# General index to the archive

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Site/Project Name:

Cookham Fish Pass Project

Site Code:

COFIP 09

Site/Project Type:

Evaluation

Year(s):

2009

Accession Number:

REDMG:2009.178

Record Group	Contents	Comments	Box/File Number
	INTRODUCTION		Box 1 file 1
	Written Scheme of Investigation	10 sheets	
Α	REPORT		Box 1 file 2
	Geoarchaeological assessment report OASIS form printout	1 bound copy 3 sheets	
В	PRIMARY CONTEXT RECORDS		Box 1 file 3
	Monolith and core logging sheets for boreholes 1-27	27 sheets	
D	CATALOGUE OF PHOTOGRAPHS		Box 1 file 4
	Digital photographic record sheet	1 sheet	

# OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY, JANUS HOUSE, OSNEY MEAD, OXFORD, OX2 OES

## **SCAN PDF**

# FILMING INSTRUCTIONS

Submitter OASouth No. of CD copies: 2

Headings

Site information

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Site code[COFIP 09]

Line 2: Excavators name[L. Stafford]

Line 3:

Classification of material

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Classification of material	present
Index to archive	
Introduction	
A:Final Report	
A:Publication Report	
B:Site Data - Text: Diary/Daybook/Fieldnotes	
B: Site Data – Text: General Summaries	
B: Site Data – Text: Primary Context Records	
B: Site Data - Text: Synthesised Context Records	
B: Site Data – Text: Survey Reports	
B: Site Data – Text: Catalogue of Drawings	
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B: Site Data – Text: Synthesised Drawings	
C: Finds Data – Text: Primary Finds Data	
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C: Finds Data – Text: Specialist Reports	,
C: Finds Data – Text: Box/Bag List	
D: Catalogue of Photos/Slides/Videos/Xrays	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Primary Records	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Synthesised Records	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Specialist Reports	
F: Documentary	
F: Press and Publicity	
G: Correspondence	
H: Miscellaneous	

Cookham Foh Pass Project

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# Cookham Fish Pass Project Cookham Sashes Berkshire

(NGR SU 900 865)

Written Scheme of Investigation for Geoarchaeological Survey

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## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Proposed borehole locations

# Cookham Fish Pass Project Berkshire

# Written Scheme of Investigation

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Environmental Agency to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a geoarchaeological survey to investigate the potential to excavate a channel across Sashes Island, and three potential routes have been identified. The investigation will be undertaken as part of a geoarchaeological assessment of the sediment sequence. Stephen Kemp (Environment Agency) has requested a geoarchaeological deposit model in order to assess the likely archaeological impacts of each of the three channels. The aim will be to provide baseline data on the sub-surface stratigraphical sequence and its (geo) archaeological potential. It will be undertaken according to Berkshire County Council Standards and Guidelines (2008).
- 1.1.2 The investigation will consist of a programme of thirty boreholes spread across a 20m grid within the proposed Site. The work will assess the character of western part of the island and provide samples suitable for sedimentary assessment.
- 1.1.3 The WSI details how OA plans to carry out the investigation. The first part is site specific while the appendices detail general OA standards and procedures.

#### 2 BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The Site is located in the south west of the island of Cookham Sashes (Figure 1). The Site lies within the Parish of Cookham, and is situated within the County of Berkshire, and under the administration of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 2.1.2 The whole island of Cookham Sashes lies on recent and Pleistocene alluvium overlying First Terrace Gravels (BGS Sheet 255, Solid and Drift 1:50,000). The ground level of the Site is approximately 25m OD, but there is at least 1m of redeposited natural on the southern half of the island.

#### 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The site is located in an area of significant known archaeological activity, much of which dates to the Roman and Saxon periods. A detailed discussion

of the archaeological background to the site can be found within the Desk-based Assessment Report produced by OA (2007). The main points are summarised below, updated with information from the geotechnical ground investigations.

- 2.2.2 The desk-based assessment identified Sashes Island as the site of a Saxon burgh, and is probably the location of a Roman road and bridge. For these reasons alone any work on Sashes Island is undertaken with a high level of risk of discovering significant archaeological remains. There is also the possibility of a Roman cemetery within the southeast of the Island, although this should not affect the route options to the west. In addition there is the possibility of an associated settlement and/or possible fort, or further evidence of the use of the island as a crossing for, or even part of the Camlet Way. The Site therefore has a high potential for Saxon and Roman features, as well as the potential to contain hitherto undetected archaeological deposits beneath the made ground at a depth of 1.4m to 2m below the current ground surface.
- 2.2.3 The proposed channel area is located on alluvium, which overlies First Terrace gravels. It is possible that the alluvium seals evidence of early prehistoric activity, and as such there is some potential for prehistoric archaeology within the Site, which may be in the form of waterlogged deposits below the alluvium. The depth of the channel will undoubtedly be deeper than the lowest archaeological horizon, and as such all archaeological deposits and features within its footprint will be affected. The depth of the proposed channel is 3m, and depth of the alluvium is between 2.2m and 3.7m, which means there is good potential for waterlogged prehistoric deposits to be reached within the channel. Later archaeological deposits are likely to be located above the alluvium at a depth of between 1.4m to 2m below the current ground surface, well within the 3m deep construction cut, and as such any *in situ* deposits of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods will be impacted upon by the construction of the channel.

#### 2.3 Previous work

- 2.3.1 A geophysical survey of the eastern extent of the island was undertaken by Minas Tirith Ltd in 2000, in which a series of linear features were observed, which were interpreted as being part of a possible Roman fort. This possible fort is located at the opposite end of the island to the three proposed routes, but may provide additional potential for Roman activity within the western part of the island.
- 2.3.2 There has been no previous intrusive, archaeological work carried within the Site, nor within the island of Cookham Sashes. Within the broader Study Area there have been four recorded investigations which have revealed archaeological material. Three of these are located within the Lock Cut to the south of the island, which comprise:

- A Roman cemetery at Sashes Field/New Cut, Cookham, Berkshire. A number of skeletons, Roman swords and javelin heads were found in the making of the new cut through Sashes Field (c 190m to the east of Option 3);
- Work at Cookham Lock was monitored by the Environment Agency. Samples of burnt clay were retrieved, five of which dated to the Bronze Age (c 480m to the south east of Option 3);
- A possible timber revetment was found at Cookham Lock in the late 19th century (c 500m to the south east of Option 3).
- 2.3.3 An fourth archaeological investigation was undertaken to the north of the River Thames in Hedsor (c 450m to the north east of Option 3), which revealed evidence of settlement in the form of midden-type deposits possibly dating to the early to mid-Saxon period, and pits and possible post-holes dating to the 11th-12th centuries, overlying a deep colluvial sequence of deposits, which contained small amounts of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint.

## 2.4 Stratigraphic sequence

- 2.4.1 In 2007 a series of boreholes and trial pits were dug along the southern extent of the island, in an east-west line along the northern edge of the canal. In total there were eight interventions, one of which (TT1) was located c 15m to the west of Route Option 1, and one (BH2) was located in the approximate location of Route Option 2. With the exception of the borehole furthest west, all of the excavations showed deposits of made ground of sand and gravel, representing re-deposited material from the canal discussed below.
- 2.4.2 Beneath the topsoil lay made ground with variable silt, sand, gravel and cobbles. This is seen as two separate deposits, with the upper deposit relating to the lock cutting event of 1969, whilst the lower made ground deposit is from the original lock cut in 1830. In total the made ground totals between 1.3m and 1.6m in thickness, and extends to a maximum depth of 2m (TT1). Within these deposits it is possible that residual archaeological finds (especially flints of the prehistoric period) may be present, having been disturbed from their original location during the dredging.
- 2.4.3 A red brown clay layer beneath the made ground is likely to be an alluvial layer. This layer was recorded as being 0.2m thick in TT1 but 1.6m thick in BH2, and at a maximum depth of 3m in BH2. Elsewhere on the island the alluvium reaches a depth of 3.7m. This alluvium would have settled when the water table rose during the Bronze Age and Iron Age, and therefore has the potential to seal earlier archaeological deposits. It also has the potential to contain within it archaeology of the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods, whilst above it there may be evidence of later activity. The gravelly description of this alluvium, and the disparity of thickness between TT1 and BH2 suggests

the possibility of it having been disturbed, perhaps during the initial lock cut in 1830. If it was disturbed, *in situ* archaeological deposits within and beneath it may also have been disturbed.

#### 3 AIMS

- 3.1.1 The principle aims of the geoarchaeological survey are:
  - 1. To develop a deposit model for the Site based on the results of the borehole survey;
  - 2. Create preliminary interpretation of the archaeological and sedimentary site formation processes;
  - 3. Create a preliminary interpretation of the vegetation and aquatic conditions;
  - 4. Establish the potential survival, character and extent of any archaeological remains;

## Site specific research questions:

- 5. Identify any evidence that could be associated the Saxon burgh;
- 6. Confirm whether any Roman activity extents into the western area of the Site;

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 General

- 4.1.1 A geoarchaeological field survey will be undertaken within the area of the proposed channels. The sample resolution will provide sufficient coverage of the different zone of sedimentation to be able to identify areas of higher or lower potential. Each location will be recorded in three dimensions either with a GPS unit or total station. The following is a detailed methodology for the borehole survey.
- 4.1.2 The proposed borehole locations are shown in Figure 2. The locations at set out on a uniform grid across the proposed fish passes.

## 4.2 Borehole survey

4.2.1 A program of up to 30 boreholes (depending on site conditions and access issues) will be drilled using a Terrier percussion rig in order to recover

- undisturbed samples suitable for sediment description. Prior to the commencement of fieldwork OA will produce a risk assessment for the site.
- 4.2.2 A specialist sub-contractor will operate the drilling rig. Each borehole will be drilled to a maximum depth of 3m, with all boreholes going to full depth to bedrock or Pleistocene gravels. A continuous sequence of undisturbed core samples (0.125 m in diameter and 1.4 metres in length) will be retrieved from each location.
- 4.2.3 The deposit sequence observed at each location will be recorded on site by a qualified geoarchaeologist. The cores will be extruded, photographed and logged using standard sediment terminology according to Jones *et al* 1999. This will include information on colour, composition, texture, structure, compaction, erosional contacts, artefactual and ecofactual inclusions. Recording of the sequence will be undertake according to English Heritage guidelines for geoarchaeology recording (2004) and environmental sampling (2002).
- 4.2.4 Once the logging has been complete the holes will be backfilled with the original extruded material. Additional soil material will also be added were appropriate in order to allow for later slumpage.
- 4.2.5 The Environment Agency will be kept informed as to the progress of the fieldwork; site visits for monitoring purposes can be arranged on request.

