

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
The Old Manse  
Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill  
Surrey**

**NGR: 522387 15564**

**Planning Ref: 18/02147/HHOLD**

**ASE Project No: 180798**

**Site Code: TOM18**

**ASE Report No: 2019080**

**OASIS id: archaeol6-347048**



**By Lucy May**



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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill, Surrey between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The fieldwork was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of their client Richard Bond during the groundworks for a rear extension.*

*The development had limited impact on archaeological remains. The continuation of a small late 1st/early 2nd century gully found within the evaluation was recorded. There was no evidence of masonry relating to the Roman Villa.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orion Heritage, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill, Surrey, (centred NGR: 522387 155640; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2019) comprises of Thanet Formation: sand, silt and clay, which is set within an overall area of chalk downland.

1.2.2 The site lies along the northern periphery of Walton on the Hill and is located within the rear garden of The Old Manse, which is situated along a residential street bounded on all sides by other properties.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Part of the footprint for the proposed extension lies within the Scheduled Monument area of a Roman Villa (Figure 2). Following consultation with Orion Heritage and Historic England, it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation (ASE 2018a) of the site would be needed prior to the grant of any planning permission. This was designed to enable Historic England and Surrey County Council (acting as advisers on archaeological issues to the Local Planning Authority, Borough of Reigate and Banstead) to make an informed decision on the effect of the proposed development on the Scheduled Monument.

1.3.2 As a result of the evaluation (*ibid*) which was undertaken in August 2018, Historic England required that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks associated with the development.

1.3.3 Subsequently, a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018b) for an Archaeological Watching Brief was produced.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aims for the archaeological watching brief were:

- to record archaeological deposits exposed by the development. Exposed deposits or recovered artefacts should be interpreted within the context of the site as a whole
- The watching brief will also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any deposits

1.4.2 The following site specific aims have also been formed:

- Corroborate the date and determine function of the Roman gully found during the evaluation

- Establish whether any other features associated with the Roman occupation are present
- Establish whether there is any further evidence for earlier prehistoric activity on the site

1.4.3 The watching brief also has the potential to address the following specific research priorities set out in the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (SARF):

- Evidence for buildings and other structures associated with villas; villa settings (practical); water supply; dating (origin, 'history', end) (SARF 44)
- Villa functions (SARF 45)
- Can we demonstrate changes in the style of living (types of pottery such as *mortaria*, metalwork)? How does this vary from site to site, and over time?

## 1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out by Lucy May (Archaeologist) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following background information is taken from Historic England's List Entry Summary for the Roman villa (Historic England 2018; NHLE Ref 1009403) which draws in the evidence deriving from the excavations of 1948-49 (Lowther 1949):

*The monument comprises the buried remains of a Roman villa, including at least two structures and associated archaeological features, which was identified in 1915 and partially excavated in 1939-40. The full extent of the villa was not established, but the main dwelling underlies the gardens of 'Windmill Bank', 'Four Seasons' and 'The Old Manse'. Three phases of building were identified, all within the Roman period. These lay over evidence for Late Iron Age or Early Roman occupation but without evidence of structures. In about AD100 a small barn-like structure was built, of which only a single length of walling survived when the villa was rebuilt on a more ambitious scale around AD180. This main period of occupation lasted until the 4th century before alterations were again made, and the villa was finally abandoned shortly before Roman rule in Britain collapsed in AD410. After the AD180 rebuilding, the dwelling conformed to a 'winged corridor' plan commonly found in villa buildings of this date: hence long corridors at the front and back gave access into the three central square rooms and to additional rooms at the ends of the building which jutted out slightly, giving rise to the 'winged' description. The building measured some 44m by 26m. A bath house and a large circular room, perhaps a dining room, projected westwards from the main part of the building, while to the south a threshing floor was located, illustrating the primarily agricultural role of the villa. The fences and garden sheds are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.*

- 2.1.2 The conjectured footprint of the large circular room referred to in the listing extends into the rear garden of The Manse within, or in close proximity to, the footprint of the proposed extension (Figure 2). Part of the structure was investigated during excavations of the villa in 1948-49 and was found to enclose a polygonal room with *opus signinum* floor (Lowther 1949).
- 2.1.3 An evaluation undertaken 30m to the east of the site at Windmill Bank revealed a small number of pits and postholes, most likely of 1st to 4th century date. Roman finds included sherds of Samian pottery and *mortarium*, some large floor or wall tiles, and segments of combed flue tile (SCAU 2014). Subsequent watching brief revealed a number of flint-packed postholes, some smaller pits or postholes and an east-west ditch, all of which were of Romano-British date. The position and characteristics of a number of the postholes indicate that they were contemporary and may have formed the ground plan of a timber-framed building of unknown function (Surrey Archaeological Society 2016).

