer | | 0.19m | Grey alluvial clay |
| 5205 | Layer | | 0.22m | Peat |
| 5206 | Layer | | 0.58m | Garden soil |
| 5207 | Layer | | 0.10m | Made ground |
| 5208 | Layer | | 0.12m | Mortar dump |
| 5209 | Layer | | 0.40m | Garden soil |
| 5210 | Layer | | 0.10m | Demolition Layer |
| 5211 | Layer | | 0.20m | Made ground |

| <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Width (m)</i> | <i>Thick. (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|--|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5212 | Layer | | 0.12m | Levelling deposit |
| 5213 | Cut | 0.22m | | Construction cut |
| 5214 | Fill | | 0.82m | Fill of 5213 |
| 5215 | Fill | | 0.40m | Backfill of 5200 |
| 5216 | Fill | | 0.23m | Backfill of 5200 |
| 5217 | Fill | | 0.22m | Backfill of 5200 |
| 5218 | Layer | | 0.30m | Sand and gravel |
| 5219 | Layer | | 0.12m | Silt deposit |
| 5220 | Layer | | 0.14m | Sand layer |
| 5221 | Layer | | 0.48m | Levelling deposit |
| 5222 | Structure | 0.40m | | Modern drain |
| Trench 102 (4000), 5 m x 2.5 m x 1.75 m deep | | | | |
| 4000 | Layer | | 0.10m | Concrete surface |
| 4001 | Layer | | 0.30m | Levelling deposit |
| 4002 | Layer | | 0.40m | Made ground |
| 4003 | Layer | | 0.46m | Made ground |
| 4004 | Layer | | 0.80m | Made ground |
| 4005 | Layer | | 0.05m | Levelling deposit |
| 4006 | Layer | | 0.10m | Made ground |
| Trench 103 (5000), 16 m x 2.5 m x 2 m deep | | | | |
| 5000 | Cut | 0.68m | | Ditch |
| 5001 | Fill | | 0.48m | Fill of 5000 |
| 5002 | Layer | | 0.10m | Tarmac |
| 5003 | Layer | | 0.10m | Levelling deposit |
| 5004 | Layer | | 0.60m | Made ground |
| 5005 | Layer | | 0.70m | Made ground |
| 5006 | Layer | | 0.38m | Made ground |
| 5007 | Layer | | - | Natural gravel |
| 5008 | Cut | | | Posthole |
| 5009 | Fill | 0.40m | | Fill of 5008 |
| 5010 | Cut | 0.50m | | Ditch |
| 5011 | Fill | | 0.10m | Fill of 5010 |
| 5012 | Fill | | 0.08m | Fill of 5010 |
| 5013 | Fill | | 0.20m | Fill of 5010 |

| <i>Ctxt No</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Width (m)</i> | <i>Thick. (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 5014 | Void | | - | Void |
| 5015 | Layer | | 0.80m | Peat |
| 5016 | Layer | | - | Natural gravel |
| 5017 | Layer | | | Natural gravel |

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APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation, Park Way, Newbury

Site code: NEWPP1 08

Grid reference: SU 471 673

Type of evaluation: Four trenches of varying dimensions. (See Appendix 1 for details)

Date and duration of project: June and September 2008

Area of site: 2.7ha

Summary of results: In June, July and September 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Park Way, Newbury in advance of a multi-use redevelopment. The evaluation revealed medieval and post-medieval deposits and features in the form of soil layers, pits, ditches and a well constructed of chalk blocks. The early post glacial sediment sequence was also investigated and revealed an absence of Mesolithic activity at these locations. These remains are consistent with the current understanding of activity in this part Newbury as revealed by previous evaluation and excavation.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be combined with the excavation archive for subsequent deposition under the accession number: NEBYM:2005.53



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench locations

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Plate 1: Trench 100



Plate 2: Trench 101



Plate 3: Trench 101, section and well 5200



Plate 4: Trench 102 (4000)



Plate 5: Trench 103 (5000)



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