## 4.3 Geoarcheological assessment report

- 4.3.1 Once the fieldwork is completed the lithological data will be inputted in geological modelling software (Rockworks 14) to allow correlation of lithology into stratigraphical units in order to map the deposits across the site more accurately. Cross-sections and surface plots will be produced in order to illustrate the relationship between different stratigraphic units.
- The geoarchaeological assessment report will present the results of the field 4.3.2 investigation, detailing the character and depth of the sub-surface stratigraphy of potentially significant and the extent archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits. The report will be supported geoarchaeological models showing the thickness and elevations of key stratigraphic units (GIS format).
- 4.3.3 A list of specialists used by OA is presented below:

Specialist	Subject	
Elizabeth Stafford (OA)	Geoarchaeology manager,	
	molluscs	
Carl Champness (OA)	Geoarchaeologist	
Richard Macphail (UCL)	Soil micromorphology	

Specialist	Subject	
Elizabeth Huckerby (OAN)	Plant remains, pollen	
Denise Druce (OAN)	Plant remains, pollen	
Sylvia Peglar (OAN)	Pollen	
Nigel Cameron (UCL)	Diatoms	
John Whittaker (NHM)	Ostracods and foraminifera	
Rebecca Nicholson (OA)	Environmental manager, fish bone	
Lena Strid (OA)	Animal bone	
Louise Loe (OA)	Osteoarchaeologist	
Paul Miles (OA)	Computer manager	
Matt Bradley (OA)	Geomatics manager	
Leigh Allen (OA)	Finds manager	
Dana Goodburn-Brown (Freelance)	Conservator	
Hugo Lamdin Whymark (Freelance)	Lithic analysis	
Lisa Brown (OA)	Prehistoric pottery	
Cynthia Poole (OA)	Daub and other building	
	materials	
Paul Booth (OA)	Roman pottery	
Paul Blinkhorn/Duncan Brown	Saxon/medieval/post-medieval	
(Freelance)	pottery	
Chris Salter (Oxford University)	Slag	
John Cotton (OA)	Glass	
Ian Scott (OA)	Metalwork	
Dan Miles (Freelance)	Worked	
	wood/Dendrochronology	
Rafter Lab NZ	Radiocarbon dating	

#### 5 ACCESS AND TIMING

- 5.1.1 All works are dependent on suitable access being granted to the whole site. In the event that this is denied or flooding prevents access consideration will be given to whether the project aims can be satisfied using alternative locations.
- 5.1.2 It is proposed that the geoarchaeological investigation will commence shortly after the acceptance of the WSI. The fieldwork is expected to last three days between 17-19 March.

## 6 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

6.1.1 Following the completion of fieldwork, a full report on the results of the geoarchaeological works will be prepared in accordance with section 3.4 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation, including a location map of the site, and sediment profiles of the geoarchaeology sequence recorded.

- 6.1.2 An assessment report detailing the findings of the work will be completed within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Three months is the minimum amount of time if palaeoenvironmental assessment is required. An interim report can also be prepared sooner if required.
- 6.1.3 The content of the report will be as defined in Appendix 8. Draft copies (Word document) will be issued to Environment Agency for review. Following review, the report will be finalised by the Archaeological Contractor. One hard copy and a PDF formatted copy on two CDs or via Email will be sent to who will disseminate it to the relevant parties.
- 6.1.4 The site archive will be integrated with the current project archive and deposited, at an appropriate time, with Reading Museum Service. A microform copy of the site archive and narrative will be issued to RCHME standards and submitted to the Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record. An OASIS form will also be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.
- 6.1.5 The archive will be prepared and stored to the requirements of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (Society of museum Archaeologists, 1993) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992).

#### 7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1.1 All OA project fieldwork is undertaken in accordance with relevant current Health and Safety Legislation. This includes in particular the following regulations (the list is not intended to be exhaustive):

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Construction (Design and management) Regulations 1994
The management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992
Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
Work Equipment Regulations 1992
Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

7.1.2 OA has its own Health and Safety Policy which refers to the manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (SCAUM 1997), and these two documents constitute the Health and Safety arrangements of OA. The Director of OA is ultimately responsible under the terms of the Health and Safety Act (1974) for ensuring the safety of employees. He must know the broad requirements of relevant legislation; attend meetings of OA Health and Safety Committee; ensure that responsibility for health and safety is properly assigned and accepted at all levels. The Director and Chief Executive of OA is David Jennings.

- 7.1.3 The Safety Co-ordinator of OA: represents the director on matters of health and safety; keeps abreast of relevant legislation and approved practice, and disseminates this information to OA staff; advises staff as required on matters of health and safety; maintains OA health and safety records; calls and chairs meetings of the OA Health and Safety Committee. The Safety Co-ordinator of OA is Dan Poore.
- 7.1.4 The Project Director is the person delegated to take overall charge of a particular project. She/he is responsible for health and safety matters on the projects that they manage, reporting to the Safety Co-ordinator in the first instance, and ultimately to OA's Director. She/he must be satisfied that an adequate safety plan has been drawn up for the project, or for each phase of the project. The Project Director may also be the Project Manager in some cases (see below).
- 7.1.5 Individual Project Supervisors/Managers are the persons delegated to take charge of a particular phase or part of the overall project. They are responsible for ensuring that for each site that they are in charge of an adequate Risk Assessment and any amendments or additions to the Site Safety Plan have been drawn up prior to work starting on site, and they are immediately responsible for the Health and Safety of employees and sub-contractors under their supervision. They report directly to the Project Director and OA Safety Co-ordinator. The manager for this project will be Elizabeth Stafford.
- 7.1.6 The OA Health and Safety Committee consists of the Director, Safety Coordinator, OA Manager and the Site Staff Representative. The Safety Coordinator normally calls meetings of the Committee when there is business for discussion, but may be called by other members of the committee.
- 7.1.7 OA's independent Health and Safety Consultants are Safety Services Ltd, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon, who are consulted with regard to matters such as deep trenching, shoring and working in confined spaces.
- 7.1.8 Prior to the project a pro-forma OA Health and Safety Risk Assessment is produced by the project manager/supervisor and passed to the OA Safety Co-ordinator for approval. The Project Manager/supervisor ensures that the following information is available to the excavation team copy of the HSE poster 'Health and Safety Law What You should Know', copy of the Safety Plan and Risk Assessment, Emergency Information Sheet giving details of nearest hospital etc, copy of the Notification of Project to HSE, location of an accident book.

#### 8 OA PRACTICES

8.1.1 General appendices relating to OA practices apply. Appendices 7, 8 and 11 are relevant to this particular project.

#### 9 REFERENCES

**English Heritage 2004** Geoarchaeology: Using an earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.

**English Heritage 2002** Environmental Archaeology: A guide to theory and practice for methods. from sampling to the recovery to post excavation.

**IFA. 2001** Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief.

**IFA. 2001** Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Jones, AP, Tucker, ME and Hart, JK 1999 The description and analysis of Quaternary stratigraphic sections. London, Quaternary Research Association Technical Guide, 5

Oxford Archaeology 2007 Cookham Fish Pass Project. Desk-Based Assessment. OA Report No 3821.

# **OAU Standard Fieldwork Methodology Appendices**

The following methods and terms will apply, where appropriate, to all OA fieldwork unless varied by undertakings specified in a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation.

#### 7 WATCHING BRIEFS

- 7.1 Ground disturbances (demolition, general site strip and levelling, reduction for roads, excavation for service trenches and foundation trenches) will be monitored by an archaeological supervisor assisted, where necessary, by archaeological technicians and under the overall guidance of a project manager.
- 7.2 All archaeological features and deposits exposed will be recorded.
- 7.3 Where only the tops of features or deposits are exposed, these will be located on a site plan, planned, and recorded by written description and by photographs.
- 7.4 Visible artefacts will be collected in order to assist in the dating of features and deposits.
- 7.5 Where trenches are excavated through cut features (pits, ditches, etc.) and vertical stratigraphy is not present, the features will be recorded in section with appropriate collection of finds.
- 7.6 Where ground disturbance exposes stratified remains or significant features, these will be hand excavated by the archaeologist and recorded.
- 7.7 The archaeological curator will be advised at the earliest opportunity of any archaeological features or deposits that appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 7.8 On completion of the fieldwork the site archive will be compiled and security copied.
- 7.9 Proposals for analysis and publication will be determined in the light of the results of the fieldwork.

#### RECORDING

- 7.10 All on-site recording will be undertaken in accordance with the *OAU Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson 1992).
- 7.11 A continuous unique numbering system will be operated. Written descriptions will be recorded on proforma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.
- 7.12 Plans will normally be drawn at 1:50 but in urban or deeply stratified sites a scale of 1:20 will be used. Detailed plans will be at an appropriate scale. Burials will be drawn at 1:10.
- 7.13 A register of plans will be kept.
- 7.14 Sections of features or trenches showing stratigraphy will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10.
- 7.15 A register of sections will be kept.
- 7.16 All sections will be tied in to Ordnance Datum if possible or into the contractors TBM.
- 7.17 A black and white and colour (35 mm transparency) photographic record, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered will be maintained. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological work.
- 7.18 Photographs will be recorded on OA Photographic Record Sheets.

7.19 All identified finds and artefacts from stratified archaeological deposits will be retained, although certain classes of building material or post medieval pottery may sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained.

#### 8 EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORTS

- 8.1 Style and format of the report will be determined by OA, but will include as a minimum the following:
  - A location plan of trenches and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development.
  - Plans and sections of features as appropriate located at an appropriate scale.
  - A section drawing showing depth of significant deposits (if encountered) including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
  - · A summary statement of the results.
  - A table summarising per trench the features, classes and numbers of artefacts contained within, spot dating of significant finds and an interpretation.
  - A reconsideration of the methodology used, and a confidence rating for the results.
  - An interpretation of the archaeological findings both within the site and within their wider landscape/townscape setting.
- 8.2 Copies of the report will be supplied to the client and the Archaeological Officer monitoring the works. Copies of the report will also be supplied to the County Sites and Monuments Record on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (normally six months).
- 8.3 If the evaluation works generate archaeological results of importance which merit wider publication, the client will be consulted about further arrangements.

