



Taplow Quarry, Taplow, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment





**TAPLOW QUARRY,
TAPLOW,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Desk Based Assessment

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**TAPLOW QUARRY,
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Summerlease Limited commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment in support of a Planning Application for the extraction of gravel on land to the south east of Taplow, Buckinghamshire (application area centred on NGR 491370 181658). Planning permission was granted for the extraction of aggregate in two previous phases, located to the east of the current application area. Phase 1 (Wessex Archaeology reference 61051) has been completed and is in the process of being restored, gravel is currently being extracted from Phase 2 (Wessex Archaeology reference 61052).

The desk based assessment reviews previous submissions to the Council regarding various phases of works related to the Site, however despite recent approval of the adjacent areas the Curatorial Officers feel that a desk based assessment for Phase 3 is required prior to a Planning Application being considered. This report also takes into account the ongoing programme of archaeological works at the Site and information previously submitted with the Written Schemes of Investigation for Phases 1 and 2 (Wessex Archaeology reference 61051.01 and 61052.01).

The assessment does not include geoarchaeological reports, produced by Wessex Archaeology as part of the ongoing mitigation already imposed as a Planning Condition on the existing Phases of extraction, although reference is made to them (Wessex Archaeology Project Code 61053).

The recent archaeological interventions at the quarry have recorded features dated to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. The area then appears to go into decline until the establishment of a post-medieval field system, parts of which are extant. This later activity on the Site is illustrated in a rectilinear pattern of post-medieval field boundaries, the orientation of which is still maintained in the present boundaries surrounding the Site.

The proposed extension to the existing quarry is located to the west of the current operations and the proposed boundary lies within an area that aerial photographs have shown to be clear of archaeology. As with the previous submission for the Haul Road the extension area has been designed to avoid the known archaeology depicted on the aerial photograph.

During a monitoring visit covering the Phase 2 gravel extraction the County Curatorial Officer intimated that the same Strip, Map and Record exercise could be applied to the adjacent proposed Phase 3.

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Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mick Lowe Esq, Director, of Summerlease Limited who funded the assessment. Wessex Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and advice of Julia Wise, Sites and Monuments Officer, and David Radford, Archaeological Officer at, Buckinghamshire County Council and also the staff at the Buckinghamshire County Record Office for their assistance.

A thank you is also extended to Steve Bowley for his advice and assistance and for providing the OS Base Mapping for the report.

This report was researched and compiled by Alice Hobson and Peter Reeves and the illustrations were prepared by Kitty Brandon. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Peter Reeves.

**TAPLOW QUARRY,
TAPLOW,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE****Archaeological Desk Based Assessment****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Summerlease Limited (the Client) commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an Desk Based Assessment as part of the Planning Application for the extraction of gravel at Taplow Quarry, Taplow, Buckinghamshire (the Site), located at NGR 491370 181658 (site centred). The proposed extraction area (Phase 3) is an extension to the existing adjacent quarry (Phases 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The document also suggests the strategy and methodology for the third stage of the archaeological works on the site of the proposed extension to the quarry at Taplow, Buckinghamshire (Original Planning Application SBD/8214/99).
- 1.1.3 The objective of this Archaeological Assessment is to appraise the archaeological potential of the Site by the collation of known archaeological and historical information within a 750 m search area centred on the Site, in order to identify potential archaeological and cultural heritage impacts and constraints.

1.2 Landscape and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site, centred on NGR 491370 181658, is set within a single large field currently unused and covered in rough pasture.
- 1.2.2 Taplow lies approximately 0.5km to the east of the River Thames, between Maidenhead to the West and Slough to the East. The site of the quarry and access road (the Site) lies within open, level arable land approximately 0.5km to the south of Taplow (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area consists mainly of river terrace gravel, the Taplow Gravels, which in turn overlay chalk deposits belonging to the Upper Cretaceous. These deposits are sealed by an approximately 1m thick layer of brick earth.

2 METHODOLOGY**2.1 Scope**

- 2.1.1 The aim of this assessment is to detail the known information relating to archaeology and the historic environment and to assess the potential for the presence of previously unknown elements that may be impacted by the proposed mineral extraction within Phase 3.

- 2.1.2 The Historic Environment Resource within a 750m radius centred on the Site has previously been considered for Phases 1 and 2 in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource (Phase 3 falls within the same search parameter). This is referred to as the Study Area (**Figure 1**).

- 2.1.3 A brief summary of the sources consulted is given below.

2.2 Research

- 2.2.1 A number of publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information were consulted.

Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

- 2.2.2 Buckinghamshire County Council maintains a database of all recorded archaeological sites, findspots and archaeological events within the county including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments. The database was consulted for this report and a synthesised summary of the records located within the Study Area is presented in the Gazetteer in **Appendix 1** and is illustrated on **Figure 1**. Wessex Archaeology has assigned a unique number (**WA**) to the original SMR entries.

