



# Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Heritage to evaluate a site at Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire, as part of a new housing development. The evaluation consisted of 42 trenches, representing a 4% sample of the development area. The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains and therefore the site is considered to have low potential.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Matthew Smith, RPS Heritage, for commissioning this project on behalf of Wimpey Homes. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Andrew Smith and Rebecca Coombes. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Diana Chard and Benjamin Brown. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicky Scott.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Heritage to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire. The site is being considered for residential housing as part of the local community housing plan. A programme of 42 trenches were excavated across the site to investigate the archaeological potential.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref P16/S0970/O (Appeal Decision APP/Q3115/W/16/3161733)). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by RPS Heritage detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning condition (RPS 2019).
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located at Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire (grid reference SU 76799 79903; Fig. 1). The site is located on elevated ground above the Thames floodplain, on the second terrace gravels. The land gently descends from west to east, from an elevation of approximately 45-50m above ordnance datum (AOD), towards the floodplain, which is located approximately 300m to the east of the site. The River Thames is located a further 400m beyond that. The land within the site entirely comprises rough pasture (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is West Chalk of the Seaford and Newhaven formations. The bedrock is overlain by superficial gravel deposits of the Taplow formation (British Geological Survey Online, Geology of Britain Viewer, 2016).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site has previously been the subject of a desk-based assessment (EDP 2012). This concluded that documentary sources and map regression evidence from the 18th century onwards show that the proposed development site had been agricultural land from the medieval period up to the present day.
- 1.3.2 A significant quantity of flint artefacts has been recorded in the vicinity of the site, with two find spots of Palaeolithic hand axes in the immediate vicinity, reflecting its riverine edge environment. One was found c 450m to the south of the site in 1977 and a total of 49 hand axes were found during quarrying at Shiplake House Farm in the early 20th century. Sixteen unretouched flint flakes were found in 1963 on the edge of the quarry. Stray redeposited finds similar to the former are a possibility within the area of the site, but *in-situ* surface finds are not likely within the later Taplow gravels on which the site stands. No finds of Mesolithic date have been recovered from the site or the area around it, although the Thames floodplain would have been a favourable location for activity during this period.

- 1.3.3 Neolithic activity is evidenced by occasional find spots of flint artefacts from the wider area. There is potential for isolated finds of this type within the site relating to the expansion of Neolithic settlement from the Thames onto the higher ground.
- 1.3.4 No Bronze Age activity has been recorded in the wider area, but agricultural activity increased in the Thames Valley during the middle to late Bronze Age with extensive field systems appearing along the Upper Thames gravel terraces. Two undated enclosures identified 1km to the south-east of the site may date from this period.
- 1.3.5 Middle Iron Age activity is recorded 400m to the north-east of the site, where a palaeochannel and a cluster of pits provided evidence of flax retting. A late Iron Age gold hoard of 17 coins (dated to c 55 BC) was found by metal detectorists c 1km to the north-west of the site, though this is considered an isolated find and not related to nearby activity. Two possible cremation burials and refuse pits containing burnt flint, charcoal and prehistoric pottery were found during work on a water pipeline to the south-west of the site and these may suggest that there was associated settlement activity somewhere in the vicinity.
- 1.3.6 A Roman villa was excavated during the 1950 at the Henley golf course, Harpsden, to the north-west of the site. The villa contained a separate bath house and house complex. A second potential Roman building complex/villa and large potential Iron Age enclosure have also recently been identified at Highwood, 1km to the west of the site (SOAG pers. comm.). The two sites form part of a wider landscape of late Roman villa estates within the area.
- 1.3.7 A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery is recorded approximately 400m to the south-east of the site where two c 6th century pots were interpreted as cremation urns, highlighting the possibility of settlement of this date in the vicinity. A late Saxon or Viking spearhead was found in the Thames and may relate to features of Anglo-Saxon date excavated close to the River Loddon.
- 1.3.8 There is no evidence for medieval activity within the site or immediately surrounding area and there is no evidence of ridge and furrow within the site, suggesting that the site was under pastoral management throughout this and much of the post-medieval period.
- 1.3.9 In the post-medieval period the site appears to have been under mixed agricultural management and the two 18th-century barns to the north-east of the site, part of a rectangular arrangement of agricultural buildings, suggest an affluent farmstead in this period. Quarries and a lime kiln c 400m to the east of the site were probably worked from Bolney Court.
- 1.3.10 More recently the site formed part of a commercial garden centre.