#### **ARCHIVES**

- 8.4 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, will be ordered, catalogued, labelled and conserved and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.
- 8.5 The site archive will be prepared to at least the minimum acceptable standard defined in Management of Archaeological Projects 2, English Heritage 1991.
- 8.6 The site archive will be microfilmed by the RCHME National Archaeological Record as a safeguard against the accidental loss and the long-term degeneration of paper records and photographs.
- 8.7 The site archive will be deposited with the relevant receiving Museum at the earliest opportunity unless further archaeological work on the site is expected within one year of completion of the archive. OA will advise the landowner that any artefacts resulting from the project work should be given to the relevant Museum.

#### 11 GENERAL

- 11.1 The requirements of the Brief will be met in full where reasonably practicable.
- Any significant variations to the proposed methodology will be agreed with the local authority's archaeological representative in advance.
- 11.3 The scope of work detailed in the main part of the Written Scheme of Investigation is aimed at meeting the aims of the project in a cost effective manner. Oxford Archaeology attempts to

foresee possible site specific problems and resource these. However there may be unusual circumstances which have not been included in the costing and programme.

- Unavoidable delays due to extreme bad weather, vandalism, etc.
- Complex structures or objects, including those in waterlogged conditions, requiring specialist removal.
- Extensions to specified trenches or feature sample sizes requested by the archaeological curator.
- Trenches requiring shoring or stepping, ground contamination, unknown services, poor ground conditions requiring additional plant, specialist reinstatement of surfaces (i.e. tarmac, turf).

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY and INSURANCE

- 11.4 All work will be carried out to the requirements of *Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992,* the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) H & S manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1991,* OA Health and Safety Policy, and any main contractors requirements.
- 11.5 A copy of OA's Health and Safety Policy is available on request. OA will require copies of the H & S policies of all other contractors and operators present on site in compliance with *The Manual of H & S Regulations 1992*.
- 11.6 OA holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request.
- 11.7 OA will not be liable to indemnify the client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:
  - Damage to crops being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor);
  - The use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for
    the purposes of completing the Project (including consequent loss of crops) or interference
    whether temporary or permanent with any right of way, light, air or water or other easement
    or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the
    Agreement;
  - Any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement;
  - Injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the client or his agents, servants or their contractors (not being employed by Oxford Archaeology) or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto.

## COPYRIGHT and CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.8 Oxford Archaeology will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- Oxford Archaeology will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV, s.79).
- 11.10 OA will advise the client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects which are not OA's copyright.

11.11 OA undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the client's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that such conditions shall not unreasonably impede the satisfactory performance of the services required. OA further undertake to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that clients respect OA's general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

#### OA STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

- 11.12 OA shall conform to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the IFA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the IFA Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluations, Desk Based Assessments, etc. and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.
- 11.13 OA is a member of the Institute of Environmental Assessment and the Council for British Archaeology.
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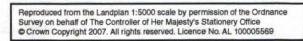


Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2. Proposed borehole locations

Cookram Fish Pass Project

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# Cookham Fish Pass Project Cookham Sashes Berkshire



Geoarchaeological Assessment



June 2009



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# Cookham Sashes Fish Passes Project Berkshire

NGR: SU 900 865

# GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY** 

The site

Borehole drilling Core sequence

Plate 3.

Plate 4.

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Environment Agency commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) in March/April 2009 to undertake a geoarchaeological borehole survey to examine the archaeological resource at land at Cookham Sashes in Berkshire. Sashes Island is located to the north east of the town of Cookham in Berkshire, and is encircled by the River Thames. It is centred on NGR SU 900 865, and is within the administrative area of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The Environment Agency propose to create a fish and wildlife channel across Sashes Island to alleviate the environmental consequences of the existing weir. To achieve this a channel will need to be dug along one of three potential routes, and cut to below the water-table. This survey was commissioned to assess which of the route options would cause least damage to any surviving archaeological resource.

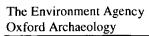
Sashes Island is believed to have been the site of a Saxon burgh, and the probable location of a Roman road and bridge. There is also a possible Roman cemetery within the south east of the island, and although this may not affect the route options to the west, associated settlement evidence may be present. Therefore any work on the island carries a high risk of discovering archaeological remains. The desk-based assessment identified the need to undertake archaeological works in order to further assess the archaeological potential for each of the proposed routes.

A total of 30 boreholes spaced on a 20 m grid were used to create a sedimentary deposit model for the site. It was hoped that this information would provide baseline data on the underlying buried sequence.

The survey revealed a sequence of thick made-ground deposits overlying a buried alluvial and organic sequence. There is the potential for early prehistoric archaeology to be preserved at this level, associated with a buried dry land surface. It is possible that this surface was transformed by rising ground water-levels from the late prehistoric period. This was followed by widespread alluviation in the Middle Thames during the late Roman Period.

The site appears to have been prone to flooding from the late prehistoric period onwards, making it less suitable for settlement activity. No evidence for either the Roman settlement or the Saxon burgh was identified within the site. Only the high gravel elevations to the east and two islands toward the centre of site may have remained dryer for longer in the Mid Holocene before eventually being submerged.

In terms of the preferred options for the fish passes, the survey was able to assess the potential impacts of the three proposed routes. Based on the findings of the survey, options I is considered to have the least impact on any potential archaeological deposits, being the shortest and most fluvial active area. This is followed by option 2 that crosses the main low-lying area of the site which may have been submerged by the late prehistoric period. Option 3 is considered to have the highest archaeological potential of all the routes, crossing the higher ground to the south east.



# COOKHAM FISH PASS PROJECT, COOKHAM SASHES

# GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR The Environment Agency

#### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Project scope

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) have been commissioned by The Environment Agency to undertake a geoarchaeological field survey for an area of land on Cookham Sashes Island in Berkshire, henceforth called the 'Site'. The Environment Agency is investigating the potential to excavate a channel across Sashes Island, and three potential route options have been identified. The Site is situated to the north east of Cookham, on the island of Cookham Sashes encircled by the River Thames. The three possible routes are all located in the south west of the island.
- 1.1.2 A borehole survey was undertaken within the area of the proposed routes in order to assess the archaeological implications of the Scheme. This followed recommendations made within the desk-based assessment (OA 2007) that identified the Site as an area of high archaeological potential. The site is believed to be the location of a Saxon burgh and Roman crossing point.
- 1.1.3 A total of 30 boreholes spaced on a 20 m grid were recovered to record the sediment sequence across the site. The lithological data of each borehole was correlated into broad stratigraphic units in order to develop a deposit model specific to the site. It was hoped that this information would provide baseline data on the underlying sequence which could inform the selection of a preferred route from a heritage perspective.

## 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located in the south west of the island of Cookham Sashes. The Site lies within the Parish of Cookham, and is situated within the County of Berkshire, and under the administration of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.
- 1.2.2 The whole island of Cookham Sashes lies on alluvium overlying First Terrace Gravels (BGS Sheet 255, Solid and Drift 1:50,000). The underlying bedrock is chalk.
- 1.2.3 The Site is located on a parcel of land that is approximately 1m higher than the land to the north, and this appears to be the results of redeposited earth and rubble dredged from the canal onto Sashes Island. The ground level of the Site is approximately 25 m OD, and it gently slopes down from east to west.

#### 1.3 Proposed Impact

- 1.3.1 The Environment Agency wishes to create a fish and wildlife channel across Sashes Island to alleviate the environmental consequences of the existing weir. To achieve this a channel will need to be dug along one of three potential routes (Options 1-3, Fig. 2) which will cause impacts on any archaeological deposits present. The water channel will be dug to a depth of 3m with a width of 7.5 m at the top, and slope in to a width of 1.5 m at the base.
- 1.3.2 The proposed channel area is located on alluvium, which overlies First Terrace gravels. It is possible that the alluvium seals evidence of early prehistoric activity, and as such there is some potential for prehistoric archaeology within the Site, which may be in the form of waterlogged deposits below the alluvium. The depth of the proposed channel will undoubtedly be deeper than the lowest archaeological horizon, and as such all archaeological deposits and features within its footprint will be affected.

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The site is located in an area of significant known archaeological activity, much of which dates to the Roman and Saxon periods. A detailed discussion of the archaeological background to the site can be found within the desk-based assessment report produced by OA (2007). The main points are summarised below, updated with information from recent archaeological investigations.
- 2.1.2 The desk-based assessment identified Sashes Island as the site of a Saxon burgh, and the probably location of a Roman road and bridge. For these reasons alone any work on Sashes Island is undertaken with a high level of risk of discovering significant archaeological remains. There is also the possibility of a Roman cemetery within the southeast of the Island, although this should not affect the route options to the west. In addition there is the possibility of an associated settlement and/or possible fort, or further evidence of the use of the island as a crossing for, or even part of the Camlet Way. The Site therefore has a high potential for Saxon and Roman features, as well as the potential to contain hitherto undetected archaeological deposits beneath the made ground.

#### 2.2 Palaeohydrology

- 2.2.1 The palaeohydrology of the Middle Thames is not so well understood as the Upper or Lower Thames, partly due to lack of published sites and partly due to less development occurring along the Middle Thames. The sites that are known have been recently summarised within *Thames Through Time* (Booth *et al* 2007).
- 2.2.2 The early changes on the floodplain were almost certainly related to climatic change, and human activity since the end of the last glaciation. It is clear that water-levels were significantly lower in the early Holocene then present day due to factors like greater woodland coverage and lower sea-levels. The floodplain would have been relatively dry throughout much of the early prehistoric period with areas of only localised flooding. Evidence of prehistoric activity has been previously identified on the

floodplain. This activity was based on dry land soils that developed on top of the gravels and were preserved under later accumulations of alluvium.

