

**LAND ADJACENT TO APRIL COTTAGE,
ROEBUCK MEADOW,
MARLBOROUGH,
WILTSHIRE**

NGR: SU 1971 6907

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

September 2010

Report No.706

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

In September 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to April Cottage, Roebuck Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1971 6907). The work was commissioned by Mr Hugh Bell.

A planning application (E/10/0178/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new residential dwelling on land adjacent to April Cottage, Roebuck Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire (SU 1971 6907). An archaeological condition placed on the planning application by the council required monitoring and recording of the groundworks associated with the proposed development.

The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of footings for the new dwelling.

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the monitoring work. The absence of archaeological deposits or finds does not preclude the presence of unseen archaeology preserved below the colluvium.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to April Cottage, Roebuck Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 1971 6907).
- 1.2 A planning application (E/10/0178/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new residential dwelling on land adjacent to April Cottage, Roebuck Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire (SU 1971 6907). An archaeological condition placed on the planning application by the council required monitoring and recording of the groundworks associated with the proposed development.
- 1.3 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS EN ISO 9001: 2000 for quality assurance in the provision of archaeological services. The company is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and subscribes to that organisation's Code of Conduct. All relevant IfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by Foundations Archaeology (2010). The WSI conformed to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999, revised 2001), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008) and in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (Foundations, 2010).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A planning application (E/10/0178/FUL) has been granted for the construction of a new residential dwelling on land adjacent to April Cottage, Roebuck Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire (SU 1971 6907). An archaeological condition placed on the planning application by the council required monitoring and recording of the groundworks associated with the proposed development
- 2.2 The proposals require the excavation of footings for the proposed development
- 2.3 The development site is situated on vacant land, to the east of the Medieval core of Marlborough and approximately 2km west of the Roman town of *Cunetio*.

- 2.4 The study area therefore contains the potential for archaeological finds predominantly dating to the Roman and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the watching brief against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains, as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary; this was intended to allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.

- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible.

iii) To attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site.

iv) To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

v) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of footings for the proposed development. All footings were excavated by use of a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket.
- 4.2 All intrusive groundworks were subject to constant archaeological monitoring by a qualified and suitably experienced archaeologist. Potential archaeological deposits were manually investigated, and where appropriate, hand excavated and recorded. Spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All on site and post excavation works fulfilled the requirements of the brief.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Prior to excavating the footings the site was reduced by 0.45m. The footings were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m below the reduced level and were up to 0.50m wide. The lowest stratigraphic unit comprised (106) a natural compact light brownish yellow clay with frequent sub rounded stones and flint nodules which was greater than 0.99m thick. This was overlain in the western half of the site by a mixed deposit of mid brown clay with brick and stone rubble (105), up to 0.14m thick. This was overlain by a compact layer of clinker and ash (104) which was up to 0.05m thick. This was in turn sealed by (103) a layer of loose black ash, clinker and gravel, up to 0.10m. In the eastern half of the site (106) was overlain by (102) a firm mid grey clay with medium gravel, up to 0.24m thick, which also sealed (103) in the western half. The uppermost deposit was a thin spread of recent friable mid brown topsoil, up to 0.05m thick.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the monitoring work. The footing trench revealed an area of disturbance in the western half of the site, with evidence of burning and spreads of 20th century demolition material. This agrees with evidence from the previous landowner who burnt rubbish on the site and dug in the ashes. The rubble debris may indicate the presence of an earlier structure in the vicinity, although no structural evidence was present to indicate its location, which may have been beyond the boundary of the present area of investigation. It would appear from the stratigraphy that the western half of the site has at some time in the 20th century been reduced and made up again as suggested by the presence of horizontal layers (e.g. clinker and ash). The absence of archaeological deposits or finds does not preclude the presence of unseen archaeology preserved below the colluvium.

7 ARCHIVE

- 7.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology. It comprises:

Digital photographs

Record sheets

Correspondence

Written scheme of Investigation

Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Method statement

- 7.2 The archive has been prepared in accordance with *MoRPHE* (English Heritage 2006) and *Guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives for long-*

term storage (UKIC 1990). It will be deposited with Salisbury museum service within 12 months under an accession code provided on deposition.

