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Site/Project Name

Maidenhead Shoppenhanger Road Tree Top

Site Code:

MATT06

Site/Project Type:

Watching Brief

Year(s):

2006

Accession Number:

REDMG:2006.078

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Site code[MATT 06]

Line 2: Excavators name[D. Dodds]

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MAIDENHEAD SHOPPENHANGER ROAD, TREE TOP MATT 06 Box 1 FILE 1

· INTRODUCTION

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## Banner Homes Group

# Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road Maidenhead, Berkshire

NGR SU 8843 8017

# Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning reference: 04/00962

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Planning permission (04/00962) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of thirteen 2 bed apartments with associated parking and access at land at Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8843 8017).
- 1.2 Due to the potential for below ground archaeological remains, a condition in the form of an archaeological watching brief during ground-works has been requested by Fiona Macdonald, Principle Archaeologist of Berkshire Archaeology on behalf of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. This is in accordance with PPG 16 and Local Planning Policies.
- 1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details how Oxford Archaeology (OA) would carry out the watching brief in accordance with the brief prepared by Fiona Macdonald, Principle Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology. The first part of the WSI is site specific while the Appendices detail general OA standards and procedures.

## 2 Location, Geology and Topography

2.1 The site is located at land at Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire NGR SU 8843 8017. The underlying geology is Boyn Hill terrace gravels. The site is currently occupied by a detached property and its garden.

## 3 Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The following information is reproduced from the Berkshire Archaeology Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief.
- 3.2 The site is identified as being of archaeological potential, due to a number of sites noted on the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record for this area. A rectangular enclosure (and possible earthwork) was observed through aerial photography prior to development of land to the west, and the site of a Roman

Villa has been postulated in the grounds of the nearby school, although evidence for this, other than a Roman vessel, is slim. A Neolithic axe has also been retrieved from this field. A cluster of Iron Age pits containing pot sherd and worked flint were excavated approximately 500 m north, and significant groups of Palaeolithic tools were also found.

## 4 Aims

- 4.1 To record the extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of the archaeological remains within the areas of the site affected by the proposed works.
- 4.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 4.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

## 5 Strategy

- 5.1 The watching brief shall monitor all areas of ground disturbance, including test pitting, topsoil stripping, ground reduction and the cutting of piling foundation or other trenches. All machining shall be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under strict archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 Provision will be made for taking environmental/organic samples in accordance with OA Environmental procedures (OA 2000). In the event of human remains being discovered, they will be left in situ and the coroner notified. If removal is necessary then a licence will be obtained from the Home Office.
- 5.3 Excavation of archaeological features will be undertaken to fulfil the basic objective of retrieval of archaeological data affected by the works.
- 5.4 All features and deposits will be issued with unique context numbers, and context recording will be in accordance with the established OA *Field Manual* (OAU 1992). All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs will be taken of all trenches and archaeological features.
- 5.5 All spoil heaps will be scanned by a metal detector to aid the retrieval of metal artefacts.
- 5.6 Site plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale (normally 1:50 or 1:100) with larger scale plans of features as necessary. Trench plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:100. Section drawings of features and sample sections of trenches will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Full trench sections will be drawn only if complex stratigraphy is present.

#### 6 Report and archive

- 6.1 A report of the findings will be produced within three weeks of the completion of fieldwork. Copies will be sent to the client, Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead District Council and the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record Office.
- The content and style of the report will be as defined in Appendix 8. 6.2
- The results of the project will be entered on to the OASIS online reporting 6.3 project.
- The site archive will be created in accordance with the guidelines published in 6.4 Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (UK Inst. for Conservation 1990) and standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections - see Appendix 8. The project archive will ultimately be deposited with the appropriate museum.

#### General

Appendices 7, 8 and 11 are relevant to this project.

#### References 8

Land at Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road, Maidenhead: Brief for . Archaeological Watching Evaluation

OA, 2000 OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling

OAU, 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D. Wilkinson)

## **OA 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, the archaeologist will excavate by hand and record these.
- 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 *OA 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 within both the site and 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. The 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

- 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,* the OA Health and Safety Policy, and any main contractors requirements.
- 11.5 A copy of the 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 The OA holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request.
- 11.7 The 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). 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

- 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 that 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.
- 11.14 Project Directors normally will be recognised in an appropriate Area of Competence by the IFA. For more extensive and complicated evaluation projects especially where they are part of large-scale programmes of work in historic urban centres, the procedures outlined in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition 1991 (MAP 2) will be followed for immediate post-field archive preparation and initial assessment. Agreement to then be reached, in collaboration with the local authority's archaeological representative, about what aspects will need to be taken forward to provide a report in the required format containing the information needed for planning purposes.