- 2.2.3 At Marsh Lane East, on the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood relief channel, middle Bronze Age features preserved evidence of earlier peats, derived from a higher water-table (Robinson 2007). At Dorney, the low-lying areas of the floodplain appears to have experience alluviation for much of the Holocene and it is possible that there may have been some Iron Age overbank alluviation (Parker and Robinson 2003). However in spite of these localised episodes, the Thames floodplain appears to have experienced little alluviation prior to the Iron Age. The palaeochannel at Dorney indicated a typical profile of the Middle Thames during the early prehistoric period, being broad and shallow, with the environmental evidence indicating clean flowing water.
- 2.2.4 The Thames Valley was experiencing major hydrological change by the first millennium BC caused by woodland clearance and agriculture (Robinson and Lambrick 1984; Robinson 1992a). This resulted in a rise in the water-table on the floodplain and by the Middle Iron Age, seasonal inundation of the low-lying areas. However much of the floodplain may still have been above flood levels, creating islands of dry ground. The river system was divided up into an anastomising system of channels (parallel channels with sinuous links) in a largely open landscape.
- 2.2.5 The Roman town of Staines, at a crossing point of the Thames with the River Coln, was built on a low-lying island on the floodplain gravel fringed with alluvium. Alluviation continued around the edges of the island throughout the early Roman period (Mckinley 2004).
- 2.2.6 By the late Roman period seasonal flooding and alluviation probably extended over almost the entire floodplain. Flood levels were seen to increase at Dorney in the late Roman period (Robinson forthcoming). Early Roman features around the edges of the gravel island gave no evidence of flooding whereas the late Roman features contained shells of flowing water species. Alluvial silts were also identified within many of the late Roman features.
- 2.2.7 In the early Saxon period there was widespread reduction in alluviation in the Thames Valley, coinciding with woodland regeneration and less intensive agriculture. This was reversed in the mid and late Saxon periods, although it never reached the levels attained during the Roman period. The preservation of organic remains from archaeological features from the 1st terrace shows that the water-table has remained high to the present day.

#### 2.3 Previous work

- 2.3.1 A geophysical survey of the eastern extent of the island was undertaken by Minas Tirith Ltd in 2000, in which a series of linear features were observed, which were interpreted as being part of a possible Roman fort. This possible fort is located at the opposite end of the island to the three proposed routes, but may provide additional potential for Roman activity within the western part of the island.
- 2.3.2 There has been no previous intrusive, archaeological work carried out within the Site, nor within the island of Cookham Sashes. Within the broader area there have been only

four recorded investigations that have revealed archaeological material. Three of these are located within the Lock Cut to the south of the island, which comprise:

- A Roman cemetery at Sashes Field/New Cut, Cookham, Berkshire. A number of skeletons, Roman swords and javelin heads were found in the making of the new cut through Sashes Field (c 190 m to the east of Option 3);
- Work at Cookham Lock was monitored by the Environment Agency. Samples of burnt clay were retrieved, five of which dated to the Bronze Age (c 480 m to the south east of Option 3);
- A possible timber revetment was found at Cookham Lock in the late 19th century (c 500 m to the south east of Option 3).
- 2.3.3 A fourth archaeological investigation was undertaken to the north of the River Thames in Hedsor (c 450 m to the north east of Option 3), this revealed evidence of settlement in the form of midden-type deposits. These deposits possibly date to the early to mid-Saxon period, and pits and possible post-holes dating to the 11th-12th centuries, overlay deep colluvial deposits, containing small amounts of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint.
- 2.3.4 No new archaeological sites were recorded during the desk-based assessment. The only feature visible during the walkover was the ditch, which could be seen running across the Island, although it gradually disappeared to the east. The land south of the ditch (the Site area) was noted to be approximately 1 m higher than the land to the north of the ditch.

#### 3 AIMS

## 3.1 Aims of the survey

- 3.1.1 The principle aims of the geoarchaeological survey were to:
  - Establish the potential survival, character and extent of any archaeological remains;
  - Assess the archaeological impacts of each potential route of the fish passes;
  - Create preliminary interpretation of the archaeological and sedimentary site formation processes;
  - Create a preliminary interpretation of the vegetation and aquatic conditions;
  - To develop a deposit model for the Site based on the results of the borehole survey;

## Site specific research questions:

- Identify any evidence that could be associated the Saxon burgh;
- Confirm whether any Roman activity extents into the western area of the Site;

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Geoarchaeological survey

- 4.1.1 Thirty boreholes spaced on a 20 m grid were undertaken across the area covered by the three proposed routes. The boreholes were drilled using a Terrier percussion rig in order to recover undisturbed samples suitable for sediment description. Each borehole was drilled to a maximum depth of 4 m, with all boreholes going to full depth to Pleistocene gravels. A continuous sequence of undisturbed core samples (0.125 m in diameter and 1.4 m in length) were retrieved from each location.
- 4.1.2 The sedimentary sequences were recorded on site by a qualified geoarchaeologist. The cores were extruded, photographed and logged using standard sediment terminology according to Jones *et al* 1999. This included information on colour, composition, texture, structure, compaction, erosional contacts, artefactual and ecofactual inclusions. Recording of the sequence was undertaken according to English Heritage guidelines for geoarchaeology recording (2004) and environmental sampling (2002).
- 4.1.3 The lithological data from the boreholes was inputted into geological modelling software (Rockworks 14) to allow correlation of key stratigraphical units. A deposit model was developed based on the results of the survey.

#### 5 RESULTS OF THE BOREHOLE SURVEY

#### 5.1 Description of deposits

- 5.1.1 The boreholes survey identified a range of different sediment types are present across the site. A number of commonly occurring lithological units were identified and these were correlated into the following sequence of stratigraphy (in order of deposition):
  - Sandy gravels
  - Organic silts/peats
  - Silty clay alluvium
  - Buried ploughsoil
  - Made-ground
  - Modern topsoil
- 5.1.2 The survey revealed a sequence of lateral equivalent deposits that made firm assignment to particular stratigraphic units to be made with a high level of confidence. These units were correlated on the basis of sediment types, elevation and descriptions.

#### 5.2 Pre-Holocene deposits

- 5.2.1 <u>Unit I: River gravels:</u> Gravels and sandy gravels appear to extend across the whole site overlying bedrock and in all locations are sealed by later Holocene deposits. These deposits were matrix supported well-sorted rounded medium cobble gravels. The base of the gravels was not reached as a limit of 4 m depth was exercised for all boreholes.
- 5.2.2 The coarse grained character of the deposits suggests accumulation under cold climate periglacial conditions within high-energy braided streams. These deposits represent

high-energy deposits that accumulated in a cold environment relating to the development of braided river systems that date from the late Pleistocene (c 20-10,000 BP). These types of deposits are typical found in rivers valleys and consist of gravel bars that formed due to high seasonal flow associated with spring snow melt. Any archaeological material within these deposits is unlikely to be in situ and may have undergone a high degree of modification.

- 5.2.3 The elevation data from the surface of the gravels has been used to create a buried topographic map of the site (Fig. 3). This modelled surface varies from 23.17 m to 25.12 m OD. The shape of this surface essentially defines the topography of the early Holocene landscape. Bates (2000) refers to this as the 'topographic template' and suggests that variations in the template largely dictated patterns of subsequent landscape evolution as flooding ensued during the Holocene. By developing an understanding of this template it is possible to attempt to establish a model of sedimentary formation of the site.
- 5.2.4 The lowest elevations at the site are between 23.00 m and 24.10 m OD, these appear to form low-lying areas within the western part of the site. For the rest of the site area, the gravel surface averages between 24.00 m OD. Only to the east of site does the gravel rise to 25.12 m OD and two gravel islands near to OABH20 and OABH4 reach 24.45 m OD. As water-levels rose in the early Holocene these elevations would have been inundated, leaving the high elevations as dry land. These higher elevations could have been the focus for later prehistoric activity before being submerged and buried by later riverine flooding.

#### 5.3 Holocene deposits

- 5.3.1 <u>Unit II: Organic deposits:</u> The organic silt/peat deposits directly overlying the sandy gravels. These deposits consisted of well humified peat deposits or highly organic silts, that accumulated between 23.00 m and 24.40 m OD. They were typical 0.30 m in thickness (Fig. 4 and 5), and variable in terms of their organic and silt content. Small concentrations of sub-angular fire-cracked and burnt cobbles were recovered within boreholes OABH4, OABH6, OABH17, OABH22 from this context. Fine fragments of charcoal were also identified within these deposits.
- 5.3.2 The botanical and molluscan evidence from this unit indicates shallow water and marsh taxa within what must have been a wetland environment. These deposits appear to represent a rise in the water-table, possible during the late prehistoric period, which created a drowned landscape over much of the lower elevations of the Site. Not all of the area was drowned during this period; the levels of gravel towards the south east and the gravel islands in the centre would have remained dry.
- 5.3.3 In parts of the floodplain these organic deposits appeared to be overlying a potential dry land prehistoric soil. This would have been the pre-alluvial surface mentioned previously that may have formed under dry conditions during the early to mid Holocene. In other areas, evidence of this palaeosoil was less identifiable in the boreholes and may have either been eroded or obscured by later post-depositional processes.
- 5.3.4 Any artefacts from this submerged surface are likely to be in situ, only undergoing minor modification if any. These remains could be of significant archaeological

interest as they are likely to have remained waterlogged and may preserve important biological and archaeological remains.

- 5.3.5 <u>Unit II: Silt clay alluvium:</u> These deposits consist of soft pale reddish brown, sandy clays and silty clays. These deposits range in thickness from 0.55 m to 1.8 m (Fig. 6), and are located at approximately 23.3 m OD to 25.85 m OD. The accumulation of minerogenic over organic deposits, reflecting a major change in the deposition environment from low-energy ground-water flooding to overbank alluviation.
- 5.3.6 Any artefacts identified within these silty clay deposits are likely to have undergone a moderate degree of lateral transportation and possible size sorting. Any activity associated with these deposits is likely to be found towards the river edges which could have acted as natural harbours/activity areas.
- 5.3.7 <u>Unit IV: Buried ploughsoil:</u> The upper surface of the alluvium shows signs of weathering and disturbance by late 20th-century activity. The elevation of the modelled surface varies from 25.10 m and 25.40 m OD. The best preserved deposits are recorded within the west of the site and the lowest towards the river. In some localised areas of the site the original landsurface of the upper alluvium could be identified.
- 5.3.8 The homogenous nature of the deposits suggested that it likely represents a buried ploughsoil. Any finds recovered from these deposits are likely to have undergone a degree of lateral and vertical movement, mixing together the remains from different periods.
- 5.3.9 Unit V: Made-ground: Thick modern made-ground deposits were found to overlie all of site, ranging in thickness between 1 m and 2.2 m. Evidently these deposits were distributed across the Site to create a level surface. The modelled thickness of the made-ground deposits is shown in Figure 7.
- 5.3.10 Beneath the topsoil lay made-ground deposits with variable silt, sand, gravel and chalk. This could be seen as two separate deposits, with the upper deposit potentially relating to the lock cutting event of 1969, whilst the lower made ground deposit may from the original lock cut in 1830. Fragments of clinker, charcoal and clay pipe were recovered from these deposits.
- 5.3.11 <u>Unit VI: Modern Topsoil:</u> This unit consists of sandy loam that has developed on top of the made-ground deposits. The modern topsoil varied from 0.12 m to 0.35 m in thickness, suggesting that soil has likely been added to the field.

