

66-70 High Street
Marlow
Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Pegasus Group

CA Project: 660824
CA Report: 17129

March 2017



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	14/12/2016	Ralph Brown	SRJ	Internal review	QA	SRJ
B	23/03/17	Ralph Brown	DL	Client Review	QA	SRJ

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	66-70 High Street
Location:	Marlow, Buckinghamshire
NGR:	SU 8495 8642
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	12 December 2016 – 22 February 2017
Planning Reference:	(ref: 16/07160/FUL)
Location of Archive:	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Site Code:	MAR 16

Between December 2016 and February 2017, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a single storey rear extension and associated external alterations to the current buildings at 66-70 High Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

An undated, but probable post-medieval, limestone courtyard surface was identified overlain by modern reworked garden soil deposits. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between December 2016 and February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 66-70 High Street, Marlow (centred on NGR: SU 84957 86424; Fig. 1). The watching brief was commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Troia UK Restaurants Ltd.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a single storey rear extension and associated internal and external alterations (Planning ref: 16/07160/FUL).
- 1.3 The scope of the watching brief was guided by *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service Generic Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief* (BCAS 2015). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council (SAOBCC), the archaeological Advisor to Wycombe District Council (WDC; the local planning authority). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The site is located within the centre of Marlow, approximately 6km south-west of High Wycombe and 10km north-west of Maidenhead. The development site, which measures approximately 600m², occupies a broadly rectangular plot of land fronting onto the High Street, which contains an existing commercial property with a garden to the rear (Figs 2-4). It is bounded to the north and south by properties fronting on to the High Street, to the east by the High Street and to the west by properties and rear gardens fronting on to Portland Gardens. The site lies on relatively flat ground at approximately 33m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as New Pit Chalk Formation chalk formed during the cretaceous period. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of water borne sands and gravels of the Shepperton gravel member group (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric period (pre AD 43)

- 2.1 No prehistoric finds or activity are recorded within the site. Within the wider environs of Marlow, findspots of prehistoric flints, primarily derived from the river gravels along the Thames or located during brick earth extraction, have been recorded.
- 2.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint are recorded from quarries at Deans Pit, located to the north of Marlow and at the former Marlow Brickworks, located on the eastern edge of the town (EH 2012). Excavations 60m south of the current site at 82-86 High Street recovered two flint knives and a notched flake of probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date, and excavations at Bisham Abbey, 1km to the south, produced a Mesolithic flint adze.
- 2.3 A barrow cemetery is recorded c. 1km to the south of the site at Low Ground Farm. Three burial mounds are recorded in association with flint and pottery dating from the Neolithic to early Bronze Age (AS 2013).
- 2.4 A univallate hillfort is located c. 2km to the west of Marlow at Medmenham Camp.

Romano-British (AD 43 to AD 410)

- 2.5 Findspots of Roman pottery, wall plaster and CBM 1 km north of the current sites suggest Roman buildings in the area. Isolated Roman burials are also recorded at c.1km distance.
- 2.6 Although there is no definitive evidence, The Viatores (1964) records that the B482 Dean Street follows the alignment of a former Roman road passing through Marlow.

Early medieval and medieval periods (AD 410 –1539)

- 2.7 The place name of Marlow is first recorded in 1015 as Mere lafan. By the time of the Domesday Survey, Marlow was divided into four manorial estates. The first held by Queen Matilda consisted of 26 ploughlands, woodland capable of sustaining 1000 pigs a mill and a fishery. The second tenanted by Miles Crispin commanded 6 ploughlands and woodland for 200 pigs. Another was owned by Walter of Vernon and consisted of a further 6 ploughlands and the last, which was in the possession

of bishop Odo of Bayeux, consisted of 4 ploughlands, woodland for 50 pigs, as well as a mill and fishery.

