

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
NAGS HEAD COTTAGE, GILCHRIST LANE,
LITTLEWICK GREEN, BERKSHIRE**

SU 8390 8315

On behalf of

Mr M Aubrey

MARCH 2011

REPORT FOR Mr M Aubrey
8 Myddleton Road
Ware
Hertfordshire
SG12 8JT

PREPARED BY Paul Riccoboni AIFA

EDITED BY John Moore MIFA

ILLUSTRATION BY Eoin Fitzsimons PIFA

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ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

Site Code WWNH 11
JMHS Project No: 2348
Archive Location The archive is currently held by JMHS and will be deposited with the relevant museum in due course

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during ground works at Nags Head Cottage, Gilchrist Way, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3RF (SU 8390 8015). A total of two site visits were made during excavation of wall footing trenches across the site of the new build (Planning Ref: 10/02319). One feature was recorded which contained 20th Century AD building material. No other finds or features of archaeological significance were observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the north side of Gilchrist Way (centred on SU 8390 8015). According to the British Geological Survey Map (1:50 000; Sheet 269) the site lies on Upper Chalk. During the groundwork a thin layer of 'Head' deposit was recorded above the Upper Chalk.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission (Ref: 10/02319) was granted by The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a four bedroom detached house and garage.

Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains a condition was attached to the permission for a programme of archaeological work to be carried out according to a Brief prepared by Berkshire Archaeology and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS 2011) submitted to and approved by Berkshire Archaeology and the The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

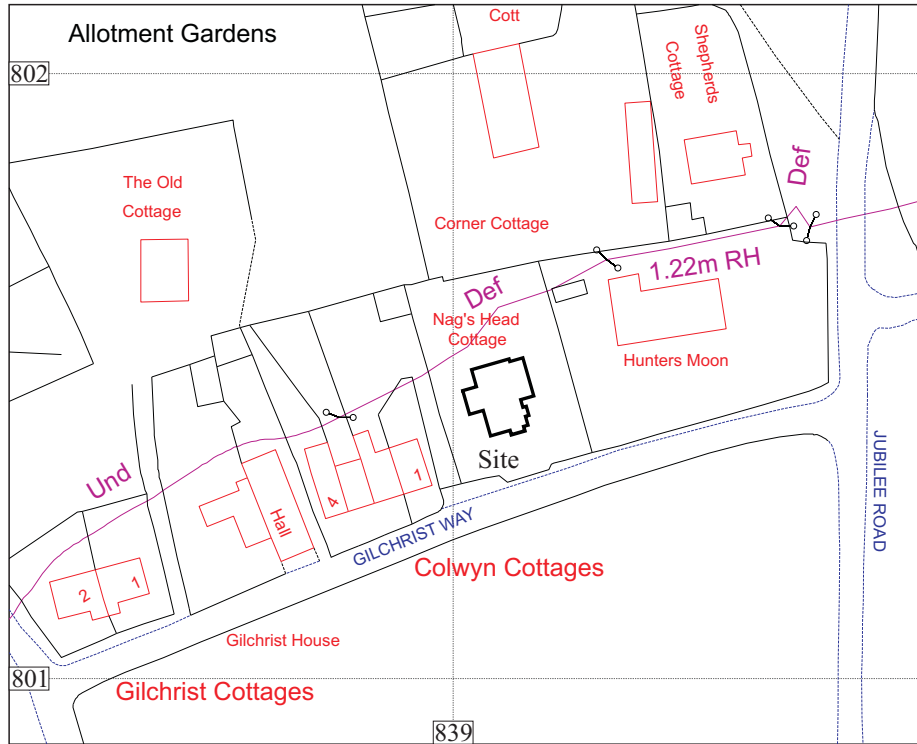
This document outlined the method by which the watching brief would be carried out in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is identified as being of archaeological potential as it faces onto the green at Littlewick Green, a historic settlement centre with surviving buildings dating back as far as the 15th century. There is also evidence of Roman occupation in the vicinity.