#### 6 DISCUSSION

#### 6.1 Sedimentary sequence

6.1.1 Throughout the early to mid Holocene soil formation processes would have started to develop on Sashes Island. Localised flooding may still have occurred but this may not necessarily have involved any alluviation. At the lower elevations of the floodplain (23.00 m to 24.00 m OD), towards the west of site a wetland environment may have started to developed from the later prehistoric period. Towards the higher, east of the

Site, lying above 24.65 m OD, flooding would probably have occurred much later, possibly during the early historic period.

- 6.1.2 This meant that for much of the early Holocene the main area of the Site could have been relatively dry, and that archaeological activity, dating from the Mesolithic period to the later prehistoric period, could potentially be preserved within the buried land surfaces overlying the gravel. The topography of the floodplain would have been an important factor in determining the location of settlement and ritual monuments. On the higher ground located at the south-eastern edge of the site, and on the gravel island, activity could have continued for longer as flooding would have occurred much later.
- 6.1.3 The accumulation and transformation of organic deposits overlying the gravels at the edge of the island could relate to the rising water-levels from the middle Iron Age onwards. These deposits will require dating before any firm confirmations can be made as to their potential date. Environmental assessment of these deposits has shown that they appear to represent a transition to wetter conditions. These organic deposits may have continued to accumulate further up at the edge of the island into the early historic period, whilst other low-lying areas could have started to experience the first signs of over-bank alluviation.
- 6.1.4 The deposition of the silty clay alluvium (Unit III) in the west of site overlying the organic deposits, represents the beginning of overbank alluviation at the edge of the island and floodplain. A similar sequence of deposits has been identified within other sites along the Middle Thames. This is thought to have been the result of increased arable agriculture on the slopes of the catchment during the late Iron Age and Roman period (Robinson in Dodd 2003). This saw a transition from the deposition of organic to minerogenic deposits in the western side of the floodplain. Similar deposition of inorganic alluvial clay has been recorded at other sites within the Middle Thames. This would have created areas of seasonally flooding at the edges of the island, which would have made the majority of the Site unsuitable for tillage and settlement activity.
- 6.1.5 The main phase of clay alluviation may have accumulated before the Saxon burgh was established. The depth of organic preservation in later archaeological features shows that the water-table on the floodplain remained high to the present day, and historical records show that seasonal flooding continued throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Alluviation, appears to have significantly decreased in the post-medieval period onwards.

## 6.2 Archaeological potential

- 6.2.1 The survey did not identify any evidence of significant archaeological activity associated with a Roman Crossing or Saxon burgh. In fact the survey indicated that most of the western area of the Site may not have been suitable for settlement activity from the later prehistoric period onwards, as it appears to have been increasingly prone to flooding. However burnt and fire cracked stone identified within the organic deposit overlying the gravel surface, may indicate prehistoric activity from the Mesolithic through to the late Iron Age at the edge of the island. This activity may have been associated with a drier land surface that was later transformed by a rising water-table.
- 6.2.2 The sequence indicates that the Site would have been prone to flooding during the late prehistoric and early historical periods, making it less suitable for most types of

activity. Historic maps show Sashes Island to have been used for pasture and arable land throughout at least the later post-medieval period, and probably throughout the majority of the medieval periods. Plough lines have been identified on aerial photos, which would indicate that the island was previous under the plough.

6.2.3 The construction of the Cookham Lock and canal in the early 19th century, which cut straight through Sashes Island, caused considerable disturbance. This significantly disturbed and truncated the historical soil, but helped to protect the alluvial sequence within the Site.

## 6.3 Potential impact

- 6.3.1 The level of impact will be determined by the route selected. The uppermost level of the channel, where it is at its widest, is likely to fall within the made-ground deposits, and therefore is unlikely to cause any serious impacts on archaeological deposits. However, the channel is proposed to be excavated to a depth of 3 m, and so will extend beyond the 20th century made-ground, through the alluvial layer and into the organic silts below. The survey data shows the base of the alluvial deposits to be between 1 m and 2.20 m deep, and it is here, at the base of the alluvium, where prehistoric deposits and artefacts are most likely to be present. The construction of the channel to a depth of 3 m therefore has the potential to affect potential waterlogged deposits associated with the buried land surface.
- 6.3.2 The proposed construction of a channel through the island will affect any archaeological deposits within the footprint of the chosen route if they occur in these locations. However, the survey has revealed that Options 1 and 2 are located at low-lying elevations and these would have been less suitable for settlement within the Roman and early medieval periods. The following archaeological impact has been identified for each route:
  - Option 1, being located closest to the western edge of the island, and therefore the shortest route, will cause the least amount of below ground impact. This is in a fluvial active area and therefore has the least archaeological potential.
  - Option 2, being neither the longest or shortest of routes, represents a comprise between the practicality of the route and the greater level of impact. This route crosses only the lower elevations of the Site and therefore would have been in an area prone to flooding in the late prehistoric and early historic periods.
  - Option 3, being the longest route, and therefore potentially of greater impact than the other proposed routes. This route also crosses from the lower elevations up to the higher ground to the eastern edge of the Site. This option is believed to have the highest archaeological potential of all the routes.
- 6.3.3 Based on the findings of the survey Option 1 is considered to have the least impact on any archaeological deposits. This is followed by Option 2 and then 3 consecutively. Option 3 has the highest archaeological potential as skirts around the gravel islands near to borehole 4 and crosses the higher ground to the south east of the Site. This area of the site would have been less prone to flooding and would have provided a good location in which to exploit the resources of the river.

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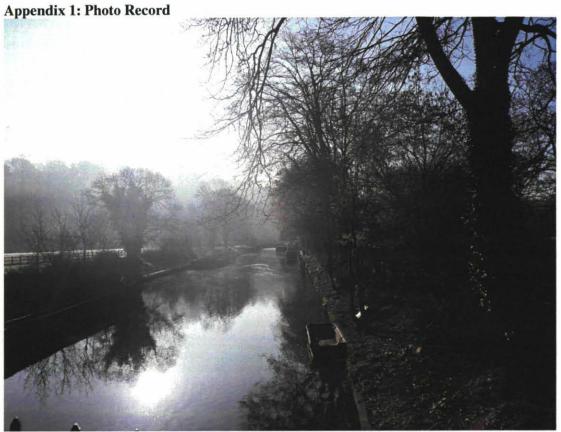


Plate 1: Cookham lock and canal



Plate 2: The Site





Plate 4: Core sequence

## Appendix 2: Summary of site details

Site name: Cookham Sashes, Cookham

Site code: COFPEV Grid Ref: SU 900 865

Type of evaluation: Borehole Survey

Date and duration of project: April 2009

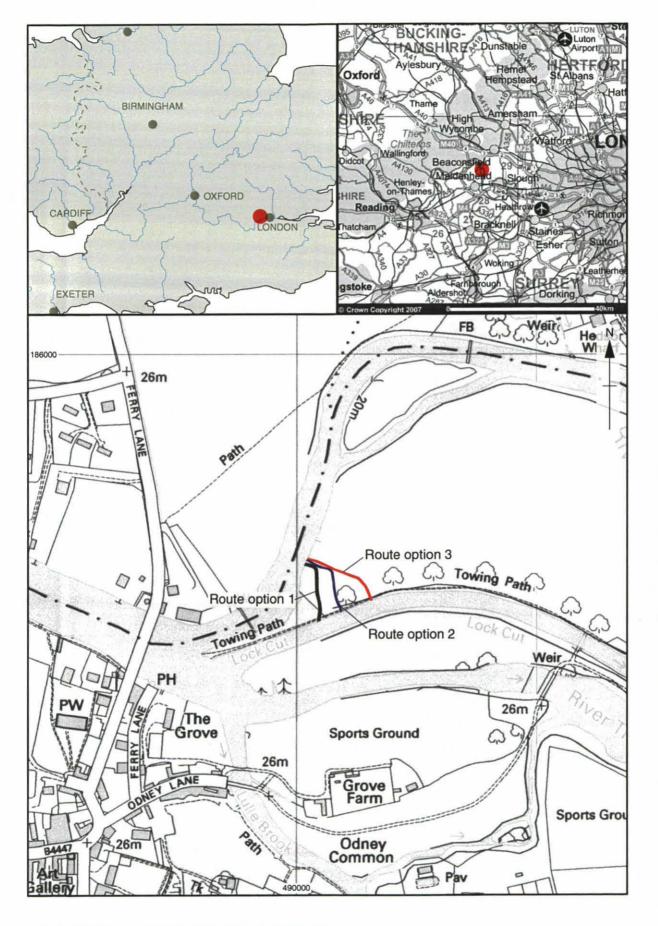
Area of site: 1.18 ha

Summary of results: A geoarchaeological survey of 30 boreholes were undertaken across an area of Cookham Sashee, an island within the Middle Thames. Samples were retrieved for

sediment description and palaeoenvironmental assessment.

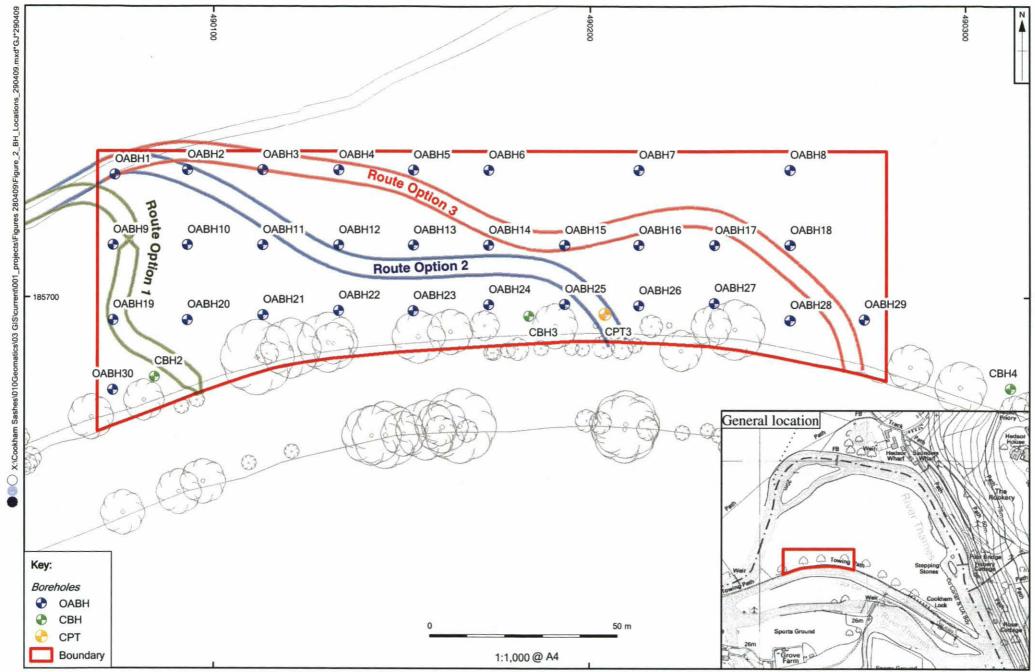
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford,

OX2 0ES, and will be deposited at Reading Museum.



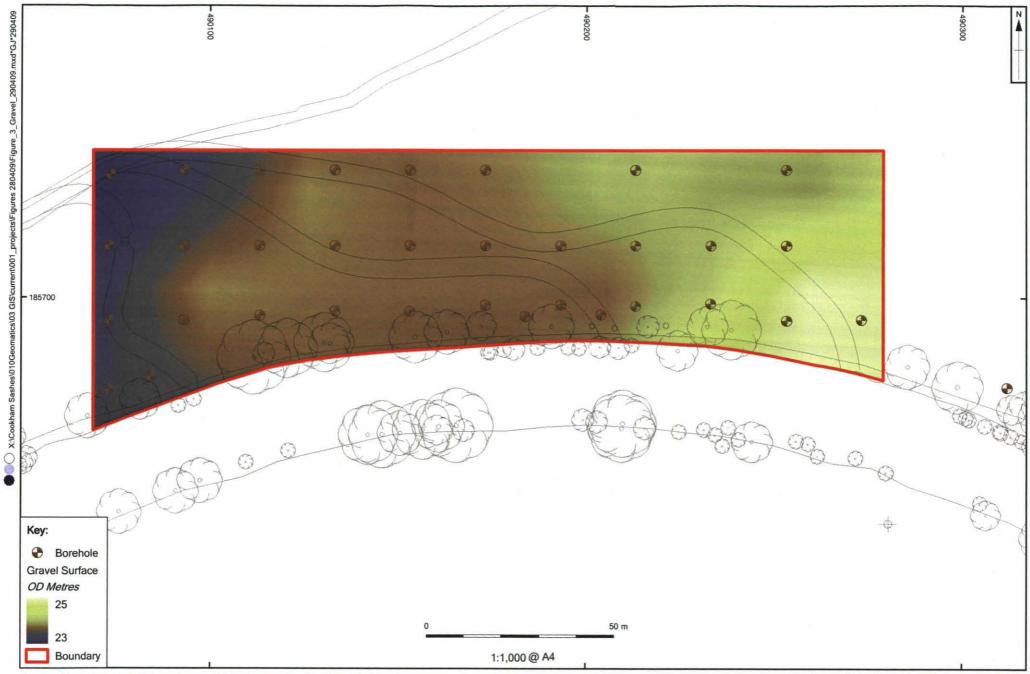
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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Borehole locations



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Figure 3: Gravel surface topography

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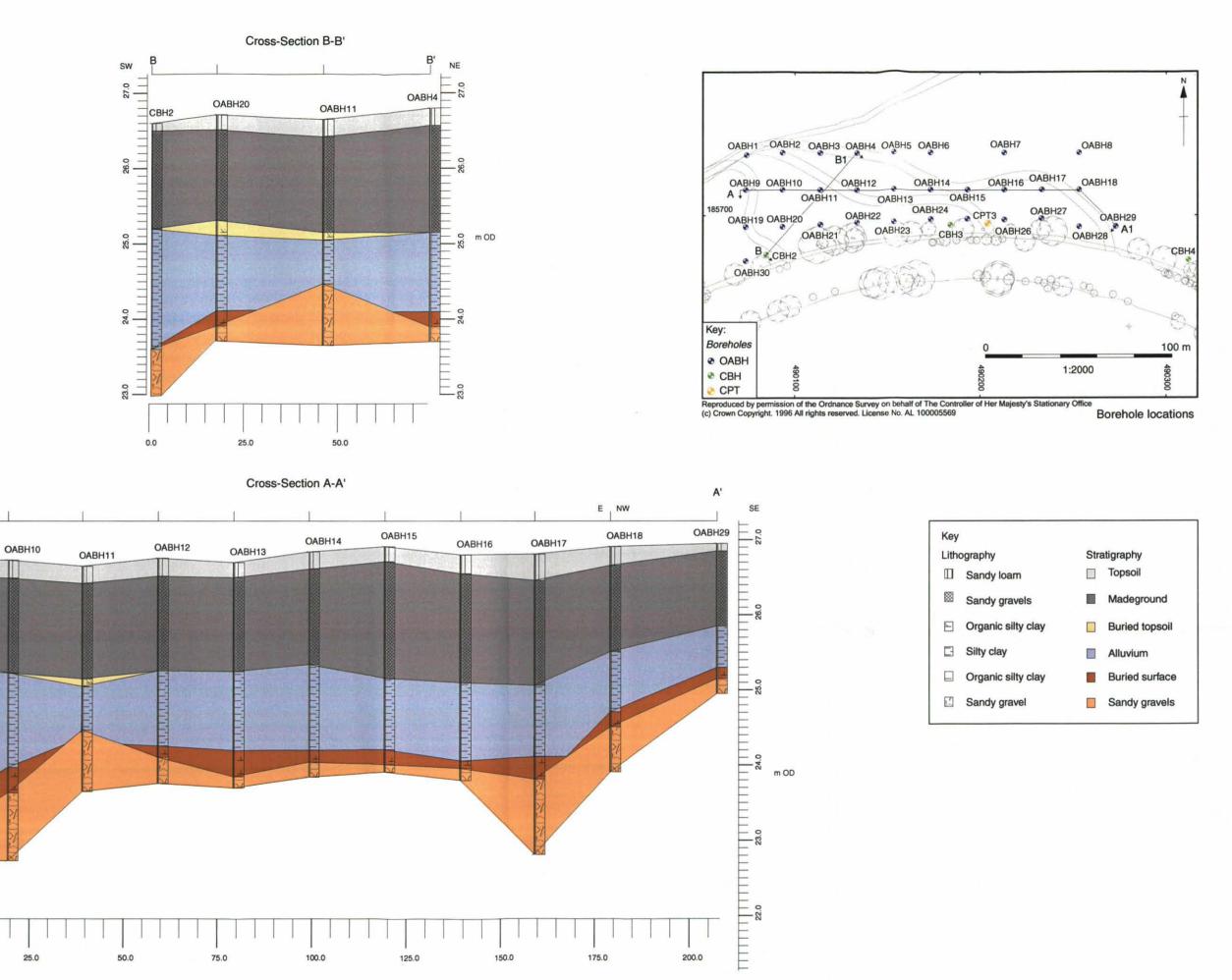
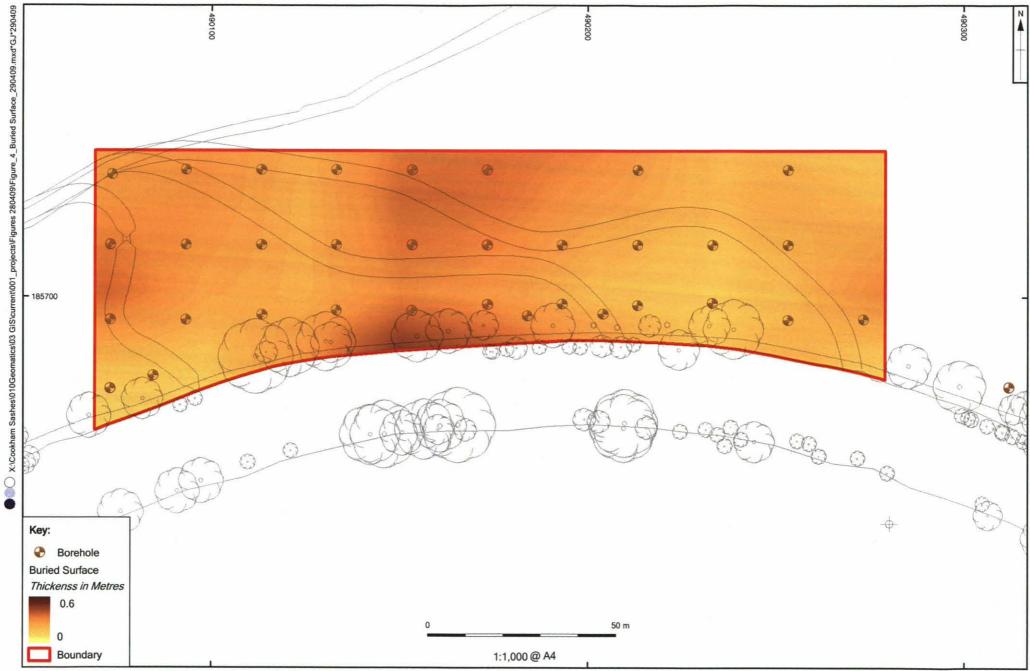
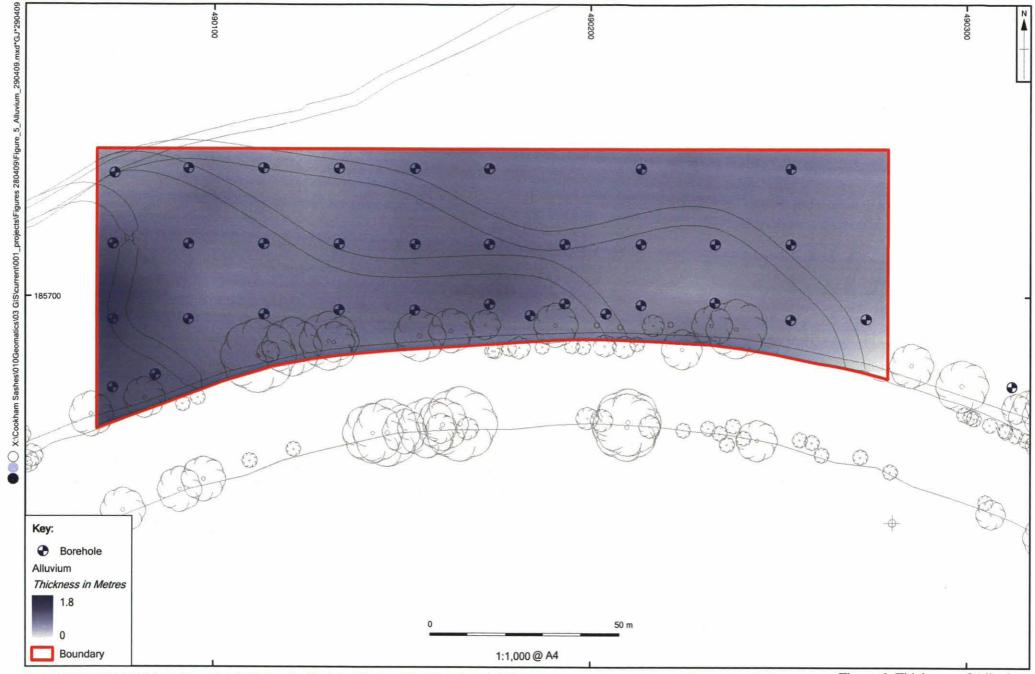