- 2.8 The medieval town developed around a crossing on the River Thames and from at least 1227, the town had a market, indicated by the prefix Chepping (HER 0984500000). The site is located within an area of former burgage plots. During the medieval period the burgage plots, which would have extended back from the High Street, were generally occupied by town houses fronting onto the road, with gardens to the rear. These burgage plots are estimated to have been around 200m in length.
- 2.9 Previous archaeological investigations carried out within the centre of Marlow, surrounding the High Street have revealed features indicative of medieval occupation. There is the potential for similar remains to occur within the present site.
- 2.10 The only original medieval buildings that survive within the area surrounding the High Street are the 14th-century 24 High Street (HER 1303501000) and the Old Parsonage on St Peter's Street (HER 0115300000).
- 2.11 Archaeological excavations at 82-86 High Street recorded 10th-11th-century pottery (HER 0449103000), as well as substantial quantities of 11th-14th-century pottery, CBM, metalwork and glass (AS 2013).

Post-medieval and modern periods (1540 – present)

- 2.12 The Wethered Brewery (HER 0449100000), which opened in 1758, was situated on the western side of the High Street 100m south of the current site (AS 2013). Evaluation to the south-west of the development site identified the remains of medieval and post-medieval buildings, as well as pits and wells associated with Wethereds brewery (HER 0449103000). A nineteenth-century granite-paved cart track, again associated with Wethereds brewery, was also recorded (HER 0449101000).
- 2.13 The 1899 second edition Ordnance Survey sheet (Buckinghamshire LII.1) (NLS) shows the current premises forming two separate properties. As well as the amalgamation of these into a single property, the site has undergone a series of re-developments, particularly within the north-western corner.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks which will be impacted upon by the development;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks (Fig. 2) comprising the excavation of:

- five test pits (Test Pits 1 to 5) to investigate the depth of footings of upstanding walls within the site. Each test pit measured approximately 0.6m x 0.6m and ranged in depth from 0.55m to 0.91m (Fig. 5);
- three areas of ground reduction (Trenches 6-8; Fig. 6);
- seven ground investigation test pits (Trenches 8-14);
- construction trench (Trench 15; Figs 7 & 8).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum and the artefacts will be discarded. A summary of information from this project set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the watching brief results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B. The natural geological substrate was not observed within any of the excavated trenches.
- 5.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was observed across the site. The earliest deposit encountered consisted of friable mid-grey brown sandy silt, which contained moderate amounts of flint inclusions (1103 & 1303; Trenches 11 and 13). This was overlain by friable light brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and rubble inclusions, identified within Trenches 2, 3, 8, 11, 13 and 14 (204, 304, 802, 1102, 1302, and 1402). This was interpreted as a probable bedding layer for a limestone courtyard surface (203 and 303), comprised of fragmented limestone blocks, identified within Trenches 2 and 3.
- 5.3 Overlying this was re-worked garden soil layer 102, 202, 302, 503 and 1002 (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10), which contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery. This deposit was cut by wall footing 502 and was overlain by a further layer of reworked garden soil (101, 201, 301, 402, 501, 701, 801, 901, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1301, 1401 and 1501) which contained frequent limestone demolition rubble, possibly derived from the putative limestone surface identified within Trenches 2 and 3. Pottery dating from the late 18th to 20th centuries was hand-recovered from this context, which was in turn sealed by topsoil identified within Trenches 1-3 & 5-15 (100, 200, 300, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400 and 1500), which contained 19th to 20th-century pottery. Bedding layer 401 and concrete slab surface 400 directly overlay reworked soil layer 402 within Trench 4.



6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from eight deposits (mostly topsoil and garden soil layers). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval and modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. The finds are of minimal archaeological significance and will not be retained.

