

**CROCUS COTTAGE,  
POTTERY LANE,  
INKPEN,  
WEST BERKSHIRE.**

**NGR: SU 37100 64120**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**September 2011**

**Report No. 755**

**Quality Assurance**

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

Author: P. Bethell and A. Hood

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Approved: D. King

QA Checked: R. King

*This report has been compiled with all reasonable skill care and attention to detail within the terms of the project as specified by the client and within the general terms and conditions of Archaeological Management Services Ltd trading as Foundations Archaeology but no explicit warranty is provided for information and opinions stated. AMS Ltd accepts no responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this report or any part thereof is made known. Any such party relies on this report at their own risk. Copyright of this document is retained by AMS Ltd, but unlimited licence to reproduce it in whole or part is granted to the client and/or their agents and/or assignees on payment of invoice.*

## **CONTENTS**

List of Illustrations

Summary

Glossary

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 CONCLUSION
- 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic Data

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Site Plan
- Figure 3: Garage Footing Plan and Sections

## **SUMMARY**

In August 2011 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with alterations to Crocus Cottage, Pottery Lane, Inkpen, West Berkshire (NGR: SU 37100 64120). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs White.

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of footings for a new garage and sun room, along with limited landscaping.

The archaeological monitoring identified an undated cobbled surface, which was cut by a Post-medieval ditch. The ditch was associated with frequent charcoal fragments and flecks and was, therefore, possibly related to known pottery production at this site. Further evidence for pottery production was present in the form of a fragment of kiln brick within a subsoil layer.

## **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.

### *CBM*

Ceramic building material.

### *Medieval*

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

### *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.

### *Roman*

The period traditionally dated between AD 43 and *circa* AD 410.

### *Saxon*

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In August 2011 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during alterations to Crocus Cottage, Pottery Lane, Inkpen, West Berkshire (NGR: SU 37100 64120). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs White.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Foundations Archaeology (2011), which was prepared in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2008) and *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning permission (Ref: **10/01738/HOUSE**) has been granted for alterations to Crocus Cottage, which comprise conversion of an existing garage into a kitchen, demolition of an existing conservatory, a new build sun room, a new build double garage with studio above, and relocation of a driveway entrance and associated gates. In accordance with the principles of PPS5 (*Planning Policy Statement 5*) and the archaeological policies of West Berkshire Council, a condition was applied to the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological works.
- 2.2 The development was located in a part of Inkpen where there is known historic pottery production. Documentary and cartographic evidence indicate the presence of kilns, drying grounds and yards in the immediate vicinity of the study area, and Post-medieval pottery kiln wasters, bricks and pottery have been recovered from the site of Crocus Cottage.
- 2.3 The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of remains related to Inkpen's pottery production industry. This did not prejudice the watching brief against evidence dating to other activities or 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.

In turn this would 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 by the pursuit of the objectives as stated below:

i) to identify, define and record any archaeological deposits and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 All groundwork that had the potential to impact upon buried archaeological deposits was carried out under constant archaeological observation. Subsequent to planning permission, the developer altered the scope of the works and it was established that excavation would only be undertaken at the location of the new build garage and the new driveway entrance, as shown in Figure 2. At the location of the new garage, the groundworks comprised the excavation of a foundation footing trench 0.60m wide by up to 1m deep. The excavations at the new entrance comprised a topsoil strip across an area of approximately 8m by 7m. All mechanical excavation was undertaken by use of a 360° tracked machine, using a toothless bucket.

4.2 Investigation of archaeological deposits was conducted manually, by an archaeologist, in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI. All archaeological deposits and features were subject to appropriate levels of investigation and recording. Spoil tips were scanned for finds. All recovered archaeological artefacts were allocated a context reference number and retained. Modern artefacts were noted and discarded.

## **5 RESULTS**

5.1 A full stratigraphic description of all contexts identified in the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. A summary discussion is given below.

5.2 NEW BUILD GARAGE: The lowest deposit within the trench comprised a solid natural clay (1006). The natural clay was sealed by a layer of compacted stone pebbles (1005), which extended across the entire area of the garage footing trench and probably represented a cobbled surface. Surface (1005) was not demonstrably associated with any artefacts or features and, as such, remains undated.