- 2.2.3 This database is not a record of all *surviving* elements of the Historic Environment but is a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the Historic Environment. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the Historic Environment that are at present unknown.

- 2.2.4 This assessment updates the previously known data with the Watching Brief undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology Trust on the water main that circumvents the quarry site, and refers to the archaeological recording undertaken to date by Wessex Archaeology in Phases 1 and 2.

- 2.2.5 Within the proposed Phase 3 extraction area there are no SMR records recorded, although cropmarks observed on an aerial photograph are located to the south (**WA 19**).

Legislative and Planning Documents

- 2.2.6 Buckinghamshire County Council has statutory duties regarding the control of development. With regard to archaeological sites, Buckinghamshire County Council have taken account of central government guidelines in the form of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)*, issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990.

- 2.2.7 The results of a review of this legislation and where relevant details of any statutory designations such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments are included in **Section 3** of this report.

Documentary Sources

- 2.2.8 A search of other relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out digitally, through the Buckinghamshire Record Office and in Wessex Archaeology's own library. The sources consulted are listed in the appendix 1.

Cartographic Sources

- 2.2.9 A search of historic manuscripts and Ordnance Survey maps was undertaken. The study of maps and other associated historical sources helps to clarify the archaeological potential of the Study Area in two ways. Firstly, it suggests aspects of the medieval and later land-use prior to its modern development. Secondly, it pinpoints areas within the Study Area which, as a result of that development, are likely to have become archaeologically sterile. The maps relevant to the Site are listed in the References section (**Appendix 2**, below).

Aerial Photographs

- 2.2.10 Under certain conditions sub-surface archaeological features can be visible on Aerial Photographs (AP's). Transcriptions of AP's of the Study Area were obtained from the SMR, and AP's forwarded by the client were also reviewed as part of this report. However the site has been extensively remodelled since the post-medieval period and any original landscape features had been long removed prior to the onset of aerial photography.

Site Visit

- 2.2.11 The Site has been visited prior to the preparation of this report- to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the Site and to identify any potential impacts not evident from documentary sources. Wessex Archaeology has conducted work on behalf of the client on this site for over three years. With this knowledge, The Site was assessed with specific attention to the area covered by the proposed Phase 3 extraction, for an overview of potential indirect visual impacts and to gauge potential direct impacts.

Best Practice Guidance

- 2.2.12 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (IFA 1994 revised September 2001).

Assumptions

- 2.2.13 The SMR data consists of secondary information derived from varied sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

2.3 Legislative and Planning Background**National Legislation and Planning Guidance***Archaeology*

- 2.3.1 The main legislation concerning the protection of important archaeological sites is the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (as amended). This act provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Monuments (SMs). Under this act Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) must be sought for any works which may affect a designated Scheduled Monument.
- 2.3.2 The principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of the archaeological resource within the planning process is

Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990. The underlying principle of this guidance is that archaeological resources are non-renewable, stating that:

...Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. (Para. 8)

Paragraph 19 states:

In their own interests...prospective developers should in all cases include as part of the research into the development of a site...an initial assessment of whether the site is known or likely to contain archaeological remains.

Paragraph 22 adds:

Local Planning Authorities can expect developers to provide the results of such assessments ...as part of their application for sites where there is good reason to believe there are remains of archaeological importance.

In addition paragraph 25 advises:

2.3.3 Paragraph 25 adds:

'Where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case and that development resulting in the destruction of the remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself, before granting planning permission, that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains. Such excavation and recording should be carried out before the development commences, working to a project brief prepared by the planning authority and taking advice from archaeological consultants.'

2.3.4 PPG 15 provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other areas of the historic environment and compliments the guidance on archaeology and planning given in PPG 16.

2.3.5 With specific regard to the setting of Listed Buildings paragraph 2.17, Section 2 of PPG 15 states:

'Local planning authorities are required under section 67 of the Act to publish a legal notice of all applications they receive for planning permission for any development which, in their opinion, affects the setting of a listed building. This provision should not be interpreted too narrowly: the setting of a building may be limited to obviously ancillary land, but may often include land some distance from it.'

2.3.6 Section 4 of PPG 15 focuses on Conservation Areas, paragraph 4.1 states:

'Section 69 of the Act imposes a duty on local planning authorities to designate as conservation areas any 'areas of special architectural or

historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.'

2.3.7 Paragraph 4.4 states:

'The definition of an area's special interest should derive from an assessment of the elements that contribute to (and detract from) it. Conservation areas vary greatly, but certain aspects will almost always form the basis for a coherent assessment: the topography; thoroughfares and property boundaries and its historical development; the archaeological significance and potential; the prevalent building materials; the character and hierarchy of spaces; the quality and relationship of buildings in the area and also of trees and other green features.'