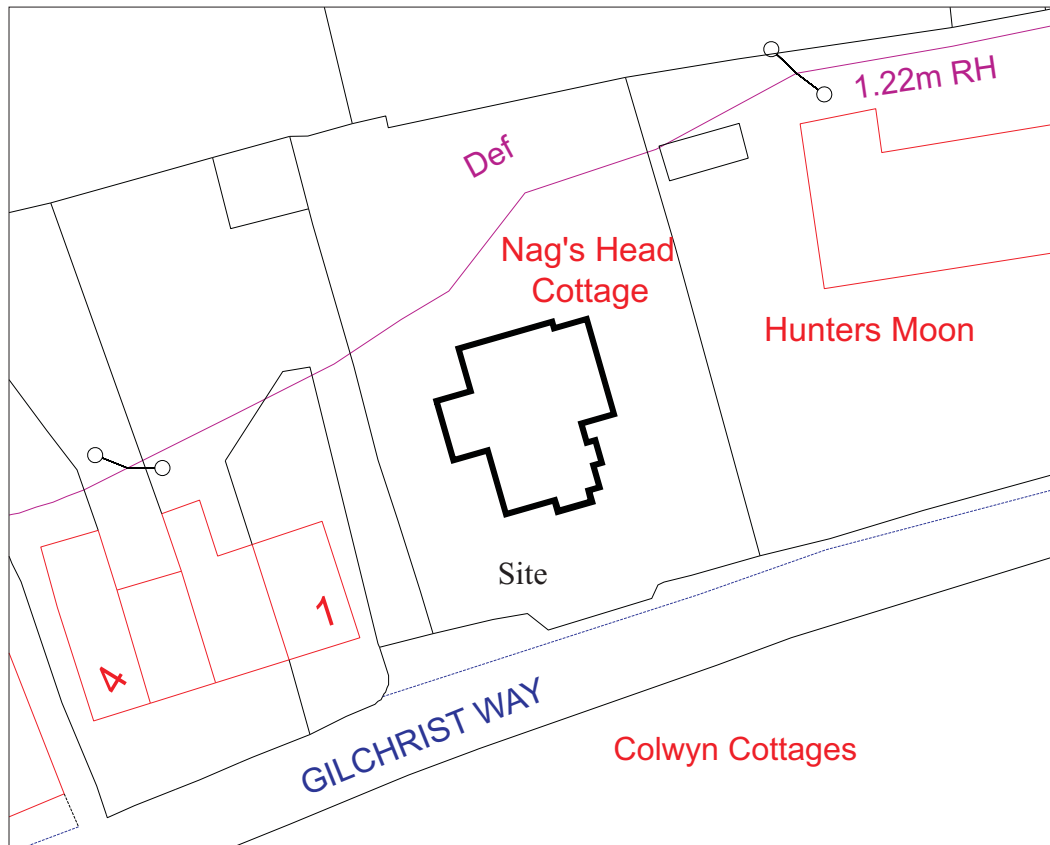
Littlewick Green is situated within the Parish of White Waltham. The parish was enclosed with Shottesbrook in 1810.

The manor of White Waltham may be identified with the 10 hides in Waltham granted with the church of that vill and the woods of Halcuuik (Hallwick), Lidleuik (Littlewick) and Suthwode and all other appurtenances of the vill and church to the abbey of Chertsey by King Edward the Confessor. The abbey was holding in 1086, when the manor was appropriated to the kitchen of the monastery (*de dominico victu monachorum*). The abbey increased its estate in the parish during the 12th century and



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0 50 m



0 25 m

Figure 1. Site location

later by the acquisition of various tenements. The abbey continued in possession until the Dissolution in 1537 (VCH 1923).

Gelling (1973) notes that in c.1060 the name was *Lidlegewik*. *Lidlege* from *Hild-leage* meaning “wood or clearing with a gate”, however a more literal translation could be “battle clearing”.

The 1:2,500 OS map of 1876 shows the development area to be within a wooded enclosed area with a building to the east. This building is outside the proposed development site.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- i). To determine the existence or absence of any archaeological remains; and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- ii). To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii). To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- iv). To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- v). To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- vi). To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vii). To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- viii). To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- ix). To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994), the Berkshire Archaeology prepared *Brief* and John Moore Heritage Services *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2010).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during ground reduction at the front of the new build. The wall footing trenches to the rear of the development plot were not monitored as it was agreed by the client and Berkshire Archaeology that this area did not require archaeological monitoring as remains were likely already disturbed. However, the trenches were left open and the sections were inspected by the on site archaeologist.

All ground reduction was achieved using a combination of 360° tracked excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket 0.6m in width.

A journal, recorded on specially designed record sheets, was maintained which detailed times and durations of site visits as well as notes on areas monitored by the archaeologist. Deposits (overburden) were recorded on context recording sheets. A general photographic record of the work was kept and will form of the part site archive to be submitted to the relevant museum in due course.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field Results

The general overburden was described as follows (earliest to latest). The natural ground was seen at the base of the trench and consisted of weathered Upper Chalk overlain by a 'Head' deposit of variable depth generally 0.20-0.30m thickness (03). Overlying the natural was a *c.* 0.20-0.30m thick dark grey-black silty clay (02) with frequent chalk flecks and ceramic building material (CBM), interpreted as a recent topsoil. The latest deposit was a compacted hardcore of recent origin (01) which formed the present ground surface.