Figure 4: Borehole cross sections



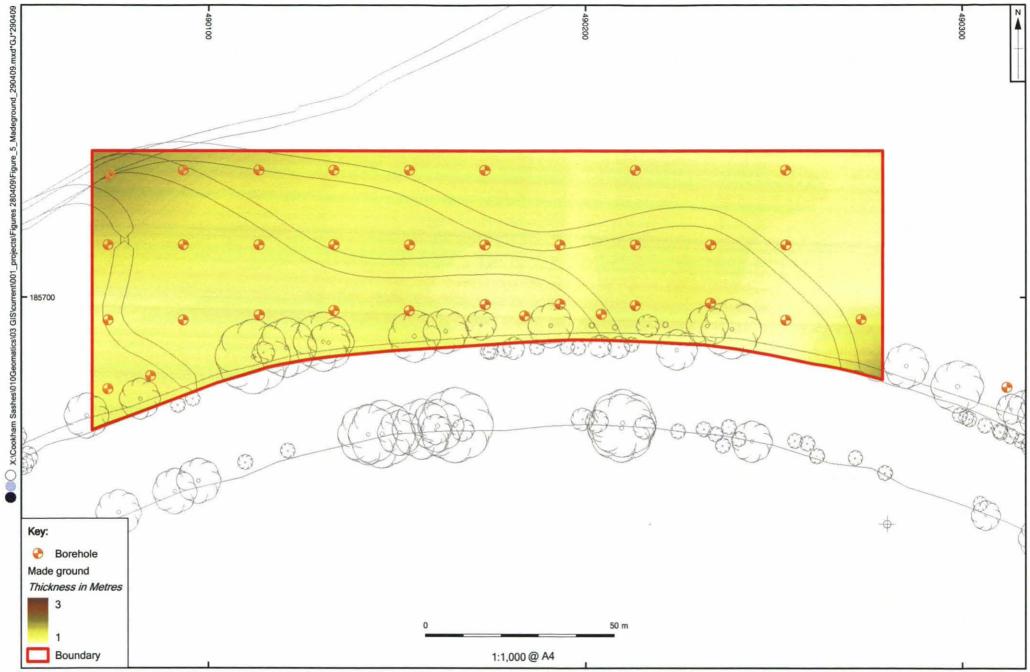
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Figure 5: Thickness of organic deposits



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Figure 6: Thickness of Alluvium



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Figure 7: Thickness of made ground deposits



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**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



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## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: oxfordar1-114629

#### **Project details**

Project name

Cookham Fish Pass Project

Short description of the project

The Environment Agency commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) in March/April 2009 to undertake a geoarchaeological borehole survey to examine the archaeological resource at land at Cookham Sashes in Berkshire. The Environment Agency propose to create a fish and wildlife channel across Sashes Island to alleviate the environmental consequences of the existing weir. To achieve this a channel will need to be dug along one of three potential routes, and cut to below the water-table. This survey was commissioned to assess which of the route options would cause least damage to any surviving archaeological resource. The survey revealed a sequence of thick made-ground deposits overlying a buried alluvial and organic sequence. There is the potential for early prehistoric archaeology to be preserved at this level, associated with a buried dry land surface. It is possible that this surface was transformed by rising ground water-levels from the late prehistoric period. This was followed by widespread alluviation in the Middle Thames during the late Roman Period. No evidence for either the Roman settlement or the Saxon burgh was identified within the site. Only the high gravel elevations to the east and two islands toward the centre of site may have remained dryer for longer in the Mid Holocene before eventually being submerged.

Project dates

Start: 23-03-2009 End: 03-04-2009

Previous/future work

Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

COFIP 09 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes

REDMG:2009.178 - Museum accession ID

Type of project

Field evaluation

Current Land use

Other 15 - Other

Monument type

N/A None

Significant Finds

N/A None

Methods & techniques 'Augering'

Development type Fish Pass

Prompt

To provide information on potential route options

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

**Project location** 

Country

England

Site location

BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD COOKHAM Fish Pass Project

Study area

1.18 Hectares

Site coordinates

SU 900 865 51.5697005503 -0.701276146755 51 34 10 N 000 42 04 W Point

Project creators

Name of

Oxford Archaeology

Organisation

Project brief originator

Environment agency

Project design

originator

Oxford Archaeology

Project

director/manager

E Stafford

Project supervisor

C Champness

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

No

Exists?

Digital Archive

recipient

Oxford Archaeology

Digital Archive ID

COFIP 09/ COFIPEV

**Digital Contents** 

'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media

available

'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

Paper Archive

recipient

Reading Museum

Paper Archive ID

REDMG:2009.178

Paper Contents

'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media

available

'Photograph', 'Report', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'

**Project** 

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title

Cookham Fish Pass Project, Cookham Sashes, Berkshire

Author(s)/Editor(s)

Champness, C.

Date

2009

Issuer or publisher Oxford Archaeology

Place of issue or

Oxford

publication

Description A4 bound client report

Entered by

Susan Rawlings (susan.rawlings@oxfordarch.co.uk)

Entered on

25 November 2011

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Cite only: /dl/export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page

Cookham fish Pass Project

Bose File

B. Azimary Courect RECORDS

## **SCAN PDF**

## FILMING INSTRUCTIONS

Submitter OASouth No. of CD copies: 2

Headings

Site information

Line 1: [OASouth] County:[Berkshire] Parish:[Cookham] Site:[Fish Pass Project]

Site code[COFIP 09]

Line 2: Excavators name[L. Stafford]

Line 3:

Classification of material

Tick if

Classification of material	present
Index to archive	
Introduction	
A:Final Report	
A:Publication Report	
B:Site Data – Text: Diary/Daybook/Fieldnotes	
B: Site Data – Text: General Summaries	
B: Site Data – Text: Primary Context Records	
B: Site Data – Text: Synthesised Context Records	
B: Site Data – Text: Survey Reports	
B: Site Data – Text: Catalogue of Drawings	
B: Site Data – Text: Primary Drawings	
B: Site Data – Text: Synthesised Drawings	
C: Finds Data – Text: Primary Finds Data	
C: Finds Data – Text: Synthesised Finds Data	
C: Finds Data – Text: Specialist Reports	
C: Finds Data – Text: Box/Bag List	
D: Catalogue of Photos/Slides/Videos/Xrays	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Primary Records	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Synthesised Records	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Specialist Reports	
F: Documentary	
F: Press and Publicity	
G: Correspondence	
H: Miscellaneous	

MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER SECTION NO:

TRENCH/BH NO:

/ SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 31/04/09

LOGGER: Cart

ELEVATION: 26-3 E: 490073.67 N:185732.76

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Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

MONOLITH AND CORE LOG	GING	SHEET
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SITE CODE: COFIPER

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SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 31/04/09

LOGGER: Carl

ELEVATION: 26.55 6:4900 \$3.22

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Oxford Archaeology

MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER

SECTION NO:

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SAMPLE/CORE NO:

LOGGER: Ca

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MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

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Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

## MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

Oxford Archaeology

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SECTION NO:

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# Oxford Archaeology

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**SECTION NO:** LOGGER: Cod C TRENCH/BH NO: 🥞 SAMPLE/CORE NO:

Description Depth Lithology Context no. Subsamples D O PR C14 - Soft and born strutureless Elly clay with Frequent sub-ounded inclusions. - Youse light yellow and gravel. Sub-angular pourly sorted. -10000 light yellow growelly said Well sorted angular inclusions - soft light bownish etnetureless s.M. distinct upper boundary. -Saft mid Jellowish bown structureless stry clay. Black flecks, Natural Condy gravels. Light whitich yellow.

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MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

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SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/09

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-Sife yellowish brown structureless
elty day slightly nottled.
Frequent cuts - angular medium sozed 1.60 gravel induscon's 30-- Hunic silay clary - Natural sandy grovels 3-20

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

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MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER. SECTION NO:

TRENCH/BH NO: Q

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DATE: 30/04/09.

ELEVATION: 26.73 E:490073.19 N:185713.95

Description Depth Lithology Subsamples Context no. D O PR C14 - Loose light yellow sandy gruel. - Soft dark bown sittly day with frequent routlets -Soft light mid gregish blue sandig charg with with rare small indusions loose bompish sondwith no granze - Natural Sandy gravel Renty -Thin band of penty sand

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

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SECTION NO:

DATE: 31/04/09

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SAMPLE/CORE NO:

LOGGER: Carl C

N: 185713.95

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Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

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DATE: QQ/OSt/09
LOGGER: Carl C

ELEVATION: 26-76 E: 490133-20 N:185713-95

Description Depth Subsamples Lithology Context no. D O PR C14 Batt/fride mid 6 run sonly day with occ Offere upper boundary - Loose light yellow sandy gravel. -Sofe Structureless light reddish yellow âlt clay with occ sub-agul growel 20M-- Soft mid bown hume city day 2.65 NOTES:

MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPOR.

TRENCH/BH NO: 13

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 29/03/09.

LOGGER: CC

ELEVATION: 26-30 E: 490 153-26 N: 185713.95

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Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

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14

SITE CODE: COFIPER

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DATE: 31/04/09.