2.3.8 Paragraph 4.18 adds:

'Local planning authorities will often need to ask for detailed plans and drawings of proposed new development, including elevations which show the new development, including elevations which show the new development in its setting....'

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Palaeolithic (500,000BC-10,000BC)

The Site

3.1.1 There are no known archaeological remains of this period within the Site and none were recorded from the Phase 1 and Phase 2 extraction areas. It should be noted here that in addition to the archaeological Strip, Map and Record mitigation imposed upon the already extracted areas a rolling monitoring programme recording the archaeogeological landscape has failed to record any deposits or artefacts from this period (Wessex Archaeology reference 61053).

3.1.2 In conjunction with the above monitoring programme, the deposits extracted from the existing quarry pass through large screens, no artefacts relating to human activity or Pleistocene mega faunal activity in the area has been retrieved.

Study Area

3.1.3 To the north-west of the study area an abraded flint flake and pointed hand-axe were discovered (**WA1**).

3.1.4 In the nineteenth century a number of very abraded flint implements along with large quantities of mammal bones and teeth were found in and around excavations associated with the nearby railway, close to the southern boundary of the Site (**WA 2**) and to the east (**WA 3**).

Mesolithic (10,000-4,000BC)

The Site

3.1.5 There are no known archaeological remains of this period within the Site.

Study Area

- 3.1.6 A flint blade, core and blade/flake were found approximately 500m to the north of the Site during the late nineteenth century (**WA 4**).
- 3.1.7 No flint artefacts or deposits dating to the Mesolithic period have been recorded from the archaeological Strip, Map and Record exercise conducted on the adjacent Stage 1 and Stage 2 areas. No further Mesolithic artefacts have been identified in the area.

Neolithic (4000BC-2400BC)*The Site*

- 3.1.8 There are no entries for material from this period within the proposed Phase 3 extraction area.

Study Area

- 3.1.9 Two separate discoveries of a flint axe and core (**WA5**) and some flakes (**WA7**) are recorded to the north of the Study Area.
- 3.1.10 At the western limit of the study area, archaeological excavations in advance of flood alleviation works located a multi-period site containing flint artefacts and features from the Neolithic, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Periods (**WA6**).
- 3.1.11 Some residual flint possibly dating to the Neolithic (no clear cut diagnostic types) has been retrieved from the subsoil and has been found in re-deposited material during the adjacent Strip, Map and Record exercise, however no evidence for settlement or intensive use of the landscape during this period has been observed.

Bronze Age (2400BC-700BC)*The Site*

- 3.1.12 There are no known archaeological remains of this period within the Site.

Study Area

- 3.1.13 A number of Bronze Age pottery sherds have been retrieved from pits and ditches recorded during the recent excavations on the Stage 1 and Stage 2 areas. The finds suggest a presence although the features are limited to those associated with a field system. No evidence of a Bronze Age settlement has been recorded.
- 3.1.14 Outside of the Study Area lies the site described in paragraph 3.1.10 above and a further site (**WA10**), also found during the flood alleviation works, where possible Bronze Age pottery was found within a midden.
- 3.1.15 Approximately 100m beyond the Study Area, to the north-west, lies Taplow Hillfort (**WA8**) the earliest phases of which date to the Late Bronze Age.

Iron Age (700BC- AD43) and Romano-British (AD43-410)*The Site*

- 3.1.16 There are no known archaeological remains dating to either of these periods within the Site. The southern boundary of the Site has been chamfered so

as to avoid features potentially dating to this period that have been observed in aerial photographs and proven by a client requested geophysical survey.

- 3.1.17 Some of the features observed in the aerial photographs and the geophysical survey commissioned for the central field that might date to this period, appear to continue into the southern end of the Phase 3 extraction area. However these features relate to field/land divisions rather than settlement and would appear to continue the trend recorded in the recently excavated Phase 1 and 2 areas.

Study Area

- 3.1.18 A single find of an Iron Age pottery sherd is recorded within the Study Area (**WA9**).
- 3.1.19 Beyond the Study Area lies the site described in 3.1.10 above and Taplow Hillfort (**WA8**) which was strengthened and occupied during the Iron Age.
- 3.1.20 Two Romano-British urns containing 400-500 silver coins were found approximately 100-200m to the south of the Site (**WA11**).
- 3.1.21 A Romano-British site was located just beyond the north-west limit of the Study Area (**WA12**). Finds included pottery, bone, daub and slag.
- 3.1.22 During 2004 Cotswold Archaeology Trust undertook a Watching Brief and recording exercise along the route of two 600mm diameter water mains that circumvent the Site. Ditches and pits dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British period were recorded as the route progressed around the south west corner of the Site.
- 3.1.23 The draft report, which is held by the SMR, shows a concentration of features, possibly denoting a settlement, located toward the northern edge of the Search Area. The scatter of features recorded to the south west of the proposed Phase 3 extraction area is no greater than that observed throughout the current phase of recording on the Phase 2 area.
- 3.1.24 The Strip, Map and Record exercise on Phase 1 and 2 (Wessex Archaeology project codes 61051 and 61052) undertaken throughout 2006 and 2007 has recorded ditches and pits containing ceramic material dating to this period. It should be noted that significantly little material was retrieved from the Phase 1 or northern most area (Wessex Archaeology reference 61051).
- 3.1.25 Previous research undertaken for the Site has indicated, based on aerial photographic evidence, that numerous features that may be associated with a prehistoric settlement are located in the field to the south of the proposed extraction area. The client has retained a 10m buffer zone between these features and the proposed extraction area (**Figure 2**).