## **2.2 Recent Evaluation**

- 2.2.1 In August 2018 ASE undertook an evaluation of the development footprint. Three trenches were excavated, each measuring 3m by 1.2m, Trench 2 targeting the conjectured footprint of the round Roman structure discussed above (Figure 4).
- 2.2.2 The evaluation indicated that whilst archaeological deposits do survive at the site, no masonry from the villa buildings were encountered. A gully containing late 1st/early 2nd century AD material, undoubtedly contemporary, albeit peripheral to the scheduled villa, was identified in Trench 1, excavated and recorded.
- 2.2.3 In addition, a sherd of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age pottery and prehistoric flintwork was recovered, providing a glimpse of the longevity of human activity in the vicinity not seen in previous local archaeological work.



### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork methodology was initially set out in the WSI (ASE 2018b). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 3.1.2 The archaeological watching brief monitored all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed extension. This involved reducing an area measuring 13m x 10m by some 0.20-0.35m and was followed by excavations for wall footings within the footprint of the extension. These measured 0.60m wide and were generally excavated to a depth of 1m however a 6m stretch of the eastern trench was excavated to a depth of 1.7m due to the building inspectors instructions on site.
- 3.1.3 Adequate time was made available for archaeological excavations by hand in order to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the work.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using the standard Archaeology South-East record sheets and a full digital photographic record was maintained throughout the work.

#### 3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at an appropriate museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below.

Context sheets	8
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	30
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	2
Trench Record forms	0
Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	1 bag
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 4 and 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width	Depth (m)	Height (mOD)
1	Layer	Topsoil			0.20-0.35	181.24-181.37
2	Layer	Subsoil			0.35-0.42	-
3	Layer	Natural			0.4	-
4	Cut	Gully	>0.6	1.0	0.36	180.59
5	Fill	Fill	>0.6	1.0	0.36	-
6	Cut	Gully	>0.6	0.81	0.21	180.56
7	Fill	Fill	>0.6	0.81	0.21	-
8	Masonry	Concrete Patio	10	2.0	0.15	181.20

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

### 4.1 Ground Reduction and Footings

- 4.1.1 Initially, an area measuring 13m x 10m was reduced by 0.20-0.35m. This work comprised of breaking a modern concrete patio [8] which was against the building, as well as taking off garden topsoil [1] to the north which comprised of a dark grey brown, silt sand with evidence of rooting.
- 4.1.2 Following this, the trench for wall footings were excavated. This measured 0.60m wide and followed the outside footprint of the proposed extension. The majority measured 1m in depth however along the eastern side next to the building the trench measured 1.7m in depth.
- 4.1.3 Overall, the exposed stratigraphy comprised of natural Thanet sand, silt and clay [3] overlain by a thick dark, grey brown silt sand subsoil [2]. A small assemblage of Roman pottery and medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material were recovered from the subsoil. This subsoil was overlain by the concrete patio and topsoil.
- 4.1.4 Within the north-western area, two features [4] and [6] were identified. These aligned broadly east - west and were similar in shape, with concave sides and a rounded base. The features form the continuation of gully [1/004] recorded in the evaluation (ASE 2018a). Their fill consisted of a mid-brown grey, silt sand. No finds were recovered from these features.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 3). All finds have been packed and stored according to ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)
2	4	84	2	78
Total	4	84	2	78

Table 3: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

### 5.2 The Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.2.1 A small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil [002], comprising four sherds, weighing 84g. The sherds appear broadly reflective of earlier Roman activity. They include the base of a south Gaulish samian cup (probably a Dragendorff 27) and a large rim from an Alice Holt grey ware necked, cordoned jar (Marsh & Tyers 1978 form 2D; Lyne & Jeffries 1979 Class 1). Two other bodysherds were recorded, respectively in Alice Holt grey ware and a distinctive oxidised ware with very coarse quartz sand, which is unsourced but clearly widely distributed in Surrey.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.3.1 Two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) collectively weighing 78g were collected during the watching brief. One of these was a piece of glazed roof tile, approximately 15mm thick. Roof tile is often difficult to date precisely but the glaze in this instance indicates a medieval date. The second piece of CBM was much abraded and irregular in form, but was most probably a piece of early post-medieval brick, dating to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century or early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

6.1.1 The development had limited impact on archaeological remains. The stratigraphic sequence for the area consisted of natural Thanet sand, silt and clay overlain by 0.35-0.42m of subsoil and sealed by 0.15m of concrete to the south and 0.20-0.35m of garden topsoil. A small assemblage of Roman pottery and medieval and post-medieval CBM were recovered from the subsoil.

6.1.2 Two linear features were encountered, both of which make up east- and westerly extensions of a late- 1<sup>st</sup> / early- 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman gully found within Trench 1 of the evaluation. No finds were found within these features.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

6.2.1 The natural overburden (subsoil and topsoil) and therefore the archaeological horizon appeared intact and there does not appear to have been any significant affect from any previous groundworks suggesting that deposit survival is good.

### **6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

6.3.1 The continuance of the late 1st/early 2nd century gully recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation was recorded to the east and west of the evaluation trench. The gully is likely to be contemporary with the Roman villa.

### **6.4 Consideration of research aims**

6.4.1 The archaeological watching brief identified the continuance of a late 1<sup>st</sup>/early 2nd century gully recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation. No structural remains relating to the Roman villa were found, however, the gully is likely to be contemporary with the villa.

### **6.6 Conclusions**

6.6.1 The continuation of a small late 1st/early 2nd century gully found within the evaluation was recorded. There was no evidence of masonry relating to the Roman Villa.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**HER Summary**

<b>HER enquiry no.</b>	
<b>Site code</b>	TOM18
<b>Project code</b>	180798
<b>Planning reference</b>	18/02147/HHOLD
<b>Site address</b>	The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill
<b>District/Borough</b>	Surrey
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	522387 15564
<b>Geology</b>	Thanet Formation
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	Orion Heritage
<b>Project manager</b>	Paul Mason
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Lucy May
<b>Period summary</b>	
	Roman
<b>Project summary</b>	<i>The continuation of a small late 1st/early 2nd century gully found within the evaluation was recorded. There was no evidence of masonry relating to the Roman Villa.</i>

**Finds summary**

<b>Find type</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Pottery	Ceramic	Roman	2
CBM	Ceramic	Medieval and Post-med	2

**OASIS Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-347048**

## Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill, Surrey

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton on the Hill, Surrey between the 4th and 5th March 2019. The fieldwork was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of their client Richard Bond during the groundworks for a rear extension. The continuation of a small late 1st/early 2nd century gully found within the evaluation was recorded. There was no evidence of masonry relating to the Roman Villa.

Project dates Start: 04-03-2019 End: 05-03-2019

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes TOM18 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 180798 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type GULLY Roman

Significant Finds POTTERY Roman

Significant Finds CBM Uncertain

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Scheduled Monument Consent

## Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY REIGATE AND BANSTEAD BANSTEAD The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton-on-the-Hill

Postcode KT20 7UZ

Study area 10 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 22387 55640 51.286211002082 -0.244792115546 51 17 10 N 000  
14 41 W Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator ASE

Project design originator ASE

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Lucy May

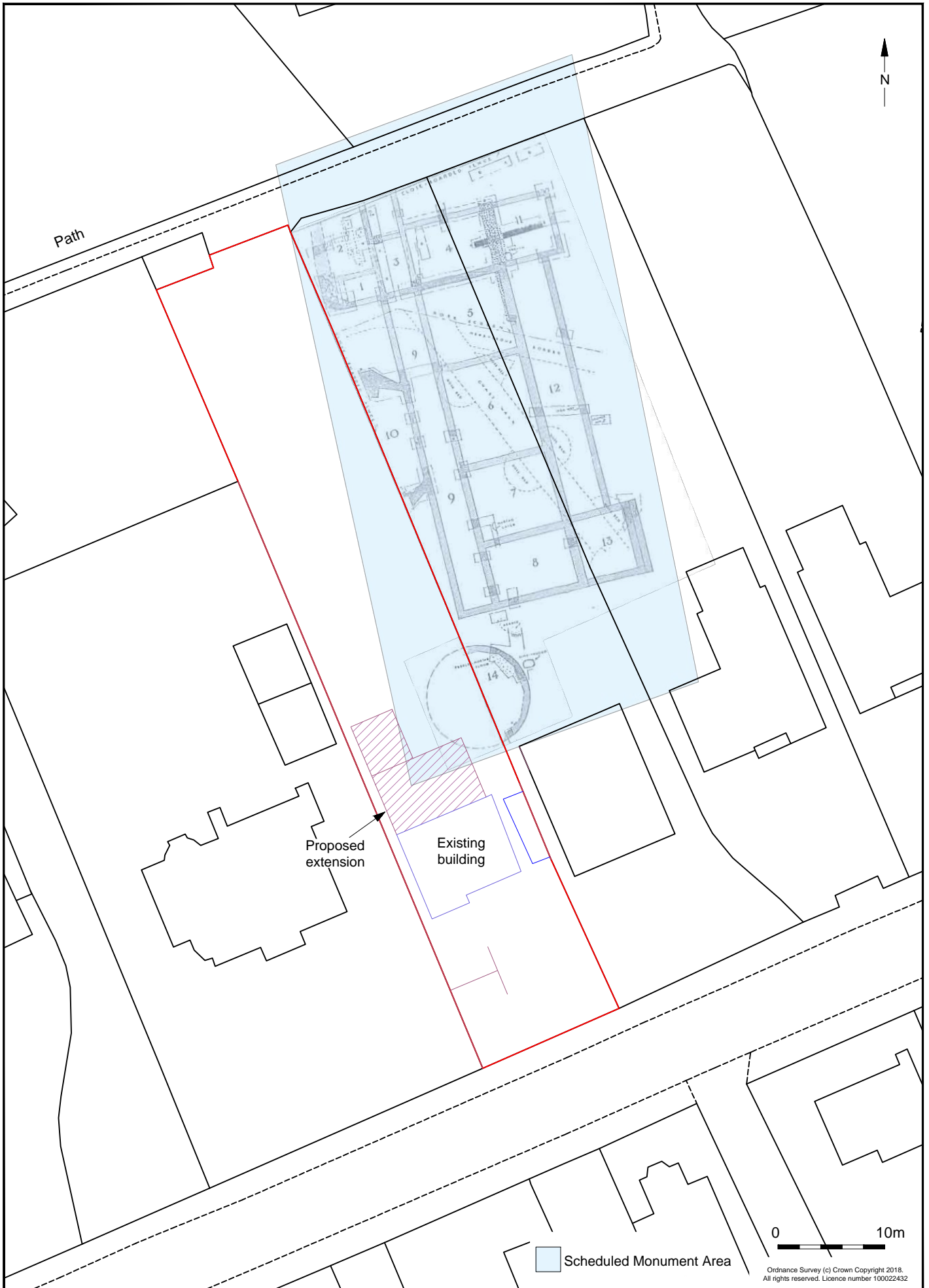
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orion Heritage
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Waltonon-the-Hill, Surrey
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Project Ref: 180798	March 2019	Site location		
Report Ref: 2019080	Drawn by: NH			



© Archaeology South-East		The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180798	March 2019	Proposed development and plan of villa within Scheduled Monument area	
Report Ref: 2019080			

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© Archaeology South-East		The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 180798	March 2019	Plan of monitored areas		
Report Ref: 2019080				



© Archaeology South-East		The Old Manse, Sandlands Grove, Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 180798	March 2019	Site plan with results from the evaluation phase, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2019080			



General view following ground reduction, looking southwest



General stratigraphy in footings trench, looking northeast



General view following completion of groundworks, looking southeast

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