



Anmer, Oving, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**ANMER, OIVING,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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- I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Development Planning and Design Services Ltd on behalf of Mr F Bennet to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork at Anmer and The Kennels, Marston Hill, Oving, Buckinghamshire, centred on National Grid Reference 478643 221790.

Archaeological mitigation was required as a condition of planning consent and comprised the monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of 4 houses within the site.

The watching brief was maintained during ground levelling and machine stripping of topsoil and subsoil deposits within the site. Made ground deposits containing post-medieval and modern material was noted across the area and it was clear the site had previously been heavily landscaped and disturbed both by former construction works and vegetation. No archaeological features were identified during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was carried out between 19th and 20th July and on 25th September 2012.

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This watching brief work was commissioned by Development Planning and Design Services Ltd on behalf of Mr F Bennet and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mr Bennet and Ian Mills in this regard.

The fieldwork was conducted by Darryl Freer and Piotr Orczewski who also compiled this report. The figures were prepared by Elizabeth James. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Development, Planning and Design Services Ltd (the Consultant) on behalf of Mr F Bennet (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork at Anmer and The Kennels, Marston Hill, Oving Buckinghamshire, (hereafter the 'Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 478643 221790 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was required as part of the planning permission granted to the Client by Aylesbury Vale District Council (Planning Reference 08/02874/APP), the local authority, for the demolition of Anmer bungalow and the erection of 4 detached dwellings, along with an extension to link an existing detached barn to The Kennels, the conversion of the barn and alterations to form a part single-storey and part two-storey detached dwelling.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2012) was prepared in advance of the watching brief and set out in detail the methodologies and standards proposed by Wessex Archaeology to undertake the archaeological works. The document was approved prior to the watching brief and this report completes the programme of archaeological work.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is situated on the northern fringes of Oving village approximately 7.5km north of Aylesbury. It is bounded on the north, east and west by open farmland and to the south by Marston Hill road (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 Anmer bungalow, built in the late 1940s, is positioned centrally within the plot and The Kennels, a Grade II Listed cottage with a hay loft outbuilding is located in the south-eastern area of the Site. Both buildings are currently sited in an overgrown garden with mature trees and shrubs.

1.2.3 The British Geological Survey map for the area (1:50,000 Solid and Drift Series) indicates that the underlying geology of the Site consists of Ampthill Clay Formation.

1.2.4 The Site lies at an elevation of approximately 158m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Although there are no recorded archaeological sites within the development area, several archaeological features and finds are recorded within the vicinity and are indicative of prehistoric and later activity in the immediate area.

- 1.3.2 A possible Iron Age burial is recorded to the south-east of the Site. Excavated in the late 19th century, pottery and a late Iron Age coin were also recorded during the work. A further burial, (albeit undated), was identified during ploughing in fields to the north of the Site.
- 1.3.3 Approximately 25m to the south of the Site on Marston Hill, Romano-British and Saxon pottery has been recorded during excavation for a drainage trench.
- 1.3.4 An archaeological evaluation undertaken on land adjacent to Four Acres, Bowling Alley, Oving (JMS 2002) recorded a shallow post-medieval ditch. A possible mound at 'Mill Piece' to the north-west may be the site of a former windmill; a mill is recorded at the manor of Oving in the late 13th century.
- 1.3.5 The Kennels comprises a Grade II Listed small squatter cottage dating to c. 1800.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2012) were to establish, within the constraints of the development proposal, the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site, and to mitigate any impact posed to them by the construction activity through preservation by record.

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the WSI (WA 2012) and the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).

3.2 Health and Safety

- 3.2.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A health and safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the watching brief.

3.3 Fieldwork

- 3.3.1 The watching brief consisted of the monitoring of ground work beneath the present ground surface to facilitate the construction of four dwellings. The ground work comprised ground levelling and machine stripping of topsoil and subsoil deposits by approximately 1m in the southern part of Site. Additionally the building plot for the easternmost building and driveways was reduced by up to 1.3m.
- 3.3.2 The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant supervision by Wessex Archaeology. Machine excavation proceeded to the required formation levels and all excavated material was routinely inspected for artefacts. The watching brief was

maintained until such time that it was apparent that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed had been exhausted.