Pottery: post-medieval/modern

- 6.2 A total of 30 sherds (408g) of pottery was recorded from this date range. The earlier ware types were: glazed earthenware (GRE), of mid-16th to 18th century date; Tin-glazed earthenware (TGE), dating to the late 17th to 18th centuries; and white salt-glazed stoneware (WSG, 18th century). The remainder of pottery types represented were dateable to the 19th to 20th centuries. Most common among these were: porcelain (POR), 'late' English stoneware (LES), Pearlware (PEA, TRPP) and refined whiteware (REFW, TRPW). A base sherd from a vessel in transfer-printed refined whiteware (TRPW), from topsoil deposit 800, featured a maker's mark for Mintons, dating to the late 19th century (AM 2016). Included in fabric LES were the internally-threaded rim of a hot water bottle from deposit 701 and an intact pouring ink bottle from deposit 402. The latter was impressed with a mark reading "Lovatt & Lovatt, Langley Mill, Notts". The Langley Mills pottery was owned by the Lovatt brothers from 1895 to 1930 (GG 2017).

Ceramic building material

- 6.3 Ceramic building material of post-medieval date totalled seven fragments (236g). Three fragments were identified as deriving from flat roof tiles. One of these featured a circular pre-firing perforation, allowing classification as peg tile, a type which was in use during the late medieval and post-medieval periods.

Other finds

- 6.4 Clay tobacco pipe, broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, was represented by five fragments (12g). All were stem fragments, apart from one from deposit 402 which retained the foot from the base of the bowl. This fragment cannot be dated with certainty, however, it most closely resembles Oswald's Type 12 or 13 which date to the mid-18th to early 19th centuries (Oswald 1975, 37–9).

- 6.5 Topsoil deposit 800 produced five items of glass, all probably modern in date (after c. 1800). These comprised: three small, intact bottles in clear glass; a stopper in pale green glass; and a bottle neck in mid green glass with the moulded words “J. Craf” and “Reading”. It has not been possible to identify this maker.

Animal Bone

- 6.6 Two fragments of animal bone (20g) were recovered from deposits 600 and 701 in association with material dating to the modern era. The only identifiable fragment was a partial sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/capra hircus*) tibia from deposit 600. No useful interpretative information was recovered.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified only limited archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the early medieval and medieval founding of Marlow either do not extend as far as, or were not exposed by, the development, or that they may have been removed during previous development.
- 7.2 A putative limestone surface, considered of likely post-medieval date, was identified within Trenches 2 and 3 and its presence further indicated by the bedding layer identified within Trenches 2, 3, 8, 11, 13 and 14.
- 7.3 The trenches excavated during the watching brief did not extend beyond identified post-medieval layers and their remains the potential that these layers could be sealing archaeological deposits.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Bithel, Peter Boyer, James Coyne, Sam Dixon and Anna Moosebauer. The report was written by Ralph brown, with illustrations prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.6	>0.6	0.08
1	101	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with frequent limestone.	>0.6	>0.6	0.36
1	102	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light grey brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk.	>0.6	>0.6	>0.09
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.6	>0.6	0.18
2	201	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with frequent limestone.	>0.6	>0.6	0.28
2	202	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light grey brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk.	>0.6	>0.6	0.22
2	203	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Band of fragmented limestone blocks.	>0.6	>0.6	0.04
2	204	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light greyish brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk.	>0.6	>0.6	>0.19
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.5	>0.5	0.27
3	301	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with frequent limestone.	>0.5	>0.5	0.22
3	302	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light grey brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk.	>0.5	>0.5	0.16
3	303	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Band of fragmented limestone blocks.	>0.5	>0.5	0.06
3	304	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light grey brown compact silty clay with occasional chalk.	>0.5	>0.5	>0.1
4	400	Layer	Surface	Concrete paving	>0.6	>0.6	0.04
4	401	Layer	Leveling Layer	Light yellowish brown friable silty sand with moderate flints.	>0.6	>0.6	0.13
4	402	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with occasional rubble and flints, and moderate small stones and charcoal. Deposit related to backfilling of material after laying of modern drains.	>0.6	>0.6	>0.63
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.6	>0.6	0.15
5	501	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with frequent limestone.	>0.6	>0.6	0.28
5	502	Layer	Wall	Wall footings. Modern red brick wall with lime mortar bond.	>0.6	>0.6	0.3
5	503	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with frequent rubble.	>0.6	>0.6	>0.12
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	13	>6	>0.1
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	13	>5	0.55
7	701	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey clay silt with frequent rubble and domestic waste	13	>5	>0.55
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable clayey silt with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.5	>0.44	0.45