## 1.4 Archaeological potential

- 1.4.1 Although there have been no archaeological remains recovered from the site to date and little from the immediately surrounding area, the site is located in a topographic position that represents a likely location for occupation activity in the period from the prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon periods, although this may have been tempered by the unfavourable soils for agriculture.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- ii. To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- iii. To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Oxfordshire HER.
- iv. To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- v. To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- vi. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- vii. To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed.

2.1.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas (Hey and Hind 2014).

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A programme of 42 30m by 2m trenches, representing a 4% sample of the development area, were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS. The trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to but at a safe distance from the trench edges.

2.2.2 Machining was undertaken in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending on which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of a machine.

2.2.3 The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type was excavated and recorded. Excavation was sufficient to resolve the principle aims of the evaluation.

2.2.4 The trench positions were slightly adjusted from the WSI locations, in order to avoid the water main running across the site. Trench 2 could not be laid out due to a fenced off area along the eastern side of the site, and Trenches 3 and 5 were shortened due to this fencing. All potential features within the trenches were investigated and the trenches were then archaeologically recorded. Once discussed with and signed off by the County Archaeologist, the trenches were then backfilled.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A.

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of silty gravel with patches of silty clay and chalk was overlain by a reddish brown silty sand subsoil, which in turn was overlain by ploughsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### **3.3 General distribution of deposits (Plates 2-6)**

3.3.1 All the trenches were similar with a 0.25–0.40m thick layer of dark brown silty sand topsoil overlying a 0.08–0.18m thick layer of dark reddish brown silty clay subsoil. This overlay the natural of flinty gravel with patches of silty clay and chalk. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches, though in Trench 15 two natural root holes were investigated and in Trenches 11 and 22 a number of modern features relating to the garden centre were also investigated and recorded.

### **3.4 Finds and environmental summaries**

3.4.1 No finds were recovered and no features suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

## **4 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Evaluation objectives and results**

4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken over a period of two weeks in good conditions. The majority of the trenches were dug at their proposed locations within only slight modifications necessary due to services and site fencing. The evaluation was therefore able to achieve good coverage of the proposed development area and the results can be considered to provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

### **4.2 Interpretation and conclusion**

4.2.1 The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains in the area of the development. In all the trenches the topsoil and subsoil were very sterile and no signs of ploughing were recorded. A small number of natural features were investigated as a precaution.

4.2.2 The evaluation suggests that the site was mostly open with occasional trees or shrubs present and may have been under pasture since the medieval period. The only signs of activity noted in the trenches were natural or modern features associated with the garden centre previously located at the site. Based on these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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RPS, 2019 Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation. Land at Thames Farm, Reading Road, Oxfordshire

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	18
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	18
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of thick layer of hardcore for hardstand with disturbed soil from construction works relating to the garden center overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.40	Hardcore	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.08	Disturbed soil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying two root holes in the natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1504	Cut	1.10	0.50	Root hole	-	-
1505	Fill	-	-	Fill of root hole	-	-

Trench 16						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.38
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.42
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1700	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.42
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1800	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.36
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
2000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.31
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
2100	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel. A number of modern features from the garden center were observed in trench but not recorded.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.36
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
2200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 26						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 27						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
2902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
3201	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
3202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
3401	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3501	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
3601	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
3602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 37						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
3701	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
3702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3801	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 39						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 40						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
4002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 41						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4101	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
4102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 42						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
4201	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
4202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