Cut through context (02) was a small circular shaped feature 0.30m wide and 0.30m deep with sharp concave sides and rounded base (04). It was filled by mid grey-brown silty clay (05) with high frequency of 19th-20th Century brick (not retained).

4.2 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was carried out in wintry conditions with good co-operation from the contractor carrying out the groundworks. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

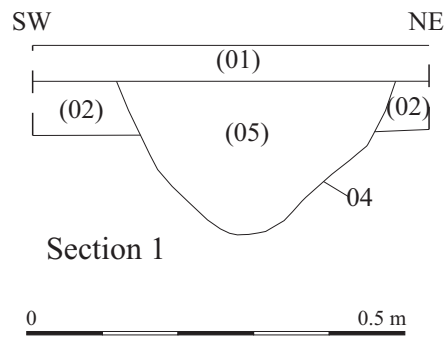
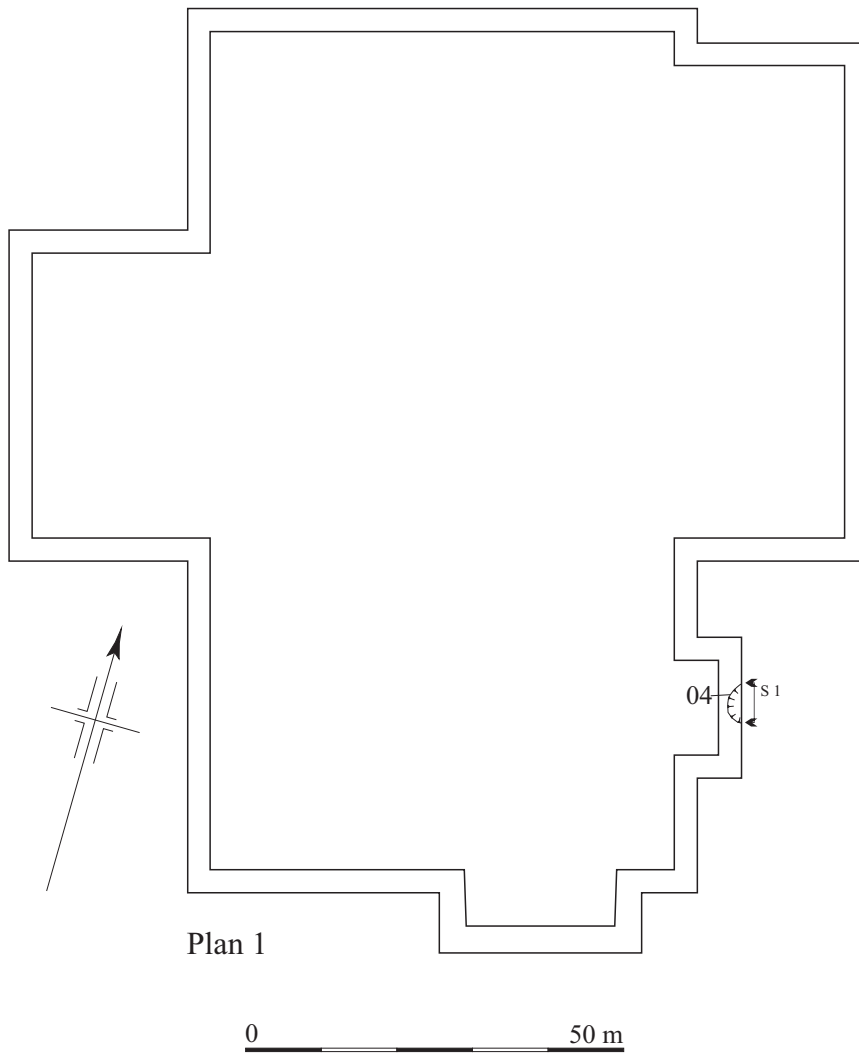


Figure 2. Plan and section

5 FINDS

A sample of brick was collected from fill (05). The brick was looked at by Gwilym Williams MIFA and confirmed as modern (then discarded).

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief at Nags Head, Gilchrist Lane, Littlewick Green, Berkshire was successful in proving that no archaeological remains exist on the development site.

The feature discovered contained modern brick and was stratigraphically high within the trench sequence.

During construction of the 1950's demolished house topsoil was probably imported. It contained only modern finds and was directly above the natural ground, with no indication of a surviving subsoil present. It is likely that this entire plot was stripