

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
at Vine Cottage, Hurst, Berkshire**

NGR: 479766 173395

Wokingham Borough Council Planning Ref: LB/2014/1347 & F/2014/1279

**ASE Project No: 7124
Site Code: VCH 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014330
OASIS id: archaeol6-192778**



By Tom Munnery

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October 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SKD Design to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire. The archaeological work comprised monitoring the machine excavation of one foundation trench.

No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. Monitoring of foundation trenches revealed surviving subsoil along the eastern foundation, but was heavily disturbed along the northern from the previous foundations and a soakaway.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site and Planning Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), has been commissioned by SKD Design on behalf of their client to undertake a controlled archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, (hereafter 'the site'; centred NGR: 479766, 173395; Figures 1 and 2).

1.1.2 Vine Cottage comprises a timber-framed, late 15th century hall house with 17th century additions and is Grade II listed. The site also falls within the historic village of Hurst which includes St Nicholas' Church, the earliest surviving elements of which date to the 12th century. Due to the potential for structural and/or occupation remains associated with the standing building and medieval settlement Berkshire Archaeology recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any planning consent granted.

1.1.3 Planning consent has been granted by the Wokingham Borough Council for the erection of a single storey side/rear extension to the existing dwelling following part demolition of the existing extension in addition to a two storey front and rear glazed gable, two storey extension and single storey extension to the front elevation of the annex (Planning Ref: F/2014/1279; Listed Building Ref: LB/2014/1347) (Figures 3 to 5). In accordance with recommendations made by Berkshire Archaeology Condition 3 of the planning consent states:

No development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: The site is identified as being of archaeological potential. Investigation is required to allow preservation and recording of any archaeological features or artefacts before disturbance by the development.

Relevant policy: National Planning Policy Framework Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB25 disturbance.

1.1.4 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was completed by ASE (ASE 2014b) and submitted to the Berkshire County Archaeologist for approval on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council in advance of the commencement of development associated with the above mentioned planning consents.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British and Geological Mapping available online shows that the underlying geology within the site comprises Kempton Park Gravel Formation (Pleistocene Epoch) lying over London Clay Formation (Eocene Epoch).

1.3 Research Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development in compliance with the planning consent granted by Wokingham Borough Council.

1.3.2 Special attention will be paid to any evidence relating to structures and/or occupation of site, particular that which may relate to or pre-date the earliest phase of the current building.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The scope of this report is to detail the results of the watching brief at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire carried out on 15th October 2014 by Tom Munnery.

2.0 Historical Background

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from the previous Historic Building Assessment (ASE 2014a) with due acknowledgement. For a complete background refer to this document.
- 2.2 Vine Cottage comprises a number of ranges of varying age. The earliest part of the building is the two southern two-storey bays of the main north-south range, which probably date to the early-mid 16th century. A second main phase occurred not long after, in the mid-late 16th century, when a two-storey extension of three bays, including a narrower smoke bay, was added to the north side of the building, and a two-storey extension of two bays was constructed on the east side of the building. Alterations occurred during the 17th-18th centuries, principally the insertion of a chimney stack into the smoke bay, insertion of a floor into the central bay of the north range, and the probable relocation of the staircase. Further alterations including the insertion of a chimney stack in the eastern range, occurred in the 19th century. The majority of the windows, and the existing staircase appear to date to the early 20th century. Later 20th century alterations comprise the addition of a large single storey extension to provide the current family room at the north end of the building, and removal of part of the western wall and the construction of a lean-to on the west elevation to create a larger kitchen.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 3)

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The excavation for new foundations associated with the extension to Vine Cottage (excluding any works relating to the annexe) were supervised by an archaeologist. The machine used was a 5 tonne tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 1.0m wide toothless bucket. All hand and mechanical excavation and plant movement carried out by the ground work contractor was undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.

3.1.2 Opportunity was made for careful investigation by the archaeologist in attendance when required taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological investigation by hand to identify and record any remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological information.

3.1.3 This approach enabled any deposits disturbed during the proposed works to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in NPPF and in order to satisfy Condition 3 of the planning consent.

3.1.4 The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist to search for artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 The foundations were excavated to a depth of up to 2.20m in places, meaning entry into the trenches was not possible during some of the watching brief precluding close inspection.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE in Portslade and will be deposited at a suitable archive in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	8 Digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Foundation trenches monitored on 15/10/2014

(Figures 4-6)

4.1.1 The monitored works involved the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension to Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire. These were excavated through subsoil [003] which consisted of loose, mid grey silt clay with gravel inclusions and a maximum thickness of 0.80m; the topsoil had been previously removed. This revealed a natural geology [004] comprising a firm orange gravelly sand visible in Figure 4 and 5.

4.1.2 No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the monitoring of these works, but a soakaway of late 20th century date was encountered (Figure 5) in the northern corner of the extension extending 3.70m to the south and 4.50m west from northernmost point of the new build. The northern foundation was heavily disturbed by the soakaway and the previous foundations (Figure 6)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Deposit	Fill of 002	>3.70	>4.50	2.00
002	Cut	Soakaway	>3.70	>4.50	2.00
003	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.80
004	Layer	Natural	-	-	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire. Monitoring of foundation trenches revealed surviving subsoil along the eastern foundation, but was heavily disturbed along the northern from the previous foundations and a soakaway.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank SKD Design for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Berkshire Archaeology for their guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Tom Munnery. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Neil Griffin project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	VCH 14				
Identification Name and Address	Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire				
County, District &/or Borough	Berkshire, Wokingham Borough Council				
OS Grid Refs.	SU 79766 73395				
Geology	Kempton Park Gravel				
Arch. South-East Project Number	7124				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site	Green Field				
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 15/10/14		
Sponsor/Client	SKD Design				
Project Manager	Neil Griffin				
Project Supervisor	Tom Munnery				
Period Summary					
				Other Modern	
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SKD Design to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire. The archaeological work comprised monitoring the machine excavation of one foundation trench.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. Monitoring of foundation trenches revealed surviving subsoil along the eastern foundation, but was heavily disturbed along the northern from the previous foundations and a soakaway.</i></p>					

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-192778****Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by SKD Design to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire. The archaeological work comprised monitoring the machine excavation of one foundation trench. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief. Monitoring of foundation trenches revealed surviving subsoil along the eastern foundation, but was heavily disturbed along the northern from the previous foundations and a soakaway.
Project dates	Start: 15-10-2014 End: 15-10-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6972 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	HALL HOUSE Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM WINNERSH Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst, Berkshire
Postcode	RG10 0SD
Study area	9500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 79766 73395 51.4534201798 -0.851887361341 51 27 12 N 000 51 06 W Point

Project creators

Name of	Archaeology South-East
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Organisation

Project brief originator Archaeology South-East

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Tom Munnery

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body SKD Design

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Unknown

Digital Contents "none"

