

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 112 ENBORNE ROAD,
NEWBURY,
WEST BERKSHIRE.**

NGR: SU 46011 66365

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

April 2012

Report No 791

Quality Assurance

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

Author: R Hedge

Date: 2/4/2012

Approved: Diana King

QA Checked: Roy 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 CONCLUSIONS
- 7 ARCHIVE
- 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Stratigraphic Data

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Site Plan
- Figure 3: Trench Locations

SUMMARY

Site name: Land to the rear of 112 Enborne Road, Newbury.
Site code: ERN11
NGR: SU 46011 66365
Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief
Date and duration: 16th January 2012: 1 day on site
Site area: Approximately 187m²
Project Manager: Roy King
Site Supervisor: Rob Hedge
Location of archive: Newbury Museum
Accession Code: NEBYM:2011.41

In January 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on land to the rear of 112 Enborne Road, Newbury (NGR: SU 46011 66365). The work was commissioned by Bearwood Property Consultants.

Planning permission (**Ref. No. 08/01797/FULD**) has been granted by West Berkshire Council for the construction of a new two-storey domestic dwelling with associated new access and cycle and bin storage on land to the rear of 112 Enborne Road, Newbury. The site lies within the area of the First Battle of Newbury (1643), and is located close to sites of Bronze Age, Iron Age and substantial Roman settlement. Consequently, an archaeological condition was attached to the consent by West Berkshire Council, requiring intrusive groundworks to be monitored under 'watching brief' conditions, in accordance with the principles of PPS5.

The monitored works comprised ground reduction and the excavation of footing trenches within the footprint of the new dwelling and garage.

No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the monitoring work. Natural ground was encountered within the footing trenches, and prior disturbance of the area associated with modern landscaping activity was evident.

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: brick, tile etc.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* 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 immediate post-Roman period, traditionally dated from AD 410 to AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2011 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land to the rear of 112 Enborne Road, Newbury (NGR: SU 46011 66365). The work was commissioned by Bearwood Property Consultants on behalf of Mr. M. Keen.
- 1.2 Planning permission (**Planning Reference: 08/01797/FULD**) has been granted for the construction of a new two-storey domestic dwelling with associated new access and cycle and bin storage. An archaeological condition was attached to the consent by West Berkshire Council, requiring intrusive groundworks to be monitored under 'watching brief' conditions, in accordance with the principles of PPS5.
- 1.3 Foundations Archaeology is certified to BS EN ISO 9001: 2008 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.
- 1.4 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 the archaeological policies of West Berkshire Council.
- 1.5 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development area lies in a suburban area to the west of the historic core of Newbury town. The site area is characterised as an 'interwar settlement zone' by the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. Prior to the construction of housing in the early 20th century, the area was parliamentary enclosure land and, before that, open field. The site is bounded by Kingsbridge Road to the east, by an alleyway to the south and by gardens to the west and north.
- 2.2 The underlying geology comprises glacial deposits of Thatcham Gravel, Wolstonian to Devensian in date. The site lies at an elevation of approximately 84m OD.
- 2.3 An Historic Environment Record (HER) search was required by Duncan Coe, archaeological advisor to West Berkshire Council, to inform the WSI. The search was centred on the proposed development and included an area of 250m around

the site, in order to place the site in its historic landscape. A summary of the results of the search is presented below.

