



Five Points Roundabout Junction of A412, Pinewood Road, Slough Road and Wood Lane Iver Heath Buckinghamshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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Comments

Comments



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1. Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Waterman Infrastructure & Environment ('WIE') for Gardiner and Theobald ('the Client') for an archaeological watching brief at Five Points Roundabout Junction of A412, Pinewood Road, Slough Road and Wood Lane Iver Heath Buckinghamshire (see **Figure 1**).

The Site is approximately 2.14 hectares (ha) in area, centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TQ 02082 82849. The Site is located at the roundabout junction of the A412, Pinewood Road, Slough Road and Wood Lane, west of Iver Heath in Buckinghamshire.

Assessments carried out in 2013 found that there was low potential for surviving below ground archaeology of most periods, due to impacts associated with historical ploughing action and roadway construction. However, a low potential for Palaeolithic remains (stone tools etc.) was concluded, due to the potential presence of Palaeolithic gravel deposits beneath the Site. Further to this, a low potential for Post-Medieval former field boundaries was also concluded.

Planning permission (Ref. PL/21/4074/FA) was granted by Buckinghamshire Council as the Local Planning Authority on 22nd June 2023, subject to the following conditions:

9. No development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason: This is required to be pre-commencement in order to ensure the protection of any matters of archaeological interest and in accordance with Policy CP8 of the South Bucks Core Strategy and Saved Policy C15 of the Local Plan.

An archaeological watching brief, with the works being monitored by an experience archaeologist for any archaeological features or activity, is outlined for the Site.

In order to fulfil the above planning condition, it was agreed with the Buckinghamshire Senior Archaeological Officer on 26th July 2023 that this watching brief would be sufficient to meet the archaeological programme requirement and provide an understanding of the archaeological potential for the Site. Any requirement for further works would be dependent on the findings of this watching brief.



2. Background

2.1 Geology and Topography

The Site lies above a geological bedrock of London Clay formation, with some silt and sand. Superficial deposits consist of Black Park Gravel Member. The Site is relatively flat, sitting at c.59-60mAOD (Above Ordnance Datum). The topography of the immediately surrounding area is comparable to this. The Black Park Country Park lies to the immediate west of the Site, and the Site broadly lies within the settlement of Iver Heath.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background of Site

The Site does not lie within any Conservation Areas or Archaeological Priority Zones.

The below baseline is taken from a heritage statement and report undertaken by Arup and Pinewood Studios Ltd in 2013 (Arup 2013) and outlines the broad archaeological and historic al background as relevant to the Five Points Roundabout Site.

Evidence for potential Prehistoric presence in the area may be shown by the possible Palaeolithic gravel deposits beneath the Site, which may preserve environmental and artefactual evidence dating to the earlier Prehistoric. Further to this, the recording of Bronze Age pottery sherds c.700m north of the Site suggests a later Prehistoric occupation.

Little evidence regarding Romano-British settlement within the Site has been recorded.

By the Medieval period, the development of road networks connecting various manors and their associated settlements resulted in the convergence of four such roads, (what are now overlain by the modern north/south A412 Uxbridge Road, the A412 Church Road, the A4007 Slough Road, and Wood Lane) forming the beginnings of the Five Points junction which survives today. Historically at this time (and throughout the majority of the Post-Medieval period), the landscape character has been woodland and open meadow.

Throughout the Post-Medieval period, the village of Iver Heath was established through the enclosure process, formed from Iver Parish in 1862. During this period, St Margaret's Church was built in the C14th style, c.350 north-east of the Site.

The Post-Medieval period also witnessed a more formal laying-out of land plots surrounding the Site. Warren House is constructed at this time, situated to the north of the Site, with the associated Warren Farm. Increased field enclosure leads to further division and specificity of agriculture, including plantations to the immediate west of the Site. At this time, a house is located within the western area of the Site, now since demolished.

By the Modern period, the landscape is generally characterised by scrubland, from the new growth and management stemming from the construction of the roundabout.

