Reading Green Park Village, White Triangle

Watching Brief Report

January 2013

Client: Tom Hassell on behalf of PruPim

Issue: 1
OA Job No: 4604
NGR: SU 707 700
Client Name: Tom Hassell on behalf of PruPim
Client Ref No: N/A
Document Title: Reading GreenPark Village, White Triangle, Archaeological Monitoring of excavations for an oil separator
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: SU 707 700
Planning Reference: 9/01906/FUL
Invoice Code: REGTRIWB
OA Job Number: 4604
Site Code: REGTRI09
Receiving Museum: Reading Museum
Museum Accession No: TBC
Event No: N/A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Prepared by</th>
<th>Checked by</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paul Leader</td>
<td>Richard Brown</td>
<td>Richard Brown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Project</td>
<td>Senior Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Document File: X:\Reading Green Park Phase 3 field\Green Park Village WSI\Watching Location: Brief
Graphics File: N/A
Location: N/A
Illustrated by: N/A

Disclaimer:
This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting there-from. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2013
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627
# Reading GreenPark Village, Monitoring of Excavations for an Oil Separator

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Introduction</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Scope of work</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Location, geology and topography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Archaeological and historical background</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Project Aims and Methodology</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 General Aims</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Specific aims and objectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Results</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Description of deposits</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Finds</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Environmental remains</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 Discussion and conclusions</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendix B. Bibliography and references</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographic Sources</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartographic Sources</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appendix C. Summary of Site Details</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## List of Figures

- Plate. 1 Site location
- Plate. 2 The Oil Separator Trench
- Fig. 1 Monitoring Location - Design Drawing
1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of work
In December 2009 OA carried out a watching brief at Reading GreenPark Village – White Triangle Site, Berkshire. The Watching Brief was commissioned by Tom Hassall on behalf of PruPim.

1.1.1 The archaeological Watching Brief was required on the excavation of an oil separator, drainage pipe channels and infiltration field trenches.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of a condition attached to planning permission (09/01906/FUL). The methodology for the work was set out in a WSI addendum (OA 2009). This was approved by the Berkshire Archaeology, Archaeology Officer.

1.1.3 This report documents the results of the watching brief.

1.2 Location, geology and topography
1.2.1 The investigation site area is located within the ancient parish of Shinfield, c. 2.5 km south of Reading city centre and c. 1 km south of the River Kennet. The site is immediately north of Longwater Avenue (see Plate 1 below – a grid point an north orientation is given on Figure 1).

1.2.2 The area under watching brief is situated on the southern edge of the River Kennet floodplain at c. 38 m above Ordnance Datum (OD). The surrounding area is flat, although the construction skills training centre compound within the White Triangle area has clearly been constructed on built up land.

1.2.3 The geology is Valley Gravel (BGS Sheet 268).

Plate 1 Site location

1.3 Archaeological and historical background
1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been the subject of a separate detailed desk study the results of which are in OA 2007. This is not repeated in this report.

2 Methodology

2.1 Methodology
2.1.1 The mechanical excavation of the oil separator pit was monitored by an archaeologist in order to establish the character of the soil profile. The oil separator was the deepest impact proposed (see Figure 2) and therefore subsequent to the strata in the trench being revealed to be modern, further monitoring was abandoned.
All work was carried out in adherence to the methodologies and standards contained in the WSI OA 2009.

**Finds**

2.1.3 No finds were recovered during the monitoring. Modern finds were noted as evidence of the recent date of deposits but were not retained.

**Environmental remains**

2.3 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were noted during the watching brief.

**Discussion and Conclusions**

3.1.1 The excavation work reached a maximum depth of 1.6 m through two deposits.

- Deposit 1: Made ground – mid-brown-grey silt with modern ceramic building material inclusions;
- Deposit 2: Black-dark grey disturbed alluvial/silt deposits with modern brick inclusions.

3.1.2 The deposits continued beyond the depth of excavation. The upper deposit (1) is likely to represent recent/modern dumping. The lower deposit (2) appears to be a deposit lain through flooding then re-worked as a ploughsoil and subsequently been significantly disturbed by the dumping of Deposit 1.

Plate 2. Oil Separator Trench; limit of excavation – the section reveals modern dumping overlying disturbed alluvial derived ploughsoil to 1.6 m below existing ground level.

**General Interpretation**

3.1.3 The excavation of the oil separator did not exceed deposit with modern disturbance. On this evidence it was agreed not to monitor further shallower excavation work.
APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Bibliographic Sources

IFA, 2008 Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs


OA, 2009 Reading Green Park Village, Phase 1 - Written Scheme of Investigations Green Park Station, Access Road and Temporary Car Park, Addendum 02/11/09 – Archaeological Provision for Planning application, 09/01906/FUL. The White Triangle.

APPENDIX B. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Reading White Triangle Oil Separator Trench watching brief.

Site code: REGTRI09

Grid reference: Centred at NGR SU 707 700

Date and duration of project: 04/12/09. 2 hours

Summary of results: Modern dumping and disturbed soils to limit of monitoring (1.6m below ground level)

Location of archive: Currently at OA. The archive will be transferred to Reading Museum.