



Kiddington Cottage Aldworth Road, Streatley

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: 20/01313/HOUSE
Accession Number: NEBYM:2021.1
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Document Information


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Document subtitle Archaeological Watching Brief
Document reference 241400.03

Client name 'The Site Owner'
Address Kiddington Cottage
Aldworth Road
Streatley
Reading

Site location Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading, RG8 9RE
County West Berkshire
National grid reference (NGR) 456623 179693 (SU 56623 79693)
Statutory designations None
Planning authority West Berkshire Council
Planning reference 20/01313/HOUSE
Museum name West Berkshire Museum, Newbury
Museum accession code NEBYM:2021.1
OASIS ID wessexar1-409638

WA project code 241400
Date of fieldwork 02/03/2021
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Plate 1 Excavation area, view from north. 2.0 m and 1.0 m scales.

Plate 2 East facing representative section, 1.0 m scale.



Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the site owner to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new pool building and pool with associated landscaping. The works covered an area of 0.1 ha centred on centred on NGR 456623 179693, at Kiddington Cottage, Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading, West Berkshire, RG8 9RE.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the excavation works.

The watching brief was undertaken on 2 March 2021.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the site owner, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Sarah Orr, West Berkshire Senior Archaeologist, who monitored the project for West Berkshire Council, and to the on-site contractor for their cooperation and help on site.



Kiddington Cottage Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading, West Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the site owner ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new pool building and pool with associated landscaping. The monitored works covered 0.1 ha, centred on NGR 456623 179693, at Kiddington Cottage, Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading, West Berkshire, RG8 9RE (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out as a condition of planning permission, granted by West Berkshire Council (20/01313/HOUSE) on 29/06/2020.

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The West Berkshire Senior Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The watching brief was undertaken on 2 March 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the watching brief, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The watching brief was located within the garden of Kiddington Cottage, situated to the north east of the village of Aldworth. The cottage itself is situated within the rural landscape of West Berkshire and bounded to the east, south and west by agricultural fields and to the north by Aldworth Road (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The site is located within an undulating landscape which slopes to the south. Existing ground levels are 159m aOD (above Ordnance Datum).

1.3.3 The underlying geology across the site is mapped as chalk forming part of the White Chalk Subgroup, formed approximately 66 to 100 million years ago. No overlying deposits are recorded. (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 No archaeological monuments are known to be situated within the site boundaries or area of the archaeological watching brief. However, the site itself is situated within an area that has high archaeological potential.



2.2 Previous investigations related to the development

- 2.2.1 From April to July 2001 Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out excavations, trenched evaluation and watching briefs along the route of the Newbury Reinforcement Pipeline. This followed on from Geophysical survey and surface collection carried out in the winter of 2000 (Oxford Archaeological Unit 2001). The pipeline easement passed close to Kiddington Cottage along its southern and eastern boundaries and followed the lane north east towards Thurle Grange. No archaeological finds were recorded from the works in the area of the cottage, although a possible disc barrow was identified to the northwest and fieldwalking recovered burnt flint, worked flint, CBM and pottery from the fields in the vicinity.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC-AD43)

- 2.3.1 There are limited records pertaining to the early prehistoric period for the site, however within the wider landscape surrounding the site are several prehistoric sites. These include the Ridge Way, Grim's ditch and the Field Barn Farm Barrow cemetery, all are situated more than a kilometre to the north and west. A Neolithic flint axe was also recovered from Lough Down, some 2.6 miles to the east.
- 2.3.2 The fields to north, west and south of the site contain the remains of numerous ploughed out lynchets, these may be of Bronze Age origin and are likely to extend into the Iron Age and Roman periods
- 2.3.3 The site is located at the head of a steep chalk coombe. There is a distinct likelihood of significant depths of colluvium which may contain, or seal land surfaces and soils from the Neolithic and Bronze Age. This is particularly likely given the evidence of extensive field systems on the surrounding upland.

Romano-British (AD43-410)

- 2.3.4 No evidence for Roman-British activity has been recorded within the archaeological watching brief area.

