

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION
2	PROJECT BACKGROUND
3	AIMS
4	METHODOLOGY
5	STAFF
6	SURVEY CONTROL
7	RECORDING
8	POST-EXCAVATION
9	MONITORING
10	HEALTH & SAFETY
11	INSURANCE

55 VASTERN ROAD, READING, BERKSHIRE: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out details of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological mitigation at 55 Vastern Road, Reading, Berkshire (NGR: SU 7155 7414 centred), in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation and Watching Briefs*, issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2014) and complies with the principles of NPPF (2019).
- 1.2 Foundations Archaeology is certified to ISO 9001: 2015 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological and heritage services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice will be adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted on appeal for the redevelopment of land at 55 Vastern Road, Reading. The works require the demolition of a number of the existing structures and the erection of a new residential scheme of up to 209 units. This would include a new north-south pedestrian link connecting Christchurch Bridge to Vastern Road as well as drainage infrastructure and landscaping (Planning Application Number 190451, Planning Appeal PP/E0345/W/21/3276463).
- 2.2 The study area is located to the north of Vastern Road and to the south of the River Thames. To the west is residential housing and an electronic substation is present to the east.
- 2.3 The entire site occupies an area of approximately 0.8ha, however, approximately 0.25ha of this area contains extant buildings. The site area is roughly level at a height of 38m AOD.
- 2.4 The underlying geology is recorded as *Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated)* – Chalk with superficial deposits recorded as *Langley Silt Member - Clay and Silt* (BGS online viewer). A detailed programme of geotechnical investigation was undertaken across the site in 2018. A review of the geotechnical logs recorded a consistent horizon of modern made ground, measuring in general between 1.5m and 1.9m thick, and exceeding over 2m in depth in several locations. In proximity to Vastern Road, alluvial deposits underlying the made-ground measured

approximately 0.7m thick, increasing in thickness to between 2.5m and 3.5m adjacent to the River Thames frontage. The only peat like deposits recorded by the geotechnical investigations consisted of a band of organic material located within borehole 1003E adjacent to the western boundary, 0.6m thick, at a depth of 2.7m below ground level. All identified alluvial deposits sealed Kempton Park Gravel.

2.5 QUEST have recently carried out a programme of fieldwork and deposit modelling across the site (Project No. 003/20 September 2022), followed by a geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental assessment exercise (Project No. 003/20 October 2022). The results of this work is summarised below.

2.5.1 The results of the geoarchaeological deposit modelling have contributed to our understanding of the Holocene stratigraphic sequence in this area of the Thames Valley. Overlying the Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) bedrock at the site is a sequence of Late Devensian Lea Valley Gravel, Holocene alluvial deposits and variable thicknesses of Made Ground, which in places is likely to have truncated the alluvial sequence significantly. Interestingly, there appears to be no evidence for the Langley Silt as recorded at the site by the British Geological Survey. This would imply that the alluvium extends further south than mapped.

2.5.2 The alluvial sequences observed on site appear to be less organic than those observed elsewhere along this part of the Thames Valley. However, silty clay material was recorded that included numerous shells, and woody material in QBH3. Whilst not a peat, this alluvial unit was certainly more organic, and similar in composition to that recorded in neighbouring borehole BH102 from the Thames Cycle/Pedestrian Bridge site (Batchelor, 2014). Additionally, similar organic, sandy deposits with plant remains and mollusca have been recorded along the neighbouring Kennet Valley at Kenavon Drive in Reading (Young, 2013), and further afield at Ufton Nervet (Bell, pers. comm), Thatcham (e.g. Barnett, 2009) and Newbury (e.g. Ellis et al., 2003). Where recorded these have been dated to the Mesolithic/Neolithic period and have often contained either archaeological or geoarchaeological evidence of human activity.

2.5.3 The fieldwork and deposit modelled recommended that a palaeoenvironmental assessment was undertaken on VRR-QBH1 as this sequence contained an abundance of mollusca and some organic remains throughout the alluvium. The results of this assessment determined that organic-rich alluvium began to accumulate close to the river from the late Neolithic / early Bronze Age period. With the exception of molluscs, palaeoenvironmental remains (pollen, diatoms and macrofossils) were limited, and no further geoarchaeological / palaeoenvironmental analysis was recommended.