- 5.3 Surface (1005) was cut by a shallow, north-south aligned ditch [1004]/[1008], which extended across the length of the new build garage. Fills (1003) and (1007) contained Post-medieval pottery and frequent charcoal fragments and flecks, along with stones and CBM. It is therefore likely that feature [1004]/[1008] represented a Post-medieval boundary or drainage ditch and, given the occurrence of frequent charcoal within fills (1003)/(1007), it is possible that the ditch was related to the pottery production activities in this area.
- 5.4 Both surface (1005) and ditch [1004]/[1008] were sealed by a clay silt subsoil (1002), which contained Post-medieval pottery and frequent charcoal, along with frequent CBM fragments, which included a piece of kiln brick. Subsoil (1002) was, in turn, overlaid by garden soil (1001).
- 5.5 NEW DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE: The lowest deposit within the stripped area comprised brick rubble (1009), which was sealed by garden soil (1001). No archaeological finds or features were present.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring has identified an undated cobbled surface, which was cut by a Post-medieval ditch. The ditch was associated with frequent charcoal fragments and flecks and was, therefore, possibly related to known pottery production at this site. Further evidence for pottery production was present in the form of a fragment of kiln brick within a subsoil layer.
- 6.2 No structures directly related to pottery production were present within the investigated areas.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the appropriate museum. A short report will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations Archaeology. 2011. *Crocus Cottage, Pottery Lane, Inkpen, West Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished.

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

## **8      ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs White of Crocus Cottage and Duncan Coe of West Berkshire Council for their help and co-operation.



## APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
1001	Deposit - Very dark brown loose-friable sandy silt, frequent tree roots, charcoal fragments, moderate small pebbles/gravel, occasional pottery and CBM.	1002, 1009	Na
1002	Deposit - Dark yellowish-brown friable to firm clay silt, frequent irregular/sub-rounded stones to 0.10m; frequent charcoal, pottery and CBM fragments, including a fragment of kiln brick.	1003, 1007	1001
1003	Deposit - Dark yellowish-brown friable to firm clay silt, frequent irregular/sub-rounded stones to 0.10m; frequent charcoal, Post-medieval pottery and CBM fragments.	1004	1002
<b>1004</b>	Cut – Shallow linear feature, with parallel sides 0.48m wide x 0.06m deep, steep edges and a flat base.	1005	1003
1005	Deposit – Dense stone layer, compacted, irregular and sub-rounded pebbles/cobbles, 0.02 – 0.08m.	1006	1004, 1008
1006	Deposit – Mottled light yellowish brown and orange firm clay. Probable natural.	?	1005
1007	Deposit – Dark brown friable to firm silty clay, frequent charcoal and Post-medieval pottery, moderate stones, small rounded and sub-rounded.	1008	1002
<b>1008</b>	Cut – Linear feature, parallel sides 0.52m wide x 0.12m deep, steep sides and a rounded base. Equivalent to 1004.	1005	1007
1009	Deposit – very mixed layer of bricks, stone rubble, chippings and clean sand.	?	1001