The area has been mostly affected by roadways as the area has always acted as a meeting point for various paths which developed in the Medieval and probably earlier periods. In addition to the role that transport has played in this area, the landform has been affected by the enclosure process which divided the field systems and transformed the landscape character.

There is a low likelihood of encountering archaeological evidence relating to the Prehistoric period, and a low likelihood of encountering cut features associated with former field boundaries.





3. Research Aims and Methodology

3.1 General Aims of the Project

In general, the aims of the watching brief are to:

- determine the presence and / or absence of archaeological remains, and if remains are present, to make a full record to current standards;
- · determine the approximate extent, condition and state of preservation of any remains;
- · confirm the approximate date or range of dates of the remains; and
- prepare a Watching Brief report outlining the results.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The archaeological watching brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeological contractor, as defined by ClfA Standards and Guidance and BCAS (Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service) (ClfA 2002a,b,c; Historic England 2015c). An archaeologist will attend the Site during the construction works to observe any ground reduction works being undertaken by the Principal Contractor, or any third parties, which have the potential to impact, expose or disturb any archaeological deposits or remains. Once the construction works are completed, the archaeological contractor will prepare a report detailing the findings of the archaeological watching brief and ensure the site archive is deposited with the nominated museum.

The archaeological contractor is required to prepare a Method Statement which would set out which construction activities and locations will require the presence of an archaeologist, to be agreed in consultation with BCAS. The Method Statement will include details of the archaeological contractor's staff, programme, contingencies, and specialists and will conform to Historic England's MoRPHE (Historic England 2015a). The Method Statement will also confirm the recording systems and approach to post-excavation analysis, reporting and archiving.

Prior to commencement of the archaeological watching brief the archaeological contractor will obtain a unique-number site code from BCAS, prior to the archaeological mitigation works. This unique number will be maintained for any subsequent archaeological work.

3.2.2 Recording Systems

All archaeological remains exposed during the construction works will be recorded and the Principal Contractor, and any Third Parties, will allow the archaeological contractor to complete the works required before continuing with construction works.

The recording system shall be compatible with ClfA's and BCAS standards and guidance. The recording system will be based on single context planning. Pro-forma context sheets shall include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram shall be employed. The following plans and sections are required:

- an overall site plan shall be prepared detailing archaeological deposits as well as the extent of the area relative to the National Grid on a 1:2,500 plan;
- a detailed site plan may be required at 1:100 scale, depending on the findings;
- sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, shall be drawn as appropriate. Section



drawing should include heights Ordnance Datum (OD);

 all archaeological plans and sections shall be on drawing film and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and shall include context numbers and OD spot heights for all principal strata and features;

3.2.3 Photography

A full and detailed digital photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard viewpoints of the overall site at all stages of the excavation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken using high-resolution digital cameras (no less than 10 megapixels). Photograph records will be maintained on index pro-forma sheets.

Images may be captured in RAW format, but archiving should follow the guidance given by Historic England (Historic England 2015b) in *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*. Digital images will be archived in both a JPEG and TIFF formats. The latter as uncompressed 8-bits per channel TIFF version 6 file of not less than 25 Mbs (refer to section 2.3 of the Historic England guidance). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the TIFF file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph.

3.2.4 Finds and Samples

Artefacts

Identified archaeological finds and artefacts will be carefully recovered by hand and bagged or boxed according to the type of artefact (i.e. pottery, ceramic building material/CBM, bone, worked flint, metal) archaeological context from which they came, with a label indicating the site code, find type and context reference number). Particularly notable artefacts will be recorded as a 'registered' find and recorded three dimensionally with Ordnance Datum levels.

Initial conservation and storage will be in a proper manner and to standards set out follow First Aid for Finds (Leigh D, Watkinson and Neal V 1998), United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1983) and ClfA guidance (ClfA 2020b). If necessary, an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological conservator will be appointed to advise and assist in the lifting of fragile finds of significance and or value and to arrange for the X-raying and investigative conservation of objects as may be necessary.