- 2.6 A desk-based assessment has been prepared by CgMs Ltd. (2019) for this proposal and this document should be read in conjunction with this WSI. However, the archaeological and historical background of this work is summarised below for ease:
- 2.6.1 **Palaeolithic:** A Palaeolithic hand axe was found in a drainage trench at Station Road, Reading (MRD9049, SU 71500 73650). Its rolled condition suggests it was derived from the Taplow gravels c.370m to the south of the study site. In addition, an ovate Palaeolithic hand axe was found on Vachel Road, c500m southwest of the study site (MRD9047, SU 712 737). These artefacts probably derived from the Taplow gravels which outcrop to the south of the study site.
- 2.6.2 The alluvial deposits associated with the River Thames which underlie the site are of Holocene date. Therefore, these deposits are considered to have no potential for in-situ of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic date, any isolated artefacts would be ex-situ and of intrinsic interest only.
- 2.6.3 In the Upper Palaeolithic, hunter-gathers exploited valley floor locations. However, in view of the lack of evidence locally, a low potential for in-situ remains and lithics (worked and waste flint) is suggested. Even if present, any deposits would be buried at considerable depth within and beneath alluvium. Accordingly, there is a low potential for Palaeolithic evidence on the site.
- 2.6.4 **Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age:** Geoarchaeological monitoring undertaken in 2014 during site investigation works associated with the construction of the Reading Pedestrian Bridge immediately to the north of the study site, identified in one borehole organic alluvial deposits. These deposits were thought to be located within a small channel at approximately 35m AOD, potentially dating to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period (QUEST 2014; ERM1552, SU 71639 74207).
- 2.6.5 In 1882, wooden piles were found associated with possible Mesolithic or Neolithic artefacts c.450m to the east of the site (MRD1303, SU 720 741). Due to the age and lack of detail regarding the discovery, it is difficult to establish the exact relationship between the piles and artefacts identified.
- 2.6.6 The Berkshire HER records a Mesolithic tranche axe, pick and blade dredged from the River Thames in the vicinity of the study site (MRD11164, SU 717 741), while further artefacts from this period have been recovered from the river at Caversham (MRD11150, MRD11202, SU 71500 74400). The provenance of these artefacts is uncertain and they are, therefore, not considered relevant to an assessment of the site's archaeological potential.

- 2.6.7 A Neolithic flint axe was found in St Laurence's Churchyard (MRD11209, SU 71690 73580) c400m to the southeast of the site, with a second example found at Forbury c500m to the southeast (MRD11181, SU 71800 73600). A number of Neolithic axes were recovered during the dredging of the River Thames at Reading (MRD11185, SU 71700 74100), including a Neolithic or Bronze Age cup at Caversham (MRD11228, SU 71500 74400).
- 2.6.8 The HER records the discovery of a Bronze Age axe head from the foundations of Caversham Lock approximately 450m to the east of the site (MRD11253, SU 72060 74030). Bronze Age artefacts were also dredged from the River Thames at Reading (MRD11218), while a Bronze Age spearhead is recorded as being recovered from the river at Caversham (MRD11227). There are no other Bronze Age sites or finds recorded on the HER within a 500m radius of the study site and the lack of evidence locally suggests that the site may have been unattractive for settlement, as a result of seasonal flooding, throughout this period.
- 2.6.9 Geoarchaeological investigations at Forbury Road, approximately 450m southeast of the site, recorded a possible palaeochannel thought to be prehistoric in origin (MRD16767, SU 7191 7373).
- 2.6.10 Based on the existing evidence, there appears to be a low potential for evidence of human activity associated with the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age periods within the site, but a moderate to high potential for geoarchaeological deposits of this date to be present at depth within the site, where not impacted by later activity.
- 2.6.11 **Roman and Iron Age:** Within Reading Borough there is little evidence for Iron Age settlement. Within the study area, the Berkshire HER has a single entry of Iron Age date, which records the discovery of an early Bronze brooch on Friar Street (MRD11254, SU 71500 73600) located c450m to the south of the site. The significance of Reading in the Roman period is dwarfed by the Roman town of Calleva at Silchester, c.14km to the southwest. Indeed, Calleva was the focus of the Roman road system in the area, but many goods must have been transported by river and it is possible that Reading could have been a port serving Calleva.
- 2.6.12 Within the study area the HER records the discovery of Roman coins on Vastern Road approximately 125m to the east of the site (MRD11296, SU 7173 7406), and on Greyfriars Road (MRD11262, SU 71260 73690) approximately 500m to the southwest. In addition, Roman pottery was recovered during archaeological investigations at the rear of 1 Friar Street, c.450m south of the study site (MRD15735, SU 71690 73584).
- 2.6.13 In view of the limited number of Iron Age and Roman sites and finds locally, a low potential is identified for such activity within the study site.