Medieval (AD410-1500)

- 2.3.5 The place name of Kiddington originates in the 13th century and probably means 'valley of the Kite'. The Victoria County history of Berkshire notes when commenting on outlying farms within the Streatley parish that "due to the endowment charter of the vicarage in 1215 that the tithes of all the land were held by Richard Golde and Emma de Kettindon".

Post Medieval and modern (AD1500- present)

- 2.3.6 Kiddington Farm was apparently fortified by John Earl of Lincoln and granted in 1514 to Robert Stanshawe, groom of the chamber, whose farmer was tenant.
- 2.3.7 The present Kiddington cottage stands on the site of a historic farmstead that was mapped in the 19th century, though the dwelling appears to be the only upstanding element left and has been subjected to numerous extensions and renovation.
- 2.3.8 Due to the buildings history the proposed development has the potential to uncover and potential disturb archaeological remains dating to the medieval period. There is also the potential for buried soils and underlying prehistoric remains due to the site's location within a coombe head.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the watching brief, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and as defined in the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored all works associated with the excavation of the foundations for the pool building and pool. Any landscaping works that broke ground was also monitored.

4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all mechanical excavations within the specified area. Where necessary, the surfaces of uncovered archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand



to aid visual definition. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.

- 4.2.3 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

- 4.2.4 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The West Berkshire Senior Archaeologist monitored the watching brief on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the West Berkshire Senior Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.1.1 The excavation area was located on a patch of land sloping down from south to north. The western edge of site consisted of a small bank of topsoil, forming a boundary between the property and the road (**Plate 1**).
- 5.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence of the excavation area consisted of between 0.30 m and 0.80 m of mid brown silty clay topsoil, containing rare flint nodules and fragments of modern ceramic building material (CBM). The topsoil overlay the natural geology which consisted of chalk with periglacial striping containing rare flint nodules (**Plate 2**).



5.2 Archaeological features

- 5.2.1 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief. Four small areas of modern disturbance were noted but not recorded.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological artifacts were recovered during the watching brief.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits that required environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was successful in achieving the aims and objectives that were set out in the WSI and repeated in this document. The watching brief successfully identified that no features or deposits of archaeological significance were present on the site and that no excavation work would impact any potential archaeology.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. West Berkshire Museum, Newbury has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by West Berkshire Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code **241400**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 file of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

9.3 Selection policy

- 9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained. The selection policy will be agreed with the museum, and is fully documented in the project archive.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an



ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 01). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the West Berkshire Senior Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. 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 (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



REFERENCES

ADS 2013 *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*. Archaeology Data Service and Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

British Geological Survey online viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 10/03/2021)

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CIfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised edition June 2020). Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Oxford Archaeological Unit 2001 Newbury Reinforcement Pipeline. *Report on Archaeological and Surface Collection Surveys*.

SMA 1993 *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*. Society of Museum Archaeologists

SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*. Society of Museum Archaeologists

Wessex Archaeology 2020 Kiddington Cottage, Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading, West Berkshire. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished report ref. 241400.01



APPENDICES

Appendix 1 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-409638

Project details

Project name	Kiddington Cottage, Streatley
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new pool building and pool, with associated landscaping. The works covered an area of 0.1 ha centred on centred on NGR 456623 179693, at Kiddington Cottage, Aldworth Road, Streatley, Reading, West Berkshire, RG8 9RE. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the excavation works.
Project dates	Start: 02-03-2021 End: 02-03-2021
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	241400 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	NEBYM:2021.1 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WEST BERKSHIRE ALDWORTH Kiddington Cottage
Postcode	RG8 9RE
Study area	0.1 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 56623 79693 51.51283935901 -1.183942505153 51 30 46 N 001 11 02 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Tessa Lamb
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bill Moffat
Project supervisor	Rachel Williams