Certain classes of bulk material, i.e. post-medieval pottery and building material may be discarded if there is a considerable quantity (more than a single standard archive box of c. 0.016 m²), after recording with a representative sample. A discard policy will be agreed in consultation with BCAS.

All artefacts will be washed, marked and analysed in accordance with the approved recording system and the practices and standards (Society for Museum Archaeology 2020, CIfA 2020b, Brown, D 2011). The finds identification and specialist work will be undertaken by the relevant finds specialists as identified in the archaeological contractor's Method Statement to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery use relevant county or region-specific type series for identification and dating, where available. This evidence will be used to characterise the site, and to establish the potential for all categories of finds should further archaeological work be necessary.

All finds of gold and silver, or other objects definable as 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002. Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.



Environmental Remains

Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling and analysis will be initiated in accordance with Historic England guidance (Historic England 2011).

Secure and phased deposits, especially those related to settlement activity and/or structures, will be considered for sampling for the recovery of charred plant remains, charcoal and mineralised remains. Bulk soil samples, where possible of 40 litres or 100% of a deposit if less is available, will be taken from appropriate deposits.

Any cremation-related deposits will be sampled appropriately for the comprehensive recovery of cremated human bone and charred remains.

If any evidence of in-situ metal working is found, suitable samples for the recovery of slag and hammer scale will be taken.

Where sealed waterlogged deposits are encountered, samples for the recovery of waterlogged remains, insects, molluscs and pollen, as well as any charred remains, will be considered. The taking of sequences of samples for the recovery of molluscs and/or waterlogged remains will be considered through any suitable deposits such as deep enclosure ditches, barrow ditches, palaeochannels, or buried soils. Monolith samples will also be taken as appropriate, to allow soil and sediment description/interpretation as well as sub-sampling for pollen and other micro/macrofossils such as diatoms, foraminifera and ostracods.

The need for any more specialist samples, such as OSL, archaeomagnetic dating and dendrochronology will be evaluated and will be taken under the direction of the relevant specialist.

Bulk soil samples by standard water flotation through meshes of 0.25mm for the recovery of flots and up to 1mm for the recovery of residues. Samples taken for the recovery of artefacts, bones or shell will be wet sieved though meshes up to 2mm in size. A sub-sample of all bulk soil samples taken during the works will be processed and analysed as part of the assessment. The results of the assessment will be used to determine whether there is any merit in processing the remainder of the bulk soil sample.

3.3 Human Remains

The archaeological contractor will immediately inform BCAS, the Client, Principal Contractor and the local Coroner if human remains are identified. In such an event, a Home Office Licence will be required (in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857) for both inhumation and cremated remains before they can be lifted. Application for a Licence will be made by the archaeological contractor. Burials should be dealt with swiftly and sympathetically by a specialist in accordance with recognised guidelines (Historic England 2018; Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2004).

Where appropriate, the Principal Contractor will ensure that additional adequate site security is provided.

3.4 Treasure

Any artefacts that fall under the statutory definition of Treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be reported immediately to the Client, Principal Contractor, BCAS, the relevant Coroner's Office and the Finds Liaison Officer and the landowner.

A Treasure receipt must be completed, and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding the find is Treasure. Failure to report within 14 days is a criminal offence.



3.5 Monitoring and Access

BCAS will be allowed access to inspect the archaeological works to ensure that they are being conducted to the proper professional standards and in accordance with the agreed method statement.

To facilitate this, a projected timetable for Site work will be set out in the Method Statement following consultation with the Client, Principal Contractor and BCAS.

Formal notification of the commencement of the construction works and the archaeological watching brief will be provided to BCAS once the programme has been determined.



4. Health and Safety

4.1 General Requirements

The work will be carried out during construction activities and is therefore subject to Construction (Design and Management) regulations. The Principal Contractor will take overall responsibility for health and safety on site.

The Principal Contractor is responsible for site management and all aspects of Health and Safety on site and will ensure safe access to all work areas and a safe working environment for the archaeological contractor. The Principal Contractor will be responsible for supplying the necessary plant to undertake the mechanical stripping of the excavation areas and appropriate welfare facilities. The Principal Contractor is also responsible for site security, site access, identification of services, utilities and areas of contamination, and soil management.