Prehistoric

- 2.4 A total of six records relate to prehistoric activity within 100m to 300m of the proposed development site. Three of these were findspots. Finds of pottery and worked flint dating to the Lower Palaeolithic to Middle Bronze Age were discovered in the 1930s at Enborne Gate Farm gravel pit (HER No: MWB10069), approximately 170m southwest of the site. To the north of the site (approximately 280m) one or two copper alloy spearheads dating to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age were found during construction of the railway cutting in the 19th century (HER No: MWB14281). Finds of Late Bronze Age pottery as well as four worked flints and burnt flint were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil layers during an evaluation at Enborne Road Playing Fields by Berkshire Archaeological Services in 2005 (HER No: EWB831, approximately 100m northeast of the site).
- 2.5 Two sites, Enborne Gate Farm 1986 and Land at Enborne Road 2001-2002, in the vicinity of the proposed development have yielded prehistoric features suggesting settlement in the Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age periods respectively. An evaluation by Wessex Archaeology at Enborne Gate Farm revealed features indicating settlement in the Early to Middle Bronze Age (HER No: MWB15647 and EWB90, approximately 100m southwest of the site). The features comprised two ditches and a pit as well as a number of unstratified prehistoric finds across the area.
- 2.6 Evaluation (CgMs, 2001) at the Enborne Road site uncovered a Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pit containing burnt flint and three pottery sherds in addition to residual prehistoric finds within Roman features (HER Nos: MWB16129 and EWB368, approximately 260m northwest of the site). A subsequent excavation by Wessex Archaeology in 2002 (HER No: EWB661) revealed that the pit was one of a series of predominantly Middle Iron Age pits. In addition, two parallel ditches of the same date were present, representing a relict field system. A roundhouse of Middle Iron Age date was also discovered during the excavation works (HER No: MWB16274 and EWB661, approximately 180m northwest of the site). Finds from the drip gully had been deliberately placed either side of the entrance; three loom weights on top of a broken vessel on the north side of the entrance and broken sherds, possibly from the same vessel, south of the entrance. Middle Iron Age settlement in The Kennet Valley is uncommon.

Roman

- 2.7 The HER identifies two Roman sites and an artifact scatter. A settlement site, covering three to four acres, lies approximately 70m southeast of the proposed development at Salcombe Road (HER Nos: MBW4825, 4826, 4827, 4828, 4829). The remains indicated a substantial settlement, possibly a villa and a cemetery of cinerary urns discovered during building works in 1907 (Walter Money) and in 1928 (Mr. V. E. Beer). Two stretches of flint and chalk walling beneath a quantity

of pottery, tiles, painted stucco and animal bones were present, in addition to evidence for hypocaust remains, indicating the presence of a building. Other features discovered included a shallow well or midden containing quantities of pottery, animal bone and a needle made of antler bone and 'v-shaped' ditches. A total of 20 cinerary urns, marginally plough-damaged, were found, all containing bone. Further ditches and associated quantities of pottery and building rubble (hypocaust remains, tiles, bones and metal objects) were discovered by Beer during building works in 1928 beneath No. 16 Salcombe road (HER No: MBW16426). This site, lying immediately east of MBW4825, probably represents a continuation of the settlement. A watching brief within the Roman settlement site, carried out by TVAS in 2011 at No. 25 Salcombe Road, did not reveal any archaeological remains. Only a single, narrow 6m long trench was excavated during this work.

- 2.8 An evaluation by CgMs in 2002 revealed a relict field system at Enborne Road, approximately 170m northwest of the proposed development site (HER No: MBW16128 and EWB368). The remains comprised three parallel ditches containing 1st-2nd century AD pottery sherds.
- 2.9 The artifact scatter around the railway cutting, approximately 250m to the north of the proposed development site, was reported by a metal detectorist in 1987. The scatter covered an area of approximately 500m east-west and comprised 'Romano-British finds'.

Saxon and Medieval

- 2.10 The only evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity within the vicinity of the proposed development consists of pottery sherds discovered in the 1930s at Enborne Gate Farm gravel pit (HER No: MWB10069), approximately 170m southwest of the site.

Post-Medieval

- 2.11 The HER has identified six records of this period, ranging in date from the 16th to the 19th centuries. A single findspot of 16th century date is recorded at No. 16 Remembrance Road where a corroded jetton was found in the rear garden (HER No: MWB14864, approximately 200m northeast of the site).
- 2.12 The proposed development area lies within the Site of the First Battle of Newbury 1643, although outside the Registered Battlefield (HER No: MWB15762). A metal-detecting survey and subsequent watching brief, evaluation and excavation at the Enborne Road site (HER Nos: EWB366, EWB370, EWB368 and EWB661) did not recover evidence of a land surface relating to the battle. The metal detecting survey found several concentrations of metal finds and, according to the metal detectorist, the site had a higher rate of finds compared to other rural sites. A total of 16 finds, including a coin, probably a 17th century farthing, which could be attributed to the 17th century were recovered during the survey (HER No: MWB16130). The post-excavation assessment for the site (Wessex, 2002, HER

No: EWB661) states that only a single object, a musket ball, was recovered during the metal detecting survey which related to the Civil War period.

- 2.13 Enborne Gate Farm (HER No: MBW15647), now demolished, was a late 19th century complex of buildings, possibly dating to c. 1860 (as suggested in a Level II survey of The Quadrangle, HER No: EWB962) and a later courtyard, mapped in 1911. The complex, approximately 120m west of the site, is now converted into offices. The 19th century railway cutting (HER No: MWB6063), branch line from Newbury to Kintbury, lies approximately 300m north of the site. A few Post-medieval pottery sherds were found during a watching brief on geotechnical test-pitting on the Enborne Road site in 2001 (HER Nos: MWB16127, EWB370). An assessment of the field boundaries at the Enborne Road site (HER No: EWB367) concluded that the surviving hedgerows were no earlier than Inclosure age (18th-19th century), although the line of the boundaries probably pre-dated the hedges. As noted above, in paragraph 3.2, the area of proposed development was fields in the late post-medieval period and at least up to the 19th century.

Undated

- 2.14 A single HER record indicates the presence of an undated well to the rear of 104 Enborne Road, 45m to the east of the proposed development (HER No: MWB15927).
- 2.15 The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of remains predominantly related to prehistoric and Roman settlement and/or field systems and finds as well as finds relating to the First Battle of Newbury and possible remains of late post-medieval arable activity. 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; 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.

ii) 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.

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 works comprised the reduction of the modern ground surface within the footprint of the new dwelling and garage and the excavation of associated footing trenches. Excavation was undertaken using a tracked 360 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 Natural deposits comprising poorly sorted sub-rounded to sub-angular flint gravels and coarse orange sand were encountered throughout the excavated footings, at an average depth of 0.78m below ground level (approximately 83.5m O.D.). These were overlaid by a mid brown silty-sand deposit (102) 0.38m in depth, containing frequent small stone, modern CBM, glass and charcoal inclusions and frequent tree rooting. Overlying (102) was a deposit 0.40m in depth (101) comprising demolition rubble containing concrete, CBM, glass and iron, interspersed with a remnants of a dark brown silty-sand topsoil. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the monitoring work. In the light of this, and given the depths to which modern material had impacted (approximately 0.8m below ground level) in relation to the projected impact of remaining works, it was agreed in consultation with Duncan Coe of West Berkshire Council that no further monitoring works were necessary.

7 ARCHIVE

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

Digital photographs
Colour and B&W 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 Newbury Museum using their specific deposition policies within 12 months under accession code **NEBYM:2011.41**.
- 7.3 The results of the work will be published in a suitable archaeological journal, and an OASIS report will be completed and submitted.

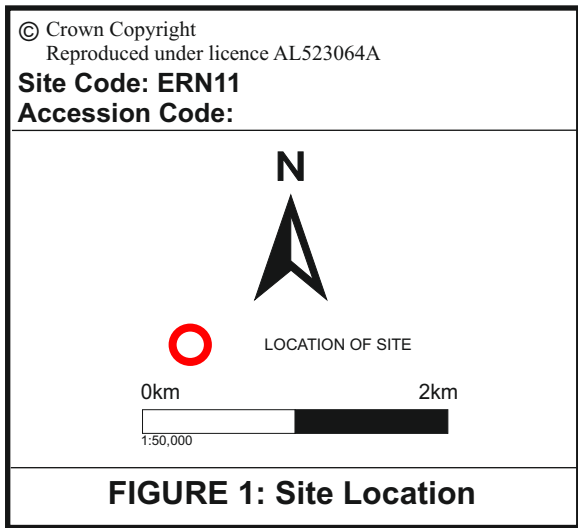
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Foundations Archaeology, 2011, *Land to the rear of 112 Enborne Road, Newbury, West Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished.

IfA, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute for Archaeologists.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Duncan Coe of West Berkshire Council, Keith Wright of Bearwood Property Consultants and Mr. Mike Keen for their help and co-operation during the course of this project.