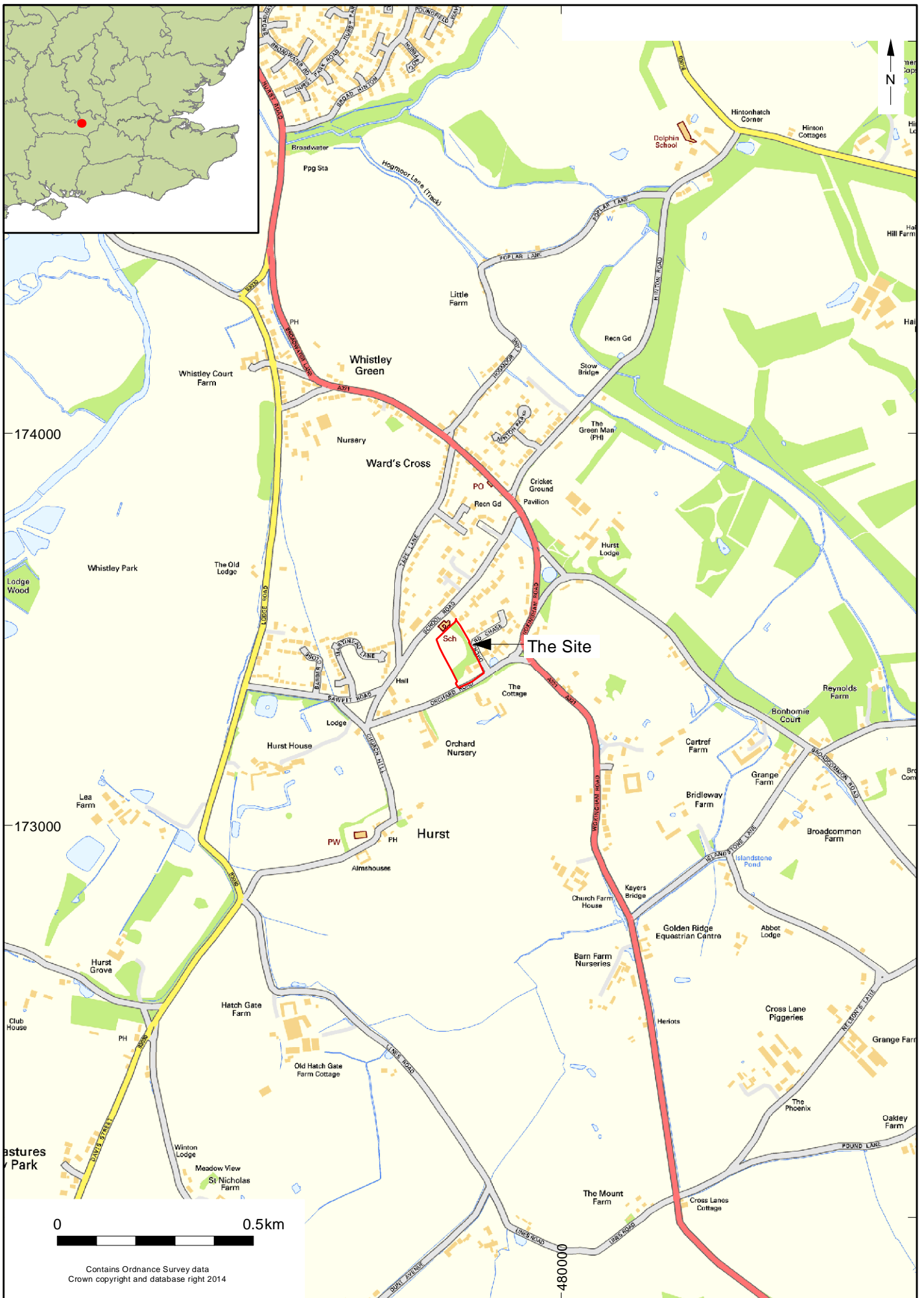
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Unknown

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Report"

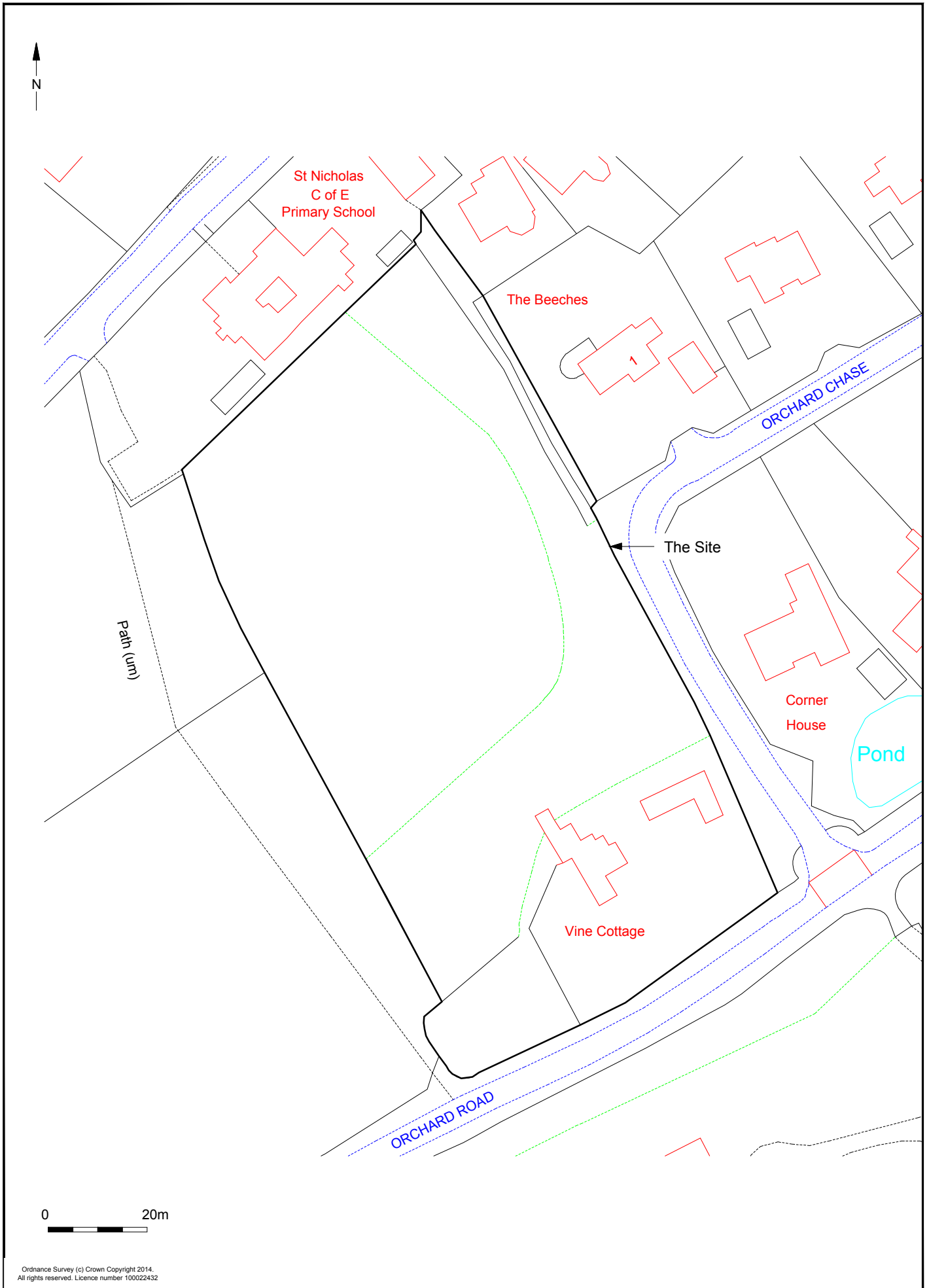
Entered by Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 16 October 2014