Saxon (AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066 -1499)

The Site

- 3.1.26 There are no known archaeological remains dating to either of these periods located within the Site.

Study Area

- 3.1.27 A probable Anglo-Saxon burial was found just beyond the north-west limit of the Study Area (**WA16**).
- 3.1.28 Beyond the Study Area, evidence for a Saxon building (**WA13**) and a burial (**WA14**) were found within Taplow Hillfort. Also within the hillfort lies Taplow Barrow (**WA15**) which was excavated in the nineteenth century and found to contain a Saxon burial.
- 3.1.29 No artefacts or features dating to the Saxon period were found during the course of the Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology Trust 2004) or throughout the duration of the Strip, Map and Record exercise (Wessex Archaeology 2006 and 2007).

Post-Medieval (AD 1500 – 1799) to Modern

The Site

- 3.1.30 The SMR records no sites or artefacts from within the proposed Phase 3 extraction area. It should be noted that there are no agricultural field boundaries set out in a map dated 1785 (**Figure 3**) or the 1888 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (**Figure 4**). The proposed extraction area lies in an apparent common or area of waste.

Study Area

- 3.1.31 There are two entries recorded in the SMR falling within the Search Area.
- 3.1.32 To the west of the Study Area are the gardens of Berry Hill House (**WA17**), a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. The nineteenth century house itself was short lived and has been demolished.
- 3.1.33 To the north west of the Site is located Taplow House (**WA18**) a Grade II Listed Building which was built in 1751. However the building was extensively altered and extended during the late nineteenth century.
- 3.1.34 The Strip, Map and Record exercise has detected ditches that are post-medieval to modern in date. These ditches may relate to the former layout of fields in the immediate area, although the mapping shows no regular field system the 1787 Inclosure Map (**Figure 3**) is annotated with allotments and a couple are illustrated across an otherwise open landscape.
- 3.1.35 The original quarry, located to the south east of the current workings was opened during the nineteenth century it is thought it was opened for the construction of the Great Western Railway. The 1888 OS 1st Edition illustrates a spur linking the quarry into the main line (**Figure 4**).

Unknown

- 3.1.36 Although undated, a cropmark complex (**WA 19**) possibly dating to the Iron Age or Romano-British period has been identified on aerial photographs to the south of the proposed extension. Centred and predominantly located in the field to the south of the field containing the proposed Phase 3 extension the cropmarks comprise rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures, trackways, linear features and pits.

- 3.1.37 The recent Strip, Map and Record exercises undertaken by Wessex Archaeology throughout 2006 and 2007 recorded a trackway with parallel boundary ditches headed toward the concentration of features indicated on the aerial photograph. Results from the recent excavations suggest a date within the Iron Age/ Romano-British period. The trackway and other, associated ditches, which are interpreted as components of a field system, are of the same date.

4 EXISTING AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

4.1 Potential Impacts

- 4.1.1 The potential impacts of the extraction of mineral from the Phase 3 area, and the construction of any associated infrastructure that could result in effects on the Historic Environment resource, are:

- Temporary land take;
- Permanent severance of sites/monuments;
- Excavation, ground disturbance and compaction; or
- Areas used for stockpiling.

- 4.1.2 These impacts could lead to the following effects on the Historic Environment resource:

- Complete or partial loss of an archaeological feature or deposit;
- Loss of the physical and/or visual integrity of a feature, monument or group of monuments;
- Damage to resources due to compaction, desiccation or water-logging; or
- Damage or loss due to excavation.

4.2 Existing Impacts

- 4.2.1 Under its present land use, rough pasture, there are no impacts upon the cultural resource.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section of the report details the archaeological constraints in terms of the proposed development and is based on information derived from the sources listed in the **Methodology**, taking into account the likely effects of previous land use on the preservation of potential remains.

5.2 Legislative and Planning Constraints

- 5.2.1 For ease of reference details of any statutory and/or local planning designations are detailed separately below.

Scheduled Monuments

- 5.2.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments recorded within the Site or the Search Area.

- 5.2.3 The Scheduled Monument that is recorded at Taplow Court (**WA 13** and **14**, which are collectively scheduled as SM 19050) is so remote from the Site that none of the components are either indirectly or directly impacted upon by the proposed mineral extraction.
- 5.2.4 Taplow Court is screened from the Site by intervening development and screens of existing hedgerows and the recently established planting scheme at Berryhill Farm.