- 2.6.14 **Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval:** In 871 the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles record that the Danes entered Wessex at Reading. Sometime after this invasion, a rampart was built on the western edge of the settlement to defend, the side not protected by rivers. The line of the defences is thought to correspond with the north-south alignment of The Forbury (c.500m southeast of the study site) suggesting that the study site lay outside the limits of Danish settlement (MRD15633, SU 71690 73720).
- 2.6.15 The burial of a man and a horse was discovered in the 19th century near the engine sheds at Reading Station approximately 250m to the south of the study site (MRD3891, SU 71520 73900). A sword pommel found with the burial was dated to the 8th century, however its worn condition suggests the man was interred soon after 800 AD. The burial is believed to be Viking and from the Danish occupation of Reading. Further burials of this period was found near the Plummery Wall c.400m to the southeast of the site (MRD1388, SU 71770 73687).
- 2.6.16 A single sherd of pottery was recovered from a Post-Medieval pit during archaeological investigations at Shoemiths Court, c.450m south of the site (MRM16017, SU 71435 73659). A spearhead of possible Anglo-Saxon origin was found in a garden at Wolsey Road, c.450m to the north of the site (MRD11321, SU 71480 74640). Several Anglo-Saxon artefacts has been recovered from the River Thames at Reading (MRD11346, SU 717 741).
- 2.6.17 Due to the paucity of finds or features relating to this period found in proximity to the site, the potential for Anglo-Saxon remains to be present within the study site is considered to be low.
- 2.6.18 **Medieval:** The Domesday survey of 1086 records two manors at Reading, one belonging to Battle Abbey and the other to the King. During this period the study site lay within the estate of Battle Abbey, which included a church (possibly on the site of St Mary's Church c.580m south of the study site), 29 dwellings and 12 acres of meadows. The estate attached to Battle Abbey was recovered by Henry 1 in the early 12th century and in 1121 the King founded Reading Abbey on the newly acquired land.
- 2.6.19 During the 12th century, Medieval settlement, which centred around St Mary's, grew along Broad Street and Friar Street c.500m to the south of the study site. Archaeological investigations at sites along Friar Street have recorded the remains of Medieval buildings and evidence of domestic activity (99-105 Friar Street: MRD15535-MRD15547, 25-26 Friar Street: MRM16016-16014, 1 Friar Street: MRD15734-15735, street repairs: MRM16784). Additional evidence in this area for Medieval occupation derives from near The Plummery Wall c.400m to the southeast of the site (MRD1386 & MRD1387, SU 71768 73687).

- 2.6.20 In 1233 a community of Friars were given a plot of land to the west of Caversham Road, c.400m northwest of the study site. Here, the Friars are recorded to have built a timber church, chapter house, dormitory and refectory. However, because of the sites location on the floodplain the Friar's found that they were often cut off by mud and water. In 1282-5 the Friars moved to the west end of New Street (HER MRD3938 at SU 71216 73588).
- 2.6.21 In 1121 the King founded Reading Abbey on behalf of the Clunic Order. By the mid- 13th century, control of the Abbey had passed to the Benedictine Order. Within a hundred years Reading Abbey had become one of the ten wealthiest Abbey's in the country, only to have been ransacked and the land sold off following the Dissolution in 1539. The majority of HER records listed within the Scheduled area (c.500m to the southeast of the site) relate to key buildings and structural elements associated with the Abbey identified during the extensive archaeological excavations which have taken place on site, including the Chancel, Treasury, Chapter House, Infirmary, Cloisters and Church (MRD15552, SU 72002 7359; MRD15561, SU 72008 73578; MRD15556, SU 72017 73604; MRD15553, SU 72020 73598; MRD15562, SU 72003 73548; MRD15565, SU 72104 73578; MRD15560, SU 71985 73555). There is no intervisability between the Scheduled Monument and the study site, nor any associated significance.
- 2.6.22 Other contemporary religious institutions within Medieval Reading include St. Lawrence's Church and Hospitium of St. John the Baptist on Friars Street (MRD1398, SU 71710 73599; MRD15563, SU 71714 73609).
- 2.6.23 North of Gerrard Street the number of HER records attributed to the Medieval period declines considerable, consisting of a possible cut feature (MRM16558, SU 71329 73701), and recovery of a pilgrim bottle (MRD11398, SU 71120 73830) and pottery (MRD11371, SU 71480 73750), located c375m to the south and southwest of the site. This lack of evidence strongly implies that the study site lay at a distance beyond the Medieval settlement.
- 2.6.24 A Medieval arrowhead has been recovered from the River Thames at Reading (MRD11395, SU 71700 74100).
- 2.5.25 Later cartographic (1813 Plan of the Borough of Reading in J Man) shows the study site occupied by meadow called 'Vastern'. The name 'Vastern' is thought to be an early Medieval word meaning a wilderness or wasteland. During this period the study site lay outside the Medieval town, probably within water meadows. A low potential is identified for Medieval remains within the study site. However, the presence of contemporary field boundaries cannot be precluded.