The archaeological contractor will conduct their work in accordance with all existing national legislation regarding Health and Safety at work (i.e. the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the guidance set out in Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers, 1997). The archaeological fieldwork contractor will carry out the site works to the standards specified by the Principal Contractor, and their own health and safety policy.

The archaeological contractor will produce a site-specific Risk Assessment and Methodology Statement (RAMS). This will comply with CDM regulations in accordance with the Principal Contractor RAMS. The archaeological contractor's staff, including sub-contractors, will be required to be inducted by the Principal Contractor and be made aware of their risk assessment and requirements prior to any site engagement.

All on-site archaeologists must possess valid CSCS a card or equivalent. The archaeological contractor will be required to submit to the Principal Contractor a list of staff names and CSCS card type and numbers prior to site start.

Staff present on site will be required to wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as identified in the RAMS. As a minimum this will be safety boots, long sleeve high-visibility vest, high-visibility trousers, gloves, protective glasses and safety helmet. The requirement for any additional PPE specified by the Principal Contractor will be identified in the RAMS.



5. Reporting and Dissemination

5.1 General Requirements

The draft watching brief report will be submitted by the archaeological contractor to Waterman within six weeks of completion of the watching brief for review and approval. The report will be the property of the Client and will represent a confidential document. Waterman will be responsible for submitting the draft report to BCAS for comment prior to final approval.

Once the watching brief report is finalised, a hard copy of the Final Report will be submitted by the archaeological contractor to a suitable archive. An e-copy, in PDF format, will be submitted to BCAS for inclusion in the Historic Environment Records (HER). GIS (shape) files of the final phased excavated site plan should be provided to BCAS. In addition, the photographic record of the works will be made available to the National Monuments Record (NMR) prior to archiving to enable selection of suitable materials for copying for inclusion into the HER. Once submitted, the Final Report will become a public document.

The report should include the following content, as appropriate:

- a non-technical summary;
- an introductory statement;
- a review of the aims and objectives;
- methodology;
- a summary of results including a description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of any archaeological and environmental materials uncovered with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites in the area;
- conclusion;
- illustrations including plans and section drawings at suitable scales and general and detailed photographs;
- a table of all artefacts recovered from the archaeological works;
- an interpretation of the results should be produced and attention should be given to the significance of the remains in local, regional and national terms, if appropriate; and

The Archaeological Contractor will also input details of the project to the online database maintained by the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project at the following internet site: http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis.

5.1.1 Publication and Dissemination

Provision should be made for an appropriate level of publication of the results of the watching brief. Publication may range from a 'grey literature' archaeological report, to a short journal article in local and period-based archaeological journals as appropriate (as above), to a full monograph (in the event that the evaluation resulted in further excavation). The level of dissemination would be determined in consultation with BCAS.

5.1.2 Negative Results

Not all archaeological investigations will find anything, but this negative information is still valuable and will need to be reported.



5.2 Public Engagement

A proportionate programme of public engagement outreach activities, commensurate to the findings of the archaeological mitigation works, will be provided where appropriate. This will be agreed in consultation with the Client, Principal Contractor and BCAS.

5.3 Copyright and Confidentiality

Waterman and the archaeological contractor 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 this WSI.

Waterman and the archaeological contractor will assign copyright to the Client upon written request but retain the right to be identified as an author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV. S.79).

Waterman will advise the Client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects that are not Waterman's or the Archaeological Contractor's copyright.

Waterman 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. Waterman further undertakes to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that clients respect Waterman's general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.



6. Archiving

6.1 General Requirements

It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to ensure the deposition of the site archive. The Client will provide the relevant contact details of the Landowner(s) to the archaeological contractor in order to commence the transfer title of artefacts so that the archive, including all artefacts, can be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum.