- 7.3 The results of the work will be published in an appropriate journal and an OASIS report will be completed and submitted.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations Archaeology, 2010, *land Adjacent to April Cottage, Roebuck Meadow, Marlborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching brief*.

IfA, 1999 (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute for Archaeologists.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Mr Hugh Bell for His cooperation during the course of this project.

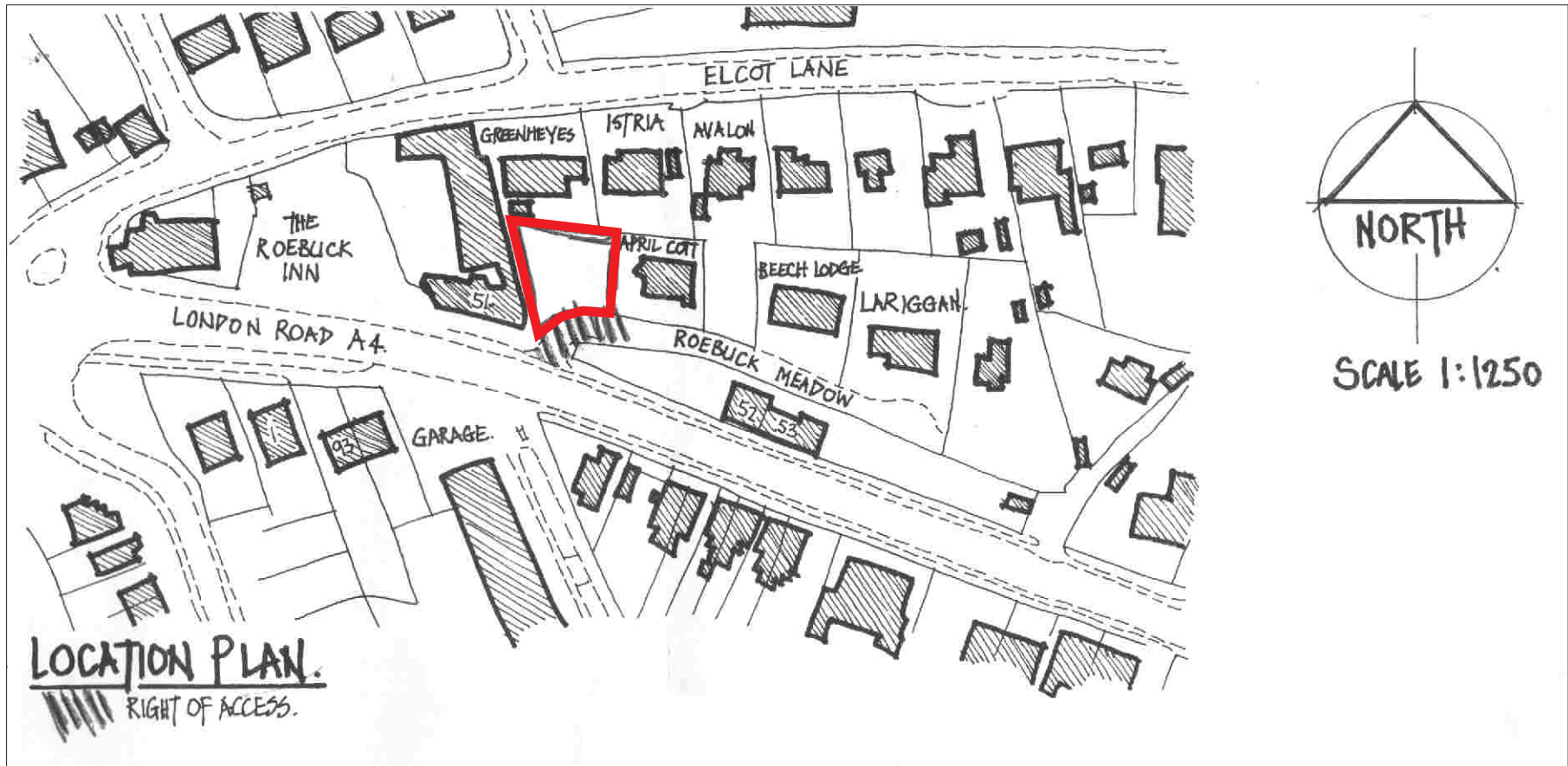


FIGURE 1: Site Location