ELEVATION: 26.34 E: 490173-27 N: 185713-93

Description Depth Lithology \*Context no. Subsamples D O PR C14 - Sufe darte transa stayey sandy with frequents roose light yellow sandy growel souly matrix supported. Partially sorted subangular gravel.

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

## MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

Oxford Archaeology

SITE CODE: COFIPER

TRENCH/BH NO: 15

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 20/04/09 LOGGER: Can C

ELEVATION: 26-91 E: 490193-15 N:185713-91

Depth Lithology Subsamples Description Context no. D O PR C14 Soft/Loose doct born dayer conducts occarminal sub-angular inclusions. l'ose light yellow sendy groves Partially conted matrix supported distinct upper boundary 1.75 - Boft yellow alty day Structureless. - Soft boun city days - Natural sandy growels  $dy_{ijl}$ NOTES:

Oxford Archaeology

MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER

TRENCH/BH NO: 16

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/09
LOGGER: Carl C.

ELEVATION: 26.80 E: 490213-21 N: 185713-93

Description Depth Lithology Subsamples Context no. D O PR C14 Loose/cost durk brown sondy loan with Frequent nootlets

soft dork brown sty doug with no course in during their small opposed.

Loose light yellow small opposed. 0.25 Partially ented. - Oft structureless light reddish yellow illy day. - Natural sudy grovels.

NOTES:		
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Oxford Archaeology

#### MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: OF POT

TRENCH/BH NO: 17

NOTES:

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 20/04/04

LOGGER: Cart C

ELEVATION: 268 E: 490233-21

Depth	Lithology	Context no.			Subs	ampl	ės	Description
		_	Α	P	D	O	PR	C14
Ę ®	Milly					Ė		- Frake Sandy loan.
4		-						
=	3	٠						aurel .
=	00a 0	· \						- Loose light sandy of the
1	000							- Loose light sandy gravel. redeposited gravels
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10								
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7	200 o							
4	0.00	1						
1	200		ĺ					
	0000			i				
1.75	.1.1.	†						Distinct upper boundary Soft mid brown structureless
=	(5)B-	Brows	املا	L				Saft mid borns structures
20	· Lil							sley day.
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-	6 3 L.			٠				
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	レ・レ・		gi.				}	;
	<u> </u>	Bune						
	00.	1 Saive	· ·	;				- Steply hume and brown silty
30 =				Ç				day.
	C 2 8 3							- Natural sendy gravels.
	0.099	·					,	- Natural sondy growels.
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=								
4				ĺ				
=								
jl		<u> </u>			لــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ			

MONOLI	TH.	AND	CORE	LOGGING	SHEET
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SITE CODE: COFIPER

SECTION NO:

DATE: 30/04/09

ELEVATION: 26.81 P: 490233.21 N: 185713.94

TRENCH/BH NO: 18

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

LOGGER: Carl C

Description Depth Lithology Context no. Subsamples D O PR C14 Loose dark how somby loans with frequent poorly corted suburgular inducions.

Solved sorted suburgular inducions.

Solved sorted inducions

- Loose light known by yellow Sondy growed with occasional draft fragments. - Soft stanturden light reddish/bounds yellow silly day. Soft slightly hume mid bown structureless sly day sotlets. Loose well sorted conty growels.

NOTES:				 	<del></del>	 	 
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Oxford Archaeology

<b>MONOLITH AND</b>	CORE L	OGGING	SHEET
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NOTES:

SITE CODE: COFINER SECTION NO: DATE: SI/04/09
TRENCH/BH NO: 19 SAMPLE/CORE NO: LOGGER: Carl C

ELEVATION: 26.71 E: 490073 .20 N: 185693.96

A P D O PR C14  - Loose light redhish yellow son opened matrix supported Sub-an medium sixed partially poorly sorted grovel.  - L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L. L.
- Loose light redoich yellow son  ground natrix supported Sub-in  medium sixed partially / poorly  sorted ground.  L. L. L.  L. L. L.  L. L. L.  L. L. L.
Sondy gravel

Oxford Archaeology

MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER.

NOTES:

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/04 LOGGER: Cart C

ELEVATION: 26.71 2:490093.23 N:185693-93

TRENCH/BH NO: 20 Depth Lithology Context no. Subsamples Description D O PR C14 - Loose light yellow sandy gravel -Sofe light brownish yellow edlig Jung.

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MONOLITH AND	COREL	OGGING	SHEET
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SITE CODE: COFIPER

TRENCH/BH NO: 21

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/09

LOGGER: Carl C

ELEVATION: 26. 2: 490113.28 N: 185695.29

Depth	Lithology	Context no.		Subs	ampl	es	_	Description
Ch	V. W		Α	P D	0	PR	C14	
	000							Frakle dock frown sandy lown
4	0000	\ \ \ \						-cose noonly sonted sub-cirgular medium Soundy growel.
1.0~	000	7				-		
سأسبطت	000							
بطسيطيي	L. L. L.							Soft light yellowish brown silty days indusors
20m	- L . L . C				,			
ساسسان	し, し, し, し,	T.						
30m	20000							soft mobile hume mid brown structureless sily day Natural sundy growels
ساسياء								
<u>, 1111111111</u>	·							
<u> </u>					[			

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

#### MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER
TRENCH/BH NO: 22.

NOTES:

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 31/04/09

LOGGER: Carl C

ELEVATION: 26. E: 490133.2021 N: 185696.49

Depth	Lithology	Context no.		5	Subsa	ampl	es ·	Description
	V V	•	Α	Р	D	0	PR	t C14
	phulo							- Faible durk known Sondy loans
	000							- Loose hight gellow sandy ofravel
Lindin	0.00							
10m1	0000							
1.45	0.00							
		-					,	-Seft light yellow silty/sandy day structureless with occasional
36√1 1	L. L. L.		į.		·			
711111	THE COLOR		į					= soft mid brown city sand with occarminal stab ungular inclusions.
5.0M-1	00000							Loose mid greyist blue Sendy gravels Clast's Support with Sondy clay multisc Natural gravels.
1,111,111,11	·							

MONOLITH	AND	CORE	LOGGING	SHEET
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SITE CODE: COFIPER SE

TRENCH/BH NO: 23

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 80/04/09

LOGGER: Carl

ELEVATION: 26.8 E: 490163.17 N:185696.44

A P D O PR C14  - Fristle chayey sond.  - Loose light brownish yellows s  growed. Partially conted poor  corted. Sub-nounded medium  growed  L. L  - Seft light brownish yellow  sub-light brownish yellow  sub-light brownish yellow	
-Losse light howards yellows  gravel. Partially contad/ Noor  corted. Sub-rounded medium  gravel  - Seft light brownish yellow  3 thy day.	
- Soft mid brown hunce sitty d - Notural sondy growel.	structu

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

Oxford Archaeology

MONOI	ITH AND	CORF I	OGGING	SHEET

SITE CODE: COPIPER

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/09 LOGGER: Cart C

ELEVATION: 26.8 6: 490175-24 N: 185698-08

TRENC	CH/BH NO: 2	4	SAMF	PLE/C	ORE NO	):		LOGGER: Carl C	N: 185698.08
Depth	Lithology	Context no.		Sı	ubsampi	es	Description		
	w w	•	Α	Р	D O	PR	C14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
O Se Lundingham Lundingham Comment of the Comment o	00000000000000000000000000000000000000						Finale -loose growel	light bownst ( madeground)  light bownish welen Edy de	gellow sandy
20 <b>%</b>							Charle	reles ely de	<b>~</b>
	06 06°						Natur	is sandy grower.	

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

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MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COPI POR

TRENCH/BH NO: 25

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/59
LOGGER: Carl C

ELEVATION: 26.8 E: 490193.20 N:185698-23

Description Depth Lithology Context no. Subsamples D O PR C14 - Friedle hunic bown sondy lours. coose light brownish yellow sonly growels with Frequent dralk - Soft light yellowish brown eity duy. Frequent reddistand bladeich mottles. -Natural sandy growels.

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

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## MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER
TRENCH/BH NO: 26

NOTES:

SECTION NO:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 31/0 4/09

LOGGER: Cont C

ELEVATION: 268 E: 498213.2171 N: 185697.82

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### MONOLITH AND CORE LOGGING SHEET

SITE CODE: COFIPER

SECTION NO:

TRENCH/BH NO: 27

NOTES:

SAMPLE/CORE NO:

DATE: 30/04/09

LOGGER: Cont

ELEVATION: 26.8 E: 490233.08 N: 185698.47

Subsamples Description Depth Lithology Context no. D O PR C14 - Frakle dock nown humic dayey sond with Frequent nootlets. Loose bownish yellow partially sorted sub-angular grovel with a sortey matrix. Soft structureland light redders, Sub-angular industrias. Reddiets nutbling. Natural well sorted Sondy gravel. 000

Key to subsamples: A = artefacts P = pollen D = diatoms O = ostracods PR = plant remains C14 = radiocarbon dating

Pavision May 2008

Cookham Fish Pass Project COFIPO9

Booc file D. Catalogue of Photographs

# OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY, JANUS HOUSE, OSNEY MEAD, OXFORD, OX2 OES

#### **SCAN PDF**

### FILMING INSTRUCTIONS

Submitter OASouth No. of CD copies: 2

Headings

Site information

Line 1: [OASouth] County:[Berkshire] Parish:[Cookham] Site:[Fish Pass Project]

Site code[COFIP 09]

Line 2: Excavators name[L. Stafford]

Line 3:

Classification of material

Tick if

	present
Index to archive	
Introduction	
A:Final Report	
A:Publication Report	
B:Site Data - Text: Diary/Daybook/Fieldnotes	
B: Site Data - Text: General Summaries	
B: Site Data - Text: Primary Context Records	
B: Site Data - Text: Synthesised Context Records	
B: Site Data – Text: Survey Reports	
B: Site Data - Text: Catalogue of Drawings	
B: Site Data – Text: Primary Drawings	
B: Site Data - Text: Synthesised Drawings	
C: Finds Data – Text: Primary Finds Data	
C: Finds Data - Text: Synthesised Finds Data	
C: Finds Data – Text: Specialist Reports	
C: Finds Data – Text: Box/Bag List	
D: Catalogue of Photos/Slides/Videos/Xrays	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Primary Records	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Synthesised Records	
E: Environmental/Ecofact Data: Specialist Reports	
F: Documentary	
F: Press and Publicity	
G: Correspondence	
H: Miscellaneous	

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET						
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