Listed Buildings

- 5.2.5 Taplow House is a Grade II Listed Building (**WA 18**) and is located to the north west of the proposed extraction area. The original building has been much altered and added to during the nineteenth century. Taplow House, now a hotel will not be directly impacted upon. Throughout the duration of mineral workings an indirect visual impact will result in a change in view from the south, however as access to the public is already restricted this is regarded as minor.
- 5.2.6 The screening has previously been noted in a report submitted to Buckinghamshire County Council, as an Assessment of Potential Mineral Sites, Site 7 Berry Hill Farm, Taplow, for the Minerals Development Framework in December 2006 (Jacobs).

Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and Historic Battlefields

- 5.2.7 No Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens or Historic Battlefields are recorded within the Site.
- 5.2.8 A Grade II Registered Park and Garden is recorded for the gardens that were associated with the now demolished Berry Hill House (**WA 17**). The gardens are located 400 m to the west of the proposed extension and are separated from the clients land by Berry Hill road. Established trees and hedgerows along the boundary of the garden act as an effective screen from the proposed workings.
- 5.2.9 The edge of the Taplow Conservation Area is located 250 m to the northwest of the proposed Phase 3 extraction area. In addition to the Jacobs report (2006), the Taplow Conservation Area Appraisal prepared by South Buckinghamshire District Council in March 2007 notes that the visual aspect of the Conservation Area is well screened.
- 5.2.10 The mineral extraction is within a confined area and will have no visual impact on any of the above. The operator has no plans to erect infrastructure on the Site and all workings will occur below present ground level.

5.3 Map Regression

- 5.3.1 The earliest map analysed for the assessment and reproduced in part as **Figure 3** was the Inclosure Map for Taplow, dated 1787. The existing quarry and area of proposed expansion fall within a large open area annotated as Town Field for Tythe of Open Field. Within the open area a couple of small strips or allotments of land are scattered.

5.3.2 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1888 and reproduced in part as **Figure 4** continues to show the area as a large open space. The south east corner of the field is annotated as a gravel pit and a railway spur links the workings to Great Western Railways Bristol to London Mainline.

5.3.3 Throughout subsequent editions of the historical mapping (none illustrated) the layout of the area remains consistent.

5.4 Site Walkover

5.4.1 A specific site visit was not undertaken to review the Phase 3 area, Wessex Archaeology have been undertaking archaeological works on behalf of the Client at the Site for the last three years and the area currently being assessed is traversed to gain access to already extracted areas.

5.4.2 Full access to the Site was granted by Summerlease Limited. The Site is located within a single large field that gently rises from the west to the east, the existing Phase 1 and 2 extraction areas are located at the top of this rise. The extant haul road passes through the centre of the Phase 3 area and it is proposed that the area to the north is worked first followed by the area to the south.

5.4.3 The Listed Building (**WA 18**) is visible from the Site however recently planted screening bunds will rapidly obscure any direct view. During the summer months the views toward this building is significantly reduced by tree growth and leaf cover within the attached grounds.

5.4.4 The Registered Park and Garden (**WA 17**) can not readily be discerned from the Site during the winter months when vegetation growth is lower and lessened. The garden is completely indiscernible throughout the growth season.

5.4.5 The Site is a featureless expanse of rough pasture. The area contains no earthworks or upstanding remains and no archaeological artefacts have been observed on its surface.

5.5 Hedgerows

5.5.1 The Site is located within a large open field and therefore there are no development constraints present specifically with regard to hedges and boundaries.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of Archaeological Constraints

- 6.1.1 The archaeological recording and research undertaken to date combined with the interpretation of the cropmarks evident on the aerial photograph and the results of the geophysical survey indicate that there is reasonable potential for archaeological remains associated with an enclosure located to the south of the proposed extension area to be present.
- 6.1.2 The evidence on the aerial photograph suggests a group of enclosures, possibly a settlement, is located in the southern field with an outlying field system located to the north and east. Elements of the field system appear to extend into the southern part of the proposed Phase 3 area. The enclosure would have been reached by a trackway, recorded during the recent Strip, Map and Record exercise on the Phase 1 and 2 areas, this trackway does not traverse through Phase 3.
- 6.1.3 The aerial photograph shows no significant archaeological features within the proposed extension area and those that are present are related to the post-medieval field system recorded by Wessex Archaeology on the Stage 1 area.
- 6.1.4 The geophysical survey (Archaeophysics, 2007) has also failed to detect significant deposits across the Phase 3 area and confirms the details shown on the photograph. The survey confirms the decision by the Client to chamfer the southern edge of Phase 3 due to the previously observed crop marks.
- 6.1.5 The potential for the Site as a whole and for the current proposals can be summarised as follows:
- The results obtained and recorded in a series of reports (Wessex Archaeology reference 61053) generated from the ongoing geoarchaeological monitoring of the extraction of gravel at the quarry regards the potential for the presence of Palaeolithic artefacts as **Low to Very Low** within the Site.
 - There is a **Very Low** potential for Mesolithic archaeological remains to be present due to the paucity of finds within the Study Area and the complete absence of artefacts dating to this period on the Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas.
 - There is **Very Low** potential for Neolithic archaeological remains to be present at the Site due to the paucity of finds from within the Study Area and the secondary depositional nature of very few artefacts retrieved from Stage 1 and 2.
 - There is **Moderate to High** potential for Bronze Age, Iron Age & Romano-British remains to be present within the proposed Phase 3 area based upon the results of the Strip, Map and Record (Wessex Archaeology reference 61051 and 61052). However the aerial photograph and geophysical survey results indicate a concentration and a focus centred in the field to the south of the current proposal. Further more the results