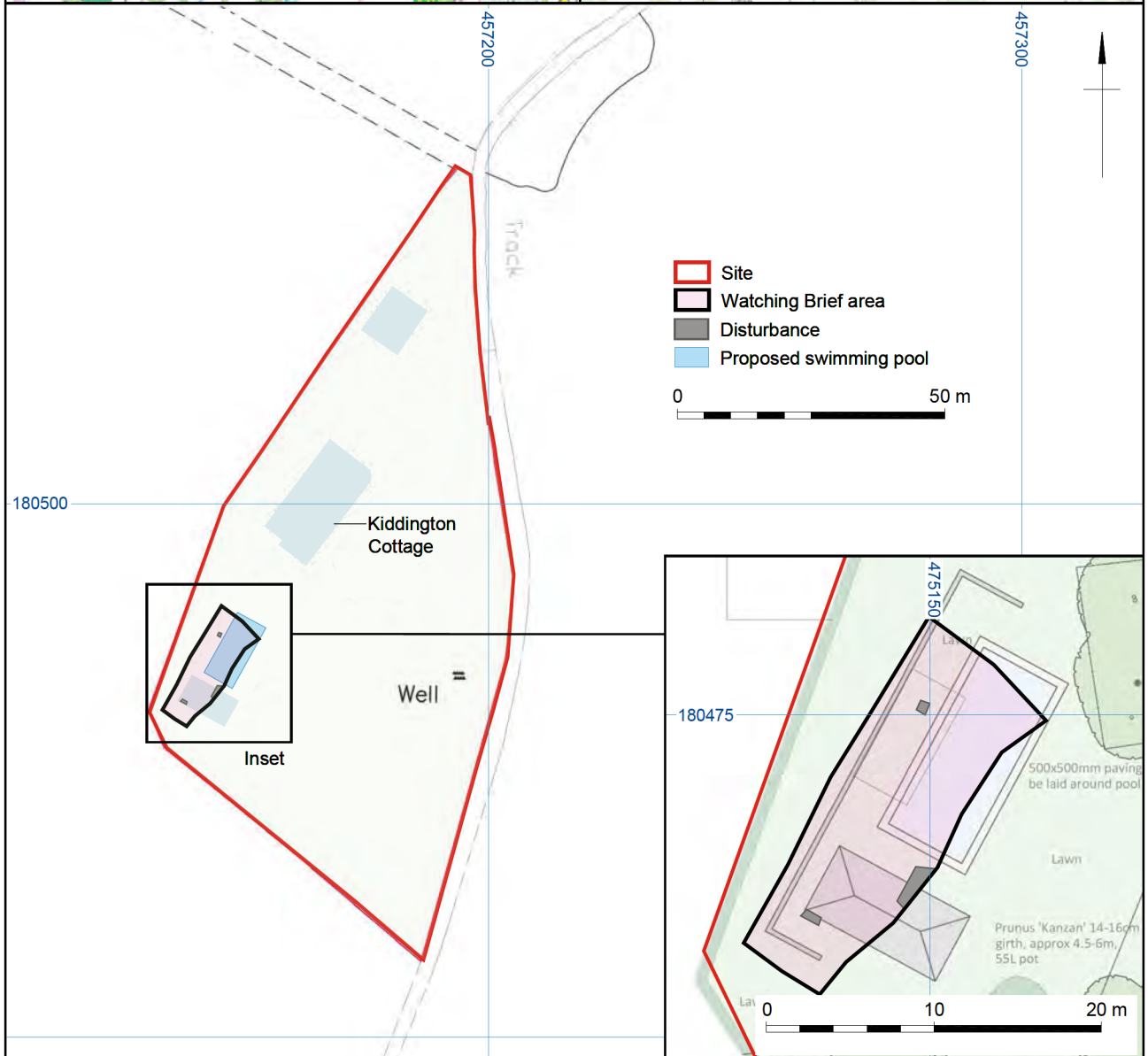
Project archives




Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	West Berkshire Museum, Newbury
Digital Archive ID	NEBYM:2021.1
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	West Berkshire Museum, Newbury
Paper Archive ID	NEBYM:2021.1
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Kiddington Cottage, Aldworth Road, Streatley: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	McCarthy, J
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Site location and Watching Brief area


Figure 1



Plate 1: Excavation area, view from north. 2.0 m and 1.0 m scales



Plate 2: East facing representative section, 1.0 m scale

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