**APPENDIX B****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

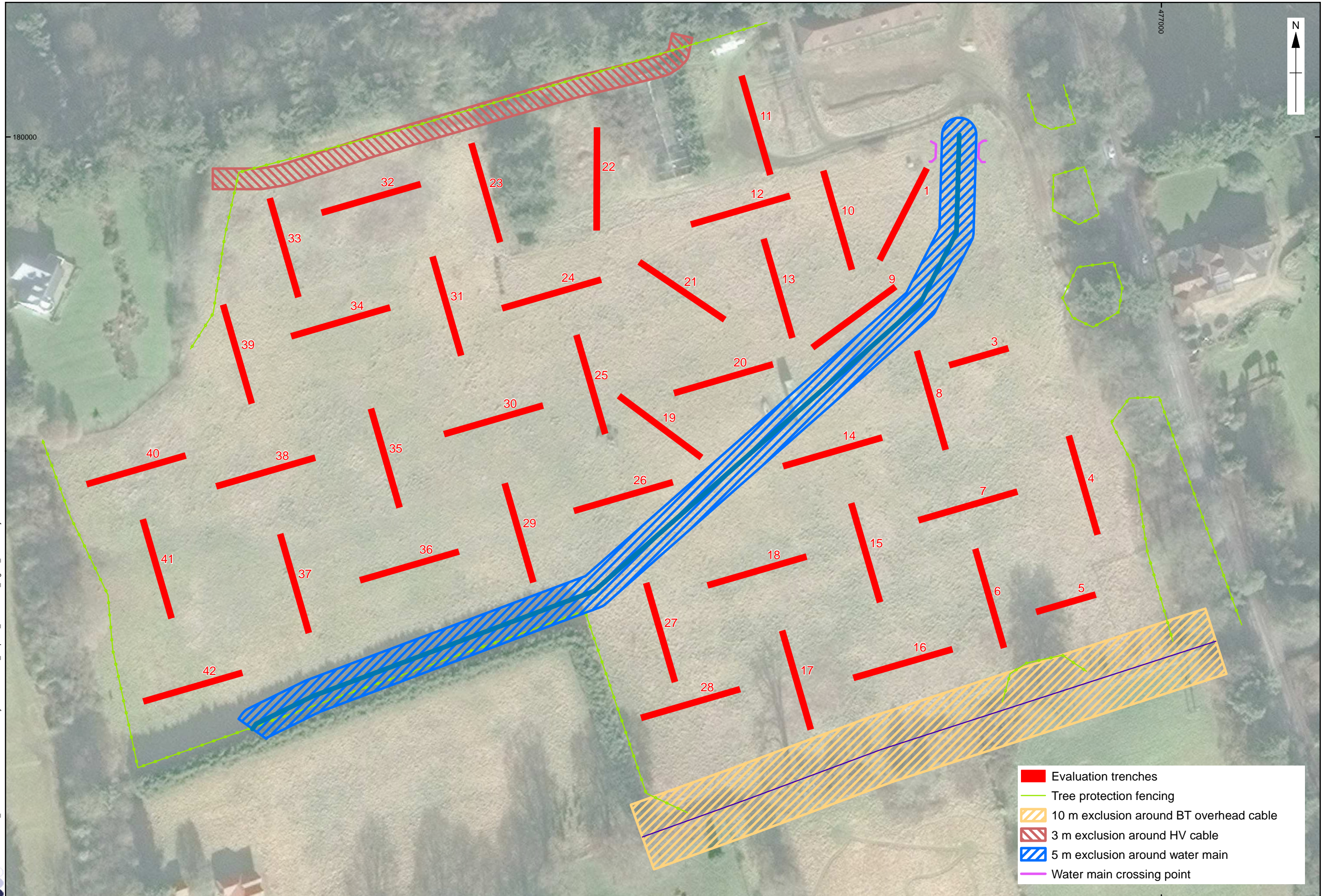
<b>Site name:</b>	Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire
<b>Site code:</b>	OXSLK 19
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SU 76799 79903
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	18/6/2019 to 27/6/2019
<b>Area of Site</b>	42 trenches 30m long and 1.8m wide.
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxford County Museum in due course, under the following accession code: OXCMS:2019.34.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Heritage to evaluate a site at Thames Farm, Reading Road, Shiplake, Oxfordshire, as part of a new housing development. The evaluation consisted of 42 trenches, representing a 4% sample of the development area. The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains and therefore the site is considered to have low potential.





Figure 1: Site location





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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 2: Trench layout





Plate 1: View of site prior to trenching.



Plate 2: View of Trench 27 looking north  
2x2m scales







Plate 3: View of Trench 35 looking north  
2x2m scales



Plate 4: View of Trench 30 looking east  
2x2m scales





Plate 5: View of Trench 26 looking west  
2x2m scales



Plate 6: View of Trench 24 looking west  
2x2m scales







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