obtained from the Strip, Map and Record of Phase 1 would indicate that the archaeological potential within the northern half of Phase 3 will be **Very Low**.

- There is **Low** to **Zero** potential for Saxon material given the total lack of evidence found in the Strip, Map and Record areas. The lack of potential is reflected in the results contained within the Cotswold Archaeology report covering the excavation along the water pipeline route (Cotswold Archaeology 2005) which retrieved no Saxon material.

6.1.6 There is **Moderate** potential for post-medieval remains to be present within the Site, these remains are likely to be a continuation of the field system previously identified during the Strip, Map and Record exercise.

6.1.7 The cumulative conclusion reached, based upon the contents of the aerial photograph, the results of the geophysical survey and the Strip, Map and Record adjacent to the proposed extension area, is that the potential for the presence of archaeological deposits of any period to occur is **Moderate** to **Low**, with specific regard to the northern part of Phase 3 we regard the potential as **Very Low**.

6.1.8 Based upon the postulated westward extension of excavated ditch sections (dated to the Post Medieval period) from Phases 1 and 2, the contents of the aerial photograph and the geophysical survey the importance of any archaeological deposits in the proposed extension area is regarded as **Moderate** with those in the northern part rated **Low** to **Very Low**.

6.2 Recommended Further Works and Mitigation

6.2.1 Phases 1 and 2 of the quarry have two existing mitigation strategies in place. Topsoil stripping and any resultant archaeological deposits uncovered in the process are monitored through a Strip, Map and Record process. The methodology imposed has proved to be highly appropriate and efficient.

6.2.2 During removal of the underlying gravel the mitigation strategy imposed consists of a rolling monitoring programme of geoarchaeological recording as the Taplow Gravel is extracted. A series of reports are being produced as the working face proceeds southward from the original start line.

6.2.3 It is proposed that both these strategies are retained for the purpose of recording archaeological and quaternary deposits during gravel extraction in the proposed area. However, due to the lack of any significant results obtained from the archaeological monitoring it is suggested that this strategy is reviewed.

6.2.4 Analysis of cropmarks on the aerial photograph and the results of the geophysical survey has led to the voluntary creation of an irregular boundary to the southern edge of the proposed extraction area. The boundary creates a 10m wide buffer zone between the known crop mark features. This boundary will be defined and enforced through the erection of a fence.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Table of Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Records within the Study Area

WA No.	NGR	Parish	NMR/SMR No	Period(s)	Description
1	491800	182000	Taplow	139	Rolled primary flake & rolled pointed hand-axe
2	491500	181400	Taplow	1910	Several very abraded implements, also in the great pits at Taplow large quantities of teeth & bone of mammoth, horse & other mammals found. Also 9 handaxes & 1 flake.
3	491900	181600	Taplow	1912	As above
4	491280	182130	Taplow	2933	1 axe; 1 core; 1 blade/flake, retouched
5	491280	182130	Taplow	2933	1 flint axe; 1 flint core
6	490570	181650	Taplow	5795	Over 50 struck flints & barbed & tanged arrowhead/stakeholes/pits/burial
7	491040	182200	Taplow	4417	Old Rectory. Flint flakes
8	490620	182300	Taplow	6321	Taplow Hillfort: 3 phases of defensive ditches & palisades
9	491280	182130	Taplow	2933	Single sherd of vessel
10	490730	181070	Taplow	5796	Midden with BA pottery, burnt & struck flint with Roman pottery
11	491500	181400	Taplow	1910	2 urns containing 4-500 silver coins (of various periods); samian sherd & bronze coin AD 270-274
12	490850	182310	Taplow	1561	Pottery/flint/sherds/bone frags/burnt clay/daub/slag
13	490720	182390	Taplow	632106	Building foundations on Taplow Hillfort
14	490720	182390	Taplow	632107	Burial
15	490620	182160	Taplow	1542	Taplow Barrow (Scheduled Monument 19050)
16	490600	182000	Taplow	2929	Single burial/pond with knife and human bone
17	490700	181650	Taplow	5981	Berry Hill (Grade II) Garden. Mid 19th century pleasure grounds & park laid out around a modest house (demolished) Registered Garden 1031.
18	490900	181920	Taplow	1233	Taplow House. Built 1751 (Listed Building reference 7/646)
19	491200	181510	Taplow	4551	Trapezoidal-shaped enclosure with part of rectangular enclosure adjacent & assoc linear features (probably IA/RB)

Appendix 2 – Cartographic sources

BRO refers to maps held by Buckinghamshire Records Office (Aylesbury)

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 1:50,000 England and Wales Sheet 255.
Beaconsfield Solid and Drift Geology

Taplow Inclosure Map, 1787 (BRO IR7OR).

Taplow Tithe Map and Apportionments 1838

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500, 1888

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500, 1925

Ordnance Survey, 1:2,500 1931 (surveyed 1874).

Ordnance Survey, 6 inch map, 1938 (surveyed 1874)

Ordnance Survey, 6 inch map, 1961

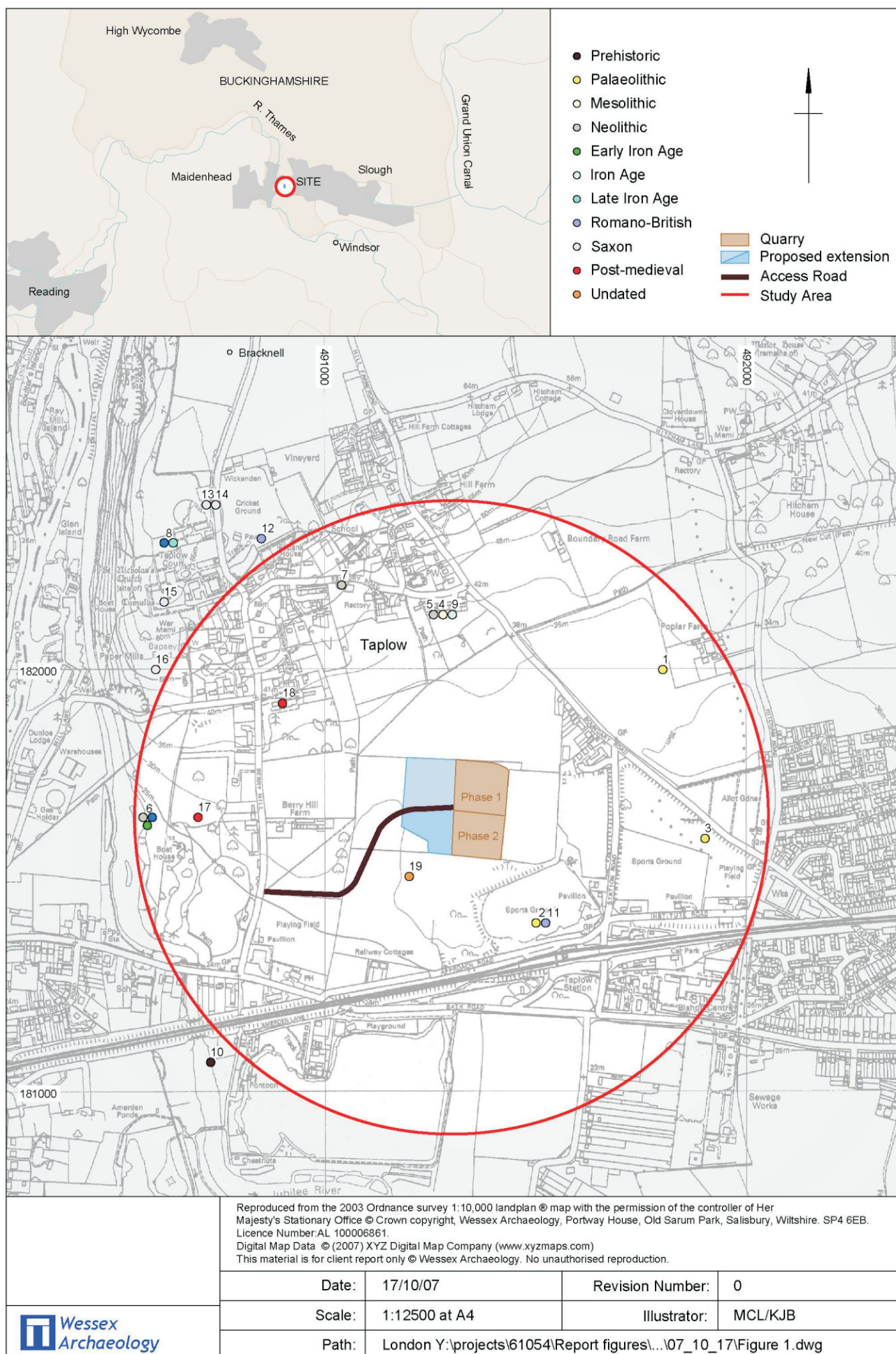
Ordnance Survey, 1:2500, 1972

Ordnance Survey, 1:10,000, 1976