- 2.6.26 **Post-medieval & Modern:** During the majority of the Post-medieval period, the site is likely to have remained within water meadows beyond the boundaries of the Post-medieval town. The earliest detailed depiction of the site derives from the 1807 Borough of Reading map showing the extent of the early 19th century settlement and surrounding environment. The location of the site falls within open ground presumed to be meadow or agricultural land.
- 2.6.27 The 1848 St. Lawrence Tithe map and associated Award record the site as being located within an extensive single filed plot recorded as meadow. Vastern Road is now forms the southern boundary of the site. The general layout of the site remains generally unaltered in 1864, although the Ordnance Survey plan does show field boundaries being present.
- 2.6.28 The Ordnance Survey map of 1879 provides a detailed view of the site confirming its use as meadow to the north of Vastern Road. The field boundaries shown on the map of 1864 are no longer present.
- 2.6.29 By 1899 the site and surrounding area has changed significantly. Land adjacent to Vastern Road has been developed consisting of a mix of both industrial and residential properties. The north part of the site is now occupied by a large 'Electrical Works', supported by a small ancillary building closer to Vastern Road. A small square ancillary building is shown in the eastern part of the site adjacent to a boundary running at a right angle to the River Thames. It is suspected that the Electrical Works were constructed within a five year period prior to the depiction on the 1899 map.
- 2.6.30 By 1912 the Electrical Works have expanded in size, although the small ancillary buildings previously noted are no longer shown. Fronting onto Vastern Road a 'Skating Rink' is now marked, abutted by a small property to the southeast which forms part of the access into the Electrical Works yard. This small property is still extant on site and has been designated by the Borough of Reading as a Locally Listed Building. The layout of the site remained predominately unchanged in 1932.
- 2.6.31 By 1957 the Electrical Works has been demolished, and by 1973 the Skating Rink has changed function to an 'Electricity Depot'. By 1979 new buildings have been constructed within the northern part of the site. The layout of site remains unaltered in 1993 The aerial view of 2003 confirms that the latest buildings constructed in the northern part of the site have been demolished, and with the exception of the existing buildings adjacent to Vastern Road, the site is in use as a car park. The layout of the site remains unaltered up to the present.
- 2.6.32 Overall the study site appears to have a low archaeological potential for the Post-medieval and Modern periods. The former presence within the site of

the late 19th century Electrical Works is considered to be of historical interest only.