© Crown Copyright
Reproduced under licence AL523064A
Site Code: ERN11
Accession Code:

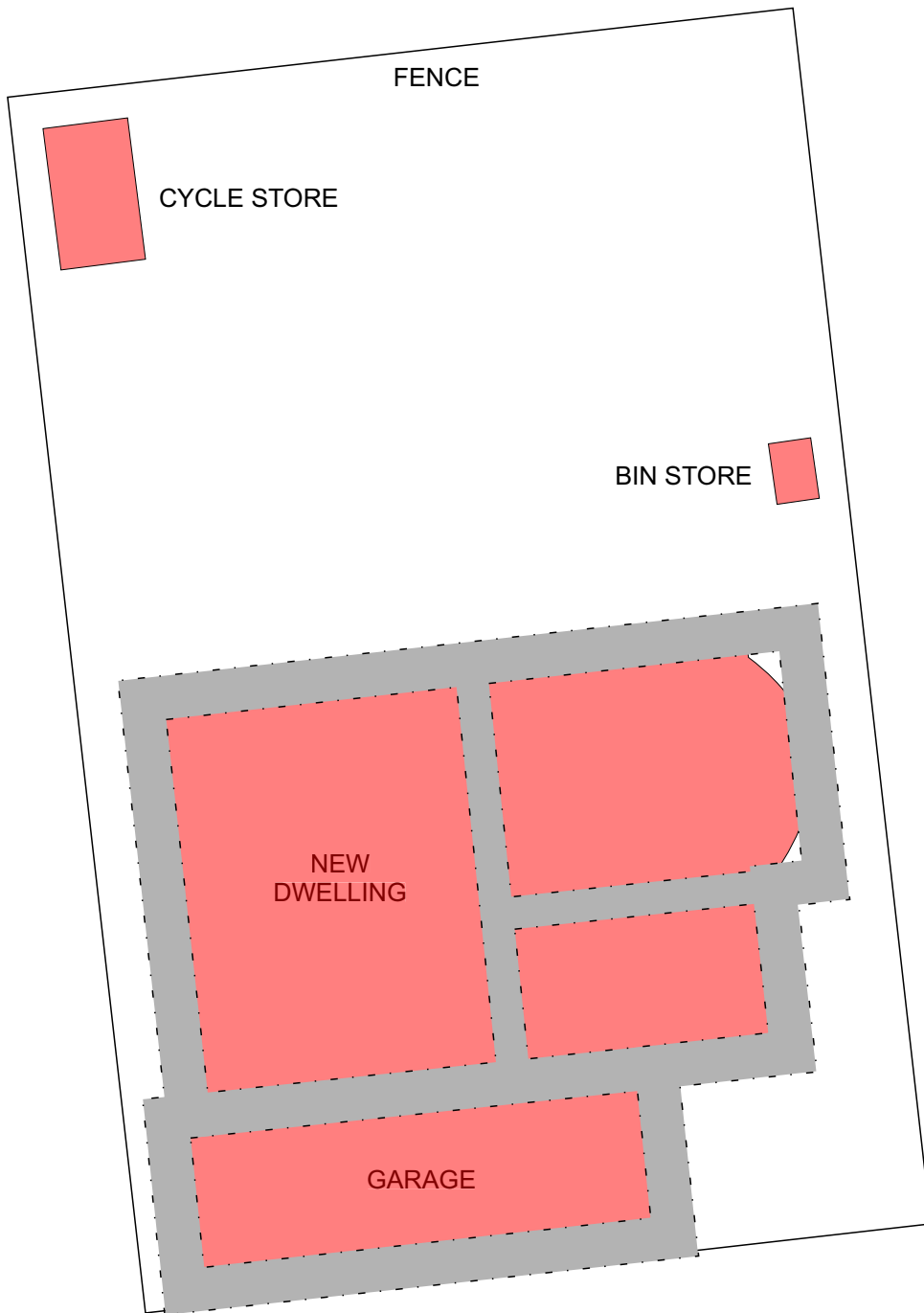
N

FOOTPRINT OF NEW BUILD

0m 20m

1:500

FIGURE 2: Site Plan



© Crown Copyright
Reproduced under licence AL523064A

Site Code: ERN11

Accession Code:



FOOTING TRENCHES EXCAVATED
UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

0m

4m

1:100

FIGURE 3: Trench Plan