- 3.3.3 The fieldwork was carried out between 19th and 20th July and on 25th September 2012.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 The archaeological recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete drawn record of the excavated soil sequence was compiled with sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:10), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid
- 3.4.2 A full photographic record was maintained during the watching brief using digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels, illustrating both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section includes information on the deposits encountered during the watching brief. Details of the excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive.

4.2 Stratigraphic sequence

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the Site was generally consistent and comprised topsoil and subsoil, overlying made ground deposits particularly in the south of the Site where a new driveway and access was proposed.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil (**1001**), characterised by a dark greyish brown loam, was observed across the area and measured approximately 0.3m deep and overlay a mid brown silty clay subsoil (**1002**) deposit. Beneath the subsoil large areas of the Site contained redeposited natural deposits (**1003**) which comprised a mottled light yellow brown clay deposit containing frequent chalk fragments and occasional charcoal flecks (**Plate 1**). Layer **1003** also contained quantities of building waste and garden soils and indicated the Site had been heavily landscaped prior to the construction of Amner bungalow in the 1940s/early 1950s.
- 4.2.3 Two amorphous 'features' (**1004** and **1006**) were noted cutting the redeposited natural deposits and initially investigated (**Plates 2-5**). Upon excavation, it was clear 'feature' **1004** comprised a further dump of redeposited soils and similarly, feature **1006** was indicative of possible rutting caused by vehicles tracking across the Site during the earlier landscaping works.

4.3 Finds

- 4.3.1 A very small number of finds were recovered during the watching brief, deriving from three contexts; quantities are summarised by material type in **Table 1**.
- 4.3.2 All datable finds are post-medieval or later and comprise pottery (coarse redwares, including slipwares, and refined whitewares), ceramic building material (brick) and glass (window and bottle). The likely potential date range is between the 17th to 20th century.
- 4.3.3 Other finds consist of animal bone (pig and cattle) and a single corroded iron object.
- 4.3.4 Given the small quantity of material recovered and its date range, retention for long-term curation is not recommended, and these finds will be discarded prior to archive deposition.

4.4 Environmental Sampling

- 4.4.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was present within the watching brief area.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundwork associated with the development did not identify any deposits or features of archaeological significance.
- 5.1.2 Made ground deposits containing post-medieval and modern material was noted across the area and it was clear the Site had been previously heavily landscaped and disturbed both by former construction works and vegetation.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).
- 6.1.2 The project archive is currently held at offices of Wessex Archaeology under the project code 84370. In due course the archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum, under the Accession Code AYBCM:2012.65.

7 REFERENCES

John Moore Heritage Services, 2002. An Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to Four Acres, Bowling Alley, Oving

Wessex Archaeology 2012. Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Anmer, Oving, Buckinghamshire.

APPENDIX 1: FINDS TABLE
Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Glass	Iron	Pottery
1002	6/34	4/144	3/9		14/333
1005	3/10	2/2		1/8	
1007	2/32				
TOTALS	11/76	6/146	3/9	1/8	14/333

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM
Anmer, Oving, Buckinghamshire - Wessex Archaeology
OASIS ID - wessexar1-139539
Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	17 December 2012