Ordnance Survey, 1:10,000, 1987

Ordnance Survey, 1:2,500, 1993

Ordnance Survey, 1:2,500, 1997



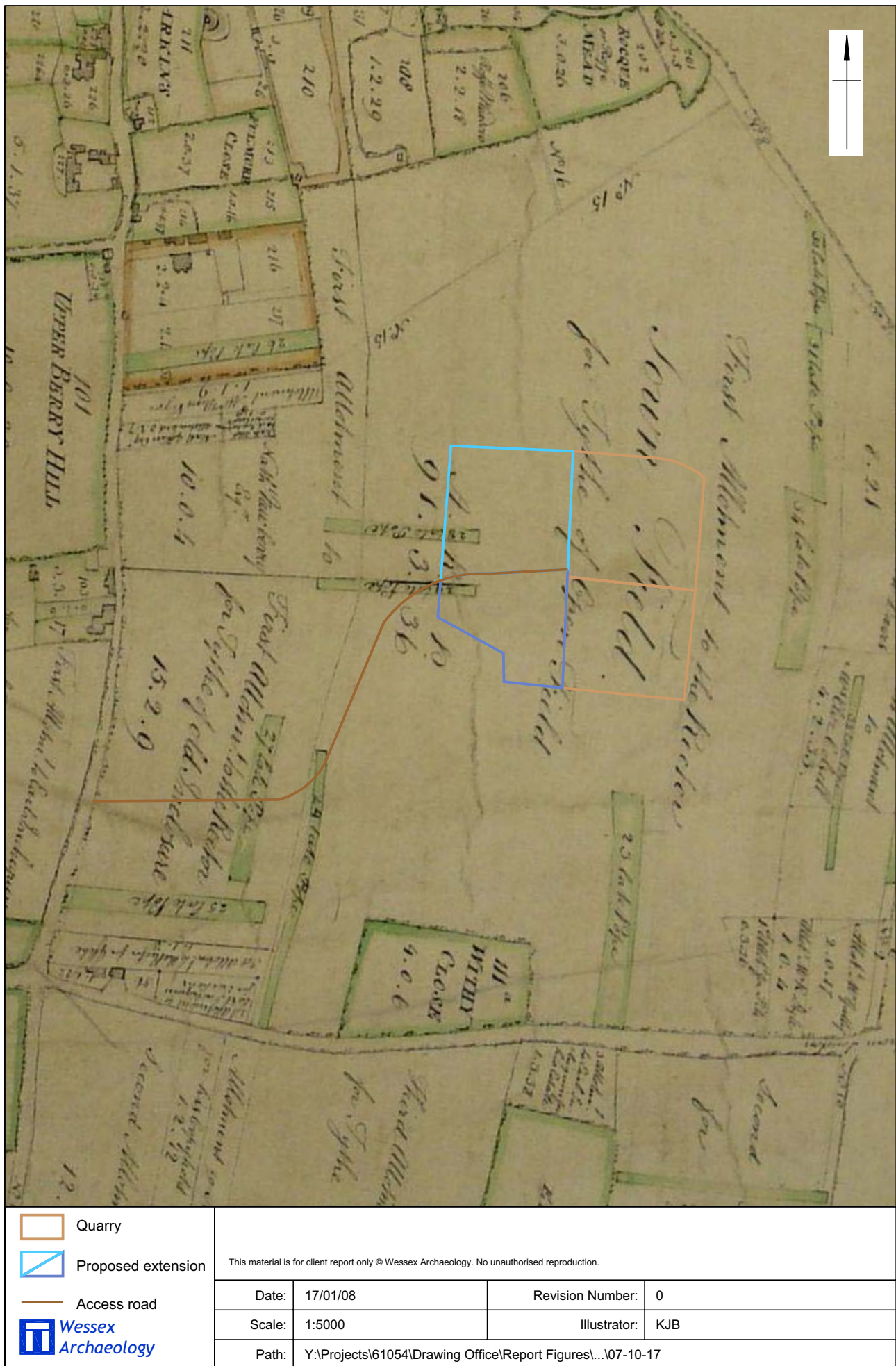
Site location plan and known archaeology

Figure 1



Site Plan showing archaeological features and aerial photo transcription

Figure 2



Map of 1787 showing approximate Site location

Figure 3







 Quarry	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.		
 Proposed extension			
 Access road	Date: 17/01/08	Revision Number: 0	
 Wessex Archaeology	Scale: 1:5000	Illustrator: KJB	
	Path: Y:\Projects\61054\Drawing Office\Report Figures\...\07-10-17		

Figure 4



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