The site archive will contain all the data collected during the fieldwork, including records and finds, and all reports. The archaeological contractor will ensure that the archive is quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent, and adequate resources will be provided to ensure that all records are checked. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.

The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.

The archive will be in deposited accordance with the standards set out in the following:

- Archaeological Archive Forum (2011), Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation transfer and curation;
- ClfA (2020c), Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives;
- Society for Museum Archaeology (2020) Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections;
- Museums and Galleries Commission (1992) Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections;
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (1995) Towards an Accessible Archive. The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; and
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990) Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage.

Work on the site archive will be completed by the archaeological contractor within twelve calendar months of completion of the archaeological field investigation.

The archaeological contractor will ensure that the Collections Manager is notified and liaised with at an early stage and agree with that museum the sample or quantity of bulk finds (pottery, animal and human bone, other ecofactual material, building material, burnt flint, worked flint and stone) to be deposited. It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the local museum's reasonable requirements with regard to the preparation of archives for deposition.

Provision will be made for the payment of a 'deposit grant' at the time of archive transfer towards the costs of archive curation in perpetuity. The rates and requirements currently employed by archive stores elsewhere in the country and by the chosen museum for its archive store shall be used for guidance.

Prior to commencement of the archaeological watching brief the archaeological contractor will obtain from the recipient museum an accession number(s) for excavated artefacts and ecofacts from the project and any guidelines regarding deposition of such artefacts and ecofacts specific to Buckinghamshire County Museum. All finds, save those specifically excluded by the recipient museum or excluded on grounds of size/material, will be marked by the archaeological contractor with the recipient museum's accession number.



6.2 OASIS

In addition to the deposition of project reports and archive with the relevant local and national curators, an electronic record of the project details will be created through OASIS (http://oasis.ac.uk/). The project record would include technical details for each technique used in the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national Records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.



7. Archaeological Contractor – Specific Requirements

7.1 General

The appointed archaeological contractor will provide Waterman with a detailed method statement for undertaking the archaeological investigations, which shall require approval from BCAS, as required. This shall include:

- The locations within the Site where mitigation is required;
- · The size and qualification of the work force including names and experience of key personnel;
- Details of staffing levels and the number of person days to be spent on each specific task;
- Details of specialists, including qualifications, who are likely to have input into mitigation;
- Details of the recording system for fieldwork and post-excavation analysis; and
- A timetable covering the whole project from setting up on site through report writing to deposition of the archive.

7.2 Health and Safety

The archaeological contractor will conduct their work in accordance with all existing national legislation regarding Health and Safety at work (i.e. the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the guidance set out in Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers, 1997). The archaeological fieldwork contractor will carry out the site works to the standards specified by the Principal Contractor, and their own health and safety policy.

The archaeological contractor will produce a site-specific Risk Assessment and Methodology Statement (RAMS). This will comply with CDM regulations in accordance with the Principal Contractor RAMS. The archaeological contractor's staff, including sub-contractors, will be required to be inducted by the Principal Contractor and be made aware of their risk assessment and requirements prior to any site engagement.

7.3 Insurance

The archaeological contractor will hold Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details will be supplied on request.

Waterman and the archaeological contractor will not be liable to indemnify the Client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:

- the use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the
 purposes of completing the Project. Interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of
 way, light, air or water or other easement or quasi easement which are 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;
 and
- 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 Waterman) or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto.

7.4 Standards and Procedures

Waterman and the archaeological contractor shall conform to the standards of professional conduct



outlined in the CIfA Code of Conduct (CIfA 2022), the CIfA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the CIfA Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.

Project Supervisors shall be recognised in an appropriate Area of Competence by the CIfA.



8. References and Sources

Arup 2013 Heritage Statement for PSDF East and west, and the Five Point Roundabout Scheme.

British Geological Survey. Available from http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

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Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992, Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (2020 updated information available online)

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995, Towards an Accessible Archive. The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales;

Society for Museum Archaeology, 2020, Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1983, Guidelines No 2: Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990, Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage.



FIGURES



Figure 1: Site Layout with Red Line Boundary (RLB)



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UK and Ireland Office Locations