- 2.6.33 **Neutral/Negative Evidence:** Two archaeological evaluations have taken place in proximity to the study site, both of which were located adjacent to the River Thames. Neither produced significant evidence of archaeological activity. In 1995, an archaeological evaluation located approximately 75m to the east of the site and consisting of sixteen trenches, only identified a single late Post-medieval ditch. Alluvial silty clays were encountered in all trenches at depths between 1.4m and 1.7m below ground level, sealed by a consistent horizon of made ground consisting of ash and cinders (ERM249, SU 71668 74046).
- 2.6.34 The evaluation undertaken at Brighton Road, c.200m to the west of the site, consisted of twelve trenches, with no archaeological features being recorded. Alluvial deposits were also identified which measured up to 2.5m thick adjacent to the river, sealed by made ground averaging 1.1m in depth (increasing to 1.7m deep in places) (ERD21, SU 71391 74248).
- 2.7 In light of the archaeological potential of this area, the archaeological adviser to Reading Borough Council requires a programme of archaeological mitigation for this development. This overarching WSI has been prepared to evaluate the potential of the site and recommend the mitigation stages of works for this project. Depending on how the works progress there may be a requirement to change the nature of the mitigation.
- 2.8 The main archaeological potential of the site is for the presence of finds and features from the Prehistoric period. This will not prejudice the mitigation works against features and finds associated with other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological mitigation are to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn, this will allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 These aims will be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
- ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
- iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
- iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
- v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The initial works will comprise the removal of the ground slab/concrete by the groundworkers to a maximum depth of 2m. If these modern layers continue beyond this depth, then they will be left *in-situ* and any necessary pile holes in these areas will be pre-drilled. The construction is likely to utilise CFA piles with a dimension of between 400-600mm and pile caps with maximum dimensions of 1200mm by 1200mm, the ground beam for the foundations of each building is likely to have a width of 600mm. Any necessary excavation for the construction of the piles and ground beams is to be kept as high as possible in order to minimise ground disturbance and limit the amount of material which will need to be removed from the site. Therefore, where possible, the modern made-ground layers will be left *in-situ* and formation levels are likely to be a maximum of 1m below the existing ground level.
 - 4.1.1 Due to the identification of contaminated soils, along with the presence of substantial ground slabs/concrete across the site, which in turn seal deep deposits of made-ground, it is not recommended that evaluation trenches be excavated as part of the archaeological works due to health and safety concerns. Instead, it is recommended that an archaeologist visit the demolition works periodically during the removal of the concrete slab (if health and safety protocols allow), to monitor the works and confirm that the material directly below the concrete levels are of Modern date and that no alluvial layers are being disturbed by these works. Once this modern material is removed or the site is reduced to formation depth; whichever is encountered first, a site visit will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist and the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology will be invited to attend. This visit will evaluate and assess the archaeological potential of the site and determine what

further works, if any, are necessary. At this time it is considered likely that they will consist of a watching brief during any necessary excavations for the ground beams and pile caps in areas where the Modern made-ground is thought to be shallow. It is not considered necessary to monitor any works for the piles themselves.

- 4.2 Where machine excavation is required this will be used only for the removal of overburden that has no archaeological significance. This will be achieved through use of a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. In the event that unexpected archaeological remains of high significance are discovered, work will cease and the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology will be notified in order that an assessment of the remains and suitable provision for their recording or preservation may be made.
- 4.3 All archaeological deposits and features that would be destroyed by the groundworks will be subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. Spoil tips will be visually scanned for finds, any recovered finds from non-contaminated soils will be retained for study during the post-excavation phase. Where excavation is required for the satisfactory assessment of archaeological deposits, a minimum 10% sample of all linear features will be excavated at appropriate intervals and all intersections, overlaps and terminals will be investigated. A minimum 50% sample of all non-linear features will be excavated.
- 4.4 Each excavation context will be excavated, wherever possible, in such a way as to produce at least one representative cross-section of the deposit.
- 4.5 Any human remains which may be encountered will initially be left *in-situ* and reported to the appropriate authorities. In the unlikely event that removal is necessary, this must comply with Ministry of Justice regulations and current archaeological best-practice.
- 4.6 Decisions about the relative value of archaeological deposits and features will be made in consultation with Berkshire Archaeology.
- 4.7 Suitable contexts will be subject to environmental sampling at an appropriate scale in accordance with the Centre for Archaeology Guidelines *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011). Decisions regarding which contexts are suitable for environmental sampling will be made on site in consultation with Berkshire Archaeology and, where necessary, the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor.
- 4.8 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, will be collected, bagged and labelled, unless located within contaminated soils, if this

is the case then the finds will be noted and discarded. Artefacts will be subject to preliminary study on site in order to help date archaeological features and contexts. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence will be treated in accordance with *First Aid For Finds*.

- 4.9 Normal conditions will apply with regard to finds ownership and the *Treasure Act* 1996.