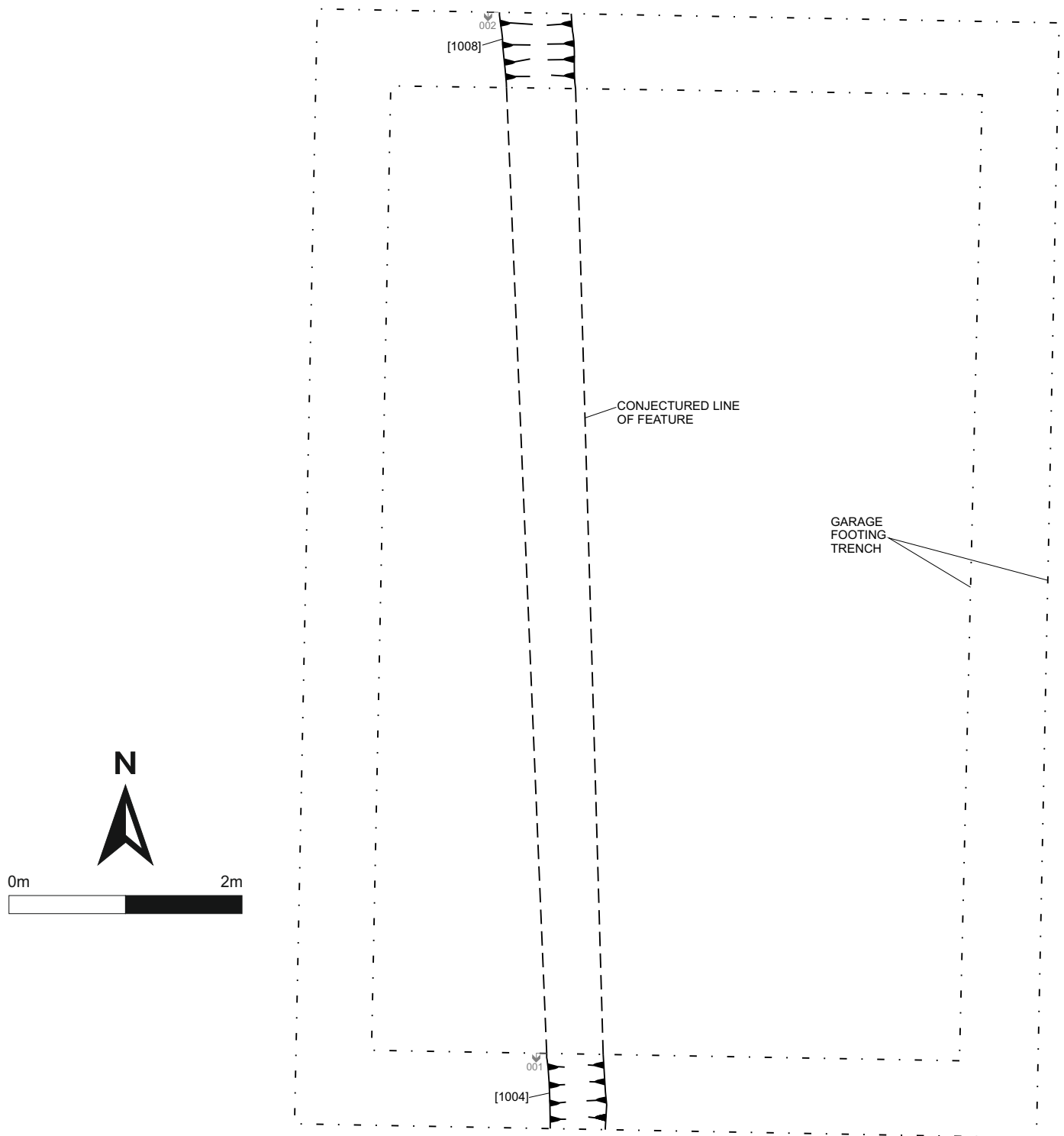


© Crown Copyright  
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

**Site Code: CCI11**  
**Accession Code:**

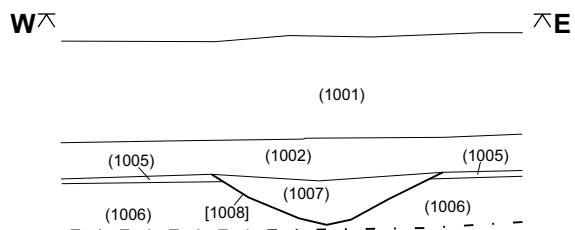
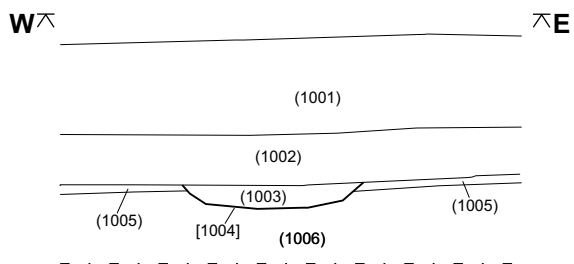
### FIGURE 1: Site Location





**SEC 001: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1004]**

**SEC 002: SOUTH FACING SECTION [1008]**



Site Code: CCI11  
Accession Code:

**FIGURE 3: Garage Footing Plan and Sections**