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# Tree Tops Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead Berkshire

#### **SUMMARY**

Between the 28th February and 3rd March 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8843 8017). The work was commissioned by Banner Homes PLC in advance of the construction of thirteen apartments and associated access. The watching brief revealed worked soil overlying natural deposits. No significant archaeology was encountered.

## 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 From the 28th February and the 3rd march 2006, Oxford Archaeology carried out a watching brief at Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (NGR: SU 8843 8017). The work was commissioned by Banner Homes PLC prior to the construction of thirteen new apartments (Planning Application 04/00962).

## 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site was previously a detached property and garden and lies on level ground at approximately 42 m above OD. The underlying geology is Boyn Hill terrace gravels.

## 1.3 **Methodology**

1.3.1 The work observed consisted of ground reduction across the site prior to commencement of construction. This was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5 m wide grading bucket under archaeological supervision. A maximum depth of 0.35 m of material was removed.

## 1.4 Description of deposits

1.4.1 The underlying natural, a compact coarse sand and flint gravel, overlaid by a reddish brown silty clay was exposed throughout the site. No features could be observed within the surface of these deposits. The natural was sealed by a very dark greybrown clay loam between 0.25 m and 0.3 m in depth. No dating evidence was recovered.

#### 1.5 Conclusion

1.5.1 The absence of features suggests that the development area had only been subject to agricultural use. The absence of ridge and furrow working would suggest that this use was pastoral.

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## Project details

Project name

Maidenhead, Shoppenhanger Road Tree Top

Short description of

the project

Between 28th February and 3rd March 2006 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Treetops, Shoppenhanger Road,

Maidenhead. The work was commissioned in advance of the construction of thirteen apartments and associated access. The watching brief revealed worked soil overlying natural deposits. No significant archaeology was

Project dates

Start: 28-02-2006 End: 03-03-2006

Previous/future work Not known / No

Any associated

project reference

codes

MATT 06 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference

codes

REDMG:2006.278 - Museum accession ID

Type of project

Recording project

Current Land use

Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type

N/A None

Significant Finds

N/A None

Investigation type

'Watching Brief'

Prompt

Planning condition

## **Project location**

Country

England

Site location

BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD MAIDENHEAD Shoppenhanger

Road, Tree Tops

Study area

1938.00 Square metres

Site coordinates

SU 8843 8017 51.5130412291 -0.725516464611 51 30 46 N 000 43 31 W

**Point** 

#### **Project creators**

Name of

Oxford Archaeology

Organisation

(No written brief issued)

Project brief originator

Project design originator

Oxford Archaeology

Project

D. Dodds

director/manager

Project supervisor

J. Mumford

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive Exists?

No

Digital Archive

Oxford Archaeology

recipient **Digital Contents** 

'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available

'Text'

Paper Archive recipient

Reading Museum

Paper Archive ID

REDMG:2006.278

**Paper Contents** 

'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available

'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

**Project** bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Tree Tops, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mumford, J Author(s)/Editor(s) Author(s)/Editor(s) Sims, M

2011 Date

Issuer or publisher Oxford Archaeology

Place of issue or publication

Oxford

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Entered on

21 November 2011

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Oxford Archaeology	WATCHING BRIEF REC	ORD		
SITE CODE MATT 06	SITE NAME TREE TOPS, MAIDENHEAD		DATE 29/3/06.	
NGR	County	Start Time	8,00	
	BERUS	Finish Time	8-30	
Milage	Previous Visit	Visit By J. M	UMFORD.	
Type of construction work	SOAKAWAYS.			
Contacts made βετε	SITE FOREMAN.			
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COMMENTS				
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MAIDENHEAD SHOPPENHANGER ROAD TREE TOP MATT OF BOX 1 FILE 4

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## **SCAN PDF**

## FILMING INSTRUCTIONS

Submitter OASouth No. of CD copies: 2

# Headings

Site information

Line 1: [OASouth] County:[Berkshire] Parish:[Maidenhead] Site:[Shoppenhanger Road TreeTops]

Site code[MATT 06]

Line 2: Excavators name[D. Dodds]

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	

	Oxford Arct	naeology	PF	IOTOGRAPHIC RECORD SHEET	
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