5 STAFF

- 5.1 The field team will consist of a minimum of one experienced operative, which may be supplemented by additional staff as required. The project will be directed by Mr. R. King BA, MCIfA who has wide experience of performing, monitoring and managing fieldwork projects of different periods throughout Britain. He is the Director of Foundations Archaeology and is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 5.2 Specialists who are likely to advise and report on specific aspects of the project include Dr. Matilda Holmes (bone), Dr Rob Scaife (environmental coordinator), Dr Jane Timby and Roy King (pottery), Dr Lynne Bevan (small finds, glass and metalwork), and Dr. Chris Salter of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art (metalworking residue). Any other categories of specialist report will be provided by Museum of London Specialist Services.

6 SURVEY CONTROL

- 6.1 Horizontal survey control of the site will be by means of a coordinate grid, using metric measurements, relative to the National Grid. Where possible the geo-referenced survey control of the site will be carried out by the use of a Topcon FC-5000 GPS system.
- 6.2 Vertical survey control will be tied to the Ordnance Survey datum. Details of the method employed will be recorded, including the assumed height of the reference point.

7 RECORDING

- 7.1 All site recording will be undertaken in accordance with Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual).

- 7.2 Each archaeological feature or deposit will be recorded by means of a measured plan at an appropriate scale. Spot heights will be taken on the deposit and their location recorded on the plan.
- 7.3 Cross-sections will be recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale. The height of a datum on the drawing will be calculated and recorded. The locations of cross sections will be recorded either on the site plans, or relative to the site grid. Cut features will be recorded in profile and plan at an appropriate scale and their location accurately identified.
- 7.4 All drawn records will be clearly marked with a unique site number and will be individually identified. The scale of the plan will be recorded. All drawings will be drawn on dimensionally stable media. All plans will be drawn relative to the site grid and at least two grid references marked on each plan.
- 7.5 Each archaeological context will be recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context will be recorded. Foundations Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets will be used throughout. An index will be kept of all record types. All trenches will be recorded even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 7.6 An adequate digital photographic record of the excavation will be compiled. Each excavation context will be recorded photographically prior to removal. All photographs will feature an appropriately sized scale.

8 POST-EXCAVATION

- 8.1 A typescript report will be prepared immediately site works are completed to fulfil the requirements set out in the specification. This will include a full written description and interpretation of the results, including specialist reports. The report will contain a front sheet which will detail the following: Site name, NGR, Site activity, Date and duration, Site code, Area of site, Summary of results, Monuments identified (referenced to the Thesaurus of Monument Types) and Location of the archive. All recording, cleaning and conservation of finds will comply with ClfA Guidelines for Finds Work.
- 8.2 The report will be fully illustrated with drawings to an appropriate scale showing location, trench layout, recorded features and deposits, trench plans and section drawings. The report will be produced within two weeks of completion of fieldworks unless delayed by circumstances beyond the control of Foundations Archaeology. In some cases specialist reports (e.g. Radiocarbon dating) may take several months to be produced. In such circumstances an interim report will be provided.

- 8.3 An indexed and internally consistent archive will be prepared in accordance with MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006) and Foundations Archaeology's internal quality control systems which are certified to ISO 9001: 2015. These standards comply with *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1994). Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the finds and the site archive with the appropriate museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork using their specific deposition guidelines, although the archive will be stored by Foundations Archaeology until suitable facilities become available.
- 8.4 Copies of the report, in paper and digital format, will be supplied to Berkshire Archaeology and an additional copy will be deposited with the site archive. The report will become a public document after a period not exceeding six months.
- 8.5 The report will be published in an appropriate form in a relevant journal within 12 months from completion of fieldwork. An OASIS record will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project.
- 8.6 Copies of all photographs will be supplied to the HER as required.

9 MONITORING

- 9.1 An appropriate level of monitoring will be undertaken by Berkshire Archaeology.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1 The evaluation will be undertaken with regard to all relevant Health and Safety legislation, in accordance with the *Foundations Archaeology Health and Safety Manual* (2017).

11 INSURANCE

- 11.1 Foundations Archaeology carries appropriate levels of Public Liability, Employers Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Copies of the certificates are available on request.

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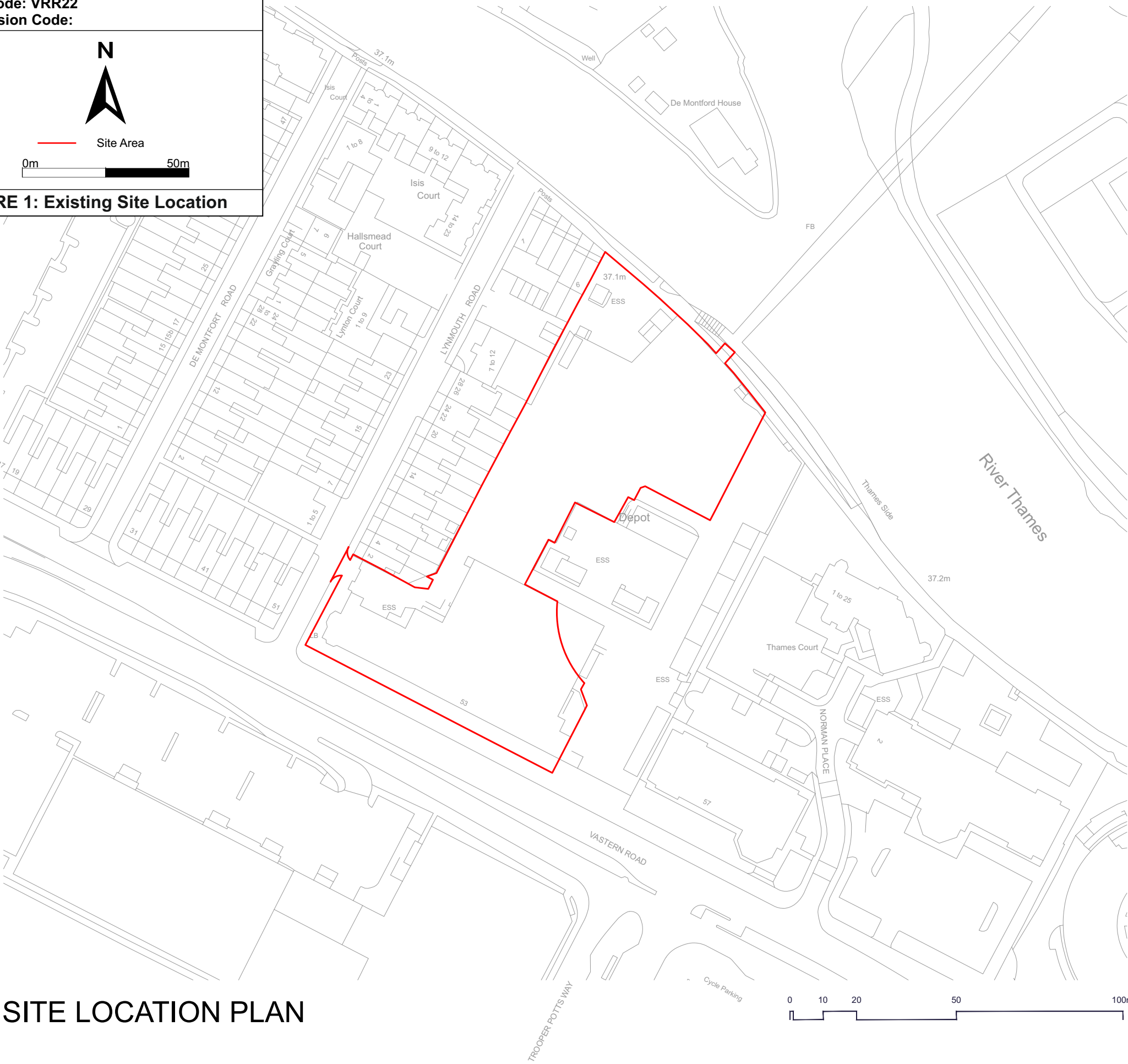
Site Code: VRR22
Accession Code:

N

Site Area

0m50m

FIGURE 1: Existing Site Location



SITE LOCATION PLAN

notes

KEY

APPLICATION AREAS

SITE BOUNDARY

S106 REDLINE

revision

date

prepared

description

B

05.02.20

TN

Minor amendments to boundary

Berkeley

Designed for life

Berkeley House
Farnham Lane
Farnham Royal SL2 3RQ

T: 01753 784400
F: 01753 646855
www.berkeleygroup.co.uk

project

Vastern Road

drawing

Site Location Plan
S106 Boundary

date

March 2020

scale @ a3

1:1250

drawn

-

drawing number

448.PL.SL.001

revision

B