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© Archaeology South-East		Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7124	Oct 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014330	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Vine Cottage, Orchard Road, Hurst	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7124	Oct 2014	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2014330	Drawn by: JLR		

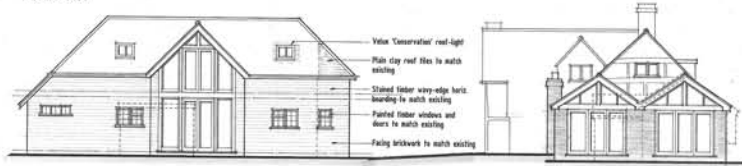


Front Elevation House
Scale 1:100

Annexe



Side Elevation House



Rear Elevation Annexe

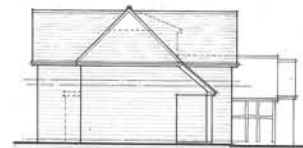
House



Side Elevation Annexe



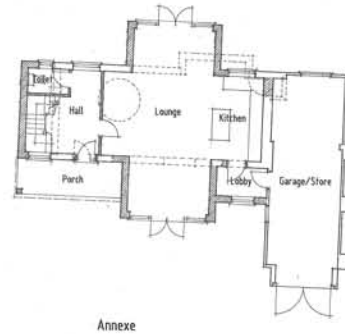
Side Elevation House



Side Elevation Annexe



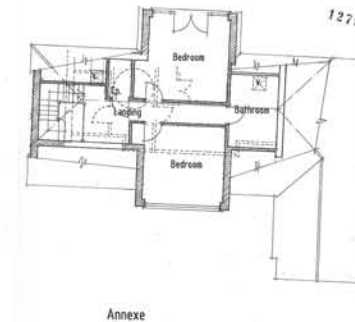
Ground Floor Plan Scale 1:100



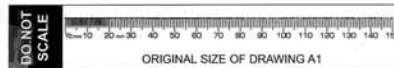
Annexe



First Floor Plan



Annexe



1279 20 JUN 14

→ **SD design**
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**PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO
"VINE COTTAGE" ORCHARD ROAD
HURST READING BERKS. RG10 0SD
Scale 1:100 May 2014 Drg. No. 04
For: Mr. & Mrs. P. MEADS
Plans and Elevations**



Figure 4: Undisturbed stratigraphy, looking south



Figure 5: Modern soakaway [002], looking north



Figure 6: Disturbance from previous foundations, looking east

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