8	801	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and rubble	>0.5	>0.44	0.12
8	802	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey clay silt	>0.5	>0.44	>0.09
9	900	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	0.43	0.43	0.39
9	900	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light grey brown friable silty sand with moderate flints.	0.43	0.43	>0.33
10	1000	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>1.9	>0.6	0.38
10	1001	Layer	Fill of Modern Drain	Loose brick rubble	>0.6	0.75	0.62
10	1002	Layer	Fill of Modern Drain	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with chalk flint and modern rubble	>0.6	>0.53	0.36
10	1003	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Light grey brown friable silty sand with moderate flints.	>0.65	>0.6	0.4
11	1100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.5	>0.6	0.32
11	1101	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and rubble	>0.5	>0.6	0.17
11	1102	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey clay silt	>0.5	>0.6	0.28
11	1103	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions	>0.5	>0.6	>0.09
12	1200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>0.35	>0.35	0.35
12	1201	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and rubble	>0.35	>0.35	0.11
12	1202	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and rubble	>0.35	>0.35	>0.12
13	1300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>1.8	>0.65	0.32
13	1301	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable Mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions	>1.8	>0.65	0.17
13	1302	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable light brown grey sandy silt with frequent chalk and rubble	>1.8	>0.65	0.28
13	1303	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions	>1.8	>0.65	>0.58
14	1400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>2.6	>0.8	0.33
14	1401	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions	>2.6	>0.8	>0.52
15	1500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable sandy loam with frequent rubble and moderate small stones.	>15	>12	0.1
15	1500	Layer	Re-worked garden soil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions	>15	>12	>0.3

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Pearlware	PEA	1	42	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	REFW	1	11	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRPW	1	4	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile		1	11	
201	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	FLO	1	4	C19-C20
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Peg tile, flat roof tile, fragments		5	208	
402	Post-medieval pottery	White salt-glazed stoneware	WSG	1	2	MC19-MC20
	Modern pottery	Late English stoneware	LES	1	214	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	17	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem (one footed)		2	6	
503	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	1	59	MC16-C18
600	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Porcelain	POR	2	10	MC19-MC20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	REFW	4	14	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Late English stoneware	LES	1	74	
700	Post-medieval pottery	Tin-glazed earthenware	TGE	1	6	C19-C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed pearlware	TRPP	2	4	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRPW	4	17	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	REFW	2	15	
	Modern pottery	Porcelain	POR	1	27	
	Modern pottery	Yellow ware	YEL	1	6	
	Post-medieval glass	Bottle		1	4	
701	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Porcelain	POR	1	4	MC19-MC20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed pearlware	TRPP	1	24	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRPW	4	45	
	Modern pottery	Late English stoneware	LES	1	75	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		3	6	
800	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	1	52	Modern
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRPW	2	25	
	Modern pottery	Refined brown-glazed earthenware	RBG	2	42	
	Modern glass	Bottle		5	443	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	66-70 High Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire	
Short description	<p>Between December 2016 and February 2017, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with construction of a single storey rear extension and associated external alterations to the current buildings at 66-70 High Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>An undated, but probable post-medieval, limestone courtyard surface was identified overlain by modern reworked garden soil deposits. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	12 December 2016 to 22 February 2017	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	none	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	66-70 High Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	600m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SU 84957 86424	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce	
Project Supervisor	James Coyne	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (Content
Physical	None	none
Paper	Buckinghamshire Museum Service	WSI, pro-forma recording sheets, registers, site drawings
Digital	Buckinghamshire Museum Service	Database, digital photographs, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 66-70 High Street, Marlow, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Watching Brief. CA typescript report 17129		

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