Completed sections in current version

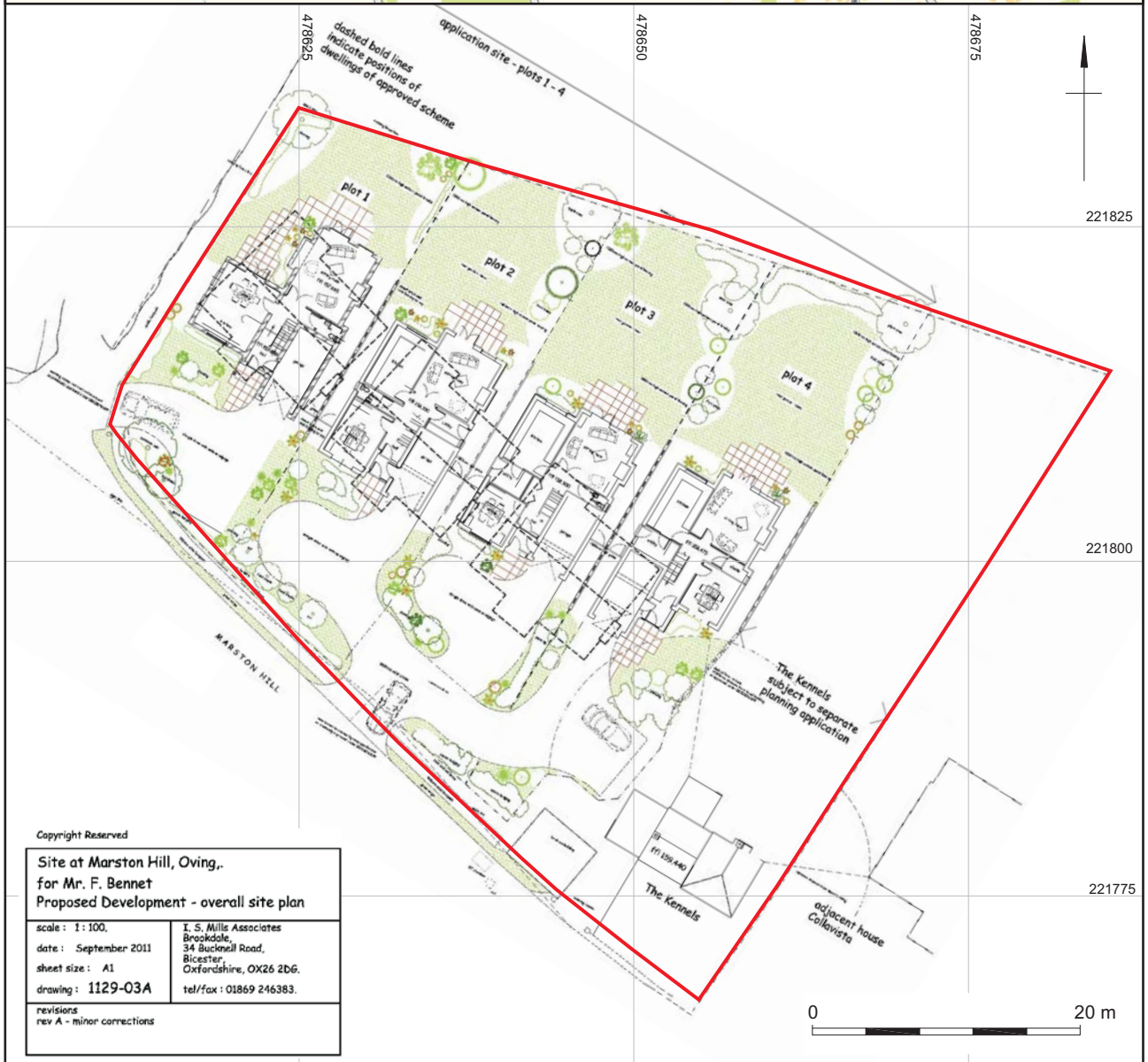
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1


Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?



 Area of watching brief

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Date: 01/10/12

Revision Number: 0

Scale: 1:500

Illustrator: KL/SEJ

Path: Y:\TENDERS\84370\Drawing Office\Report Figs\WB\12_02_08\84370_WB.dwg



Site location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Made ground deposit following topsoil removal



Plate 2: Feature 1004 prior to excavation



Plate 3: Excavated slot through feature 1004 showing redeposited natural



Plate 4: Feature 1006 prior to excavation



Plate 5: South-east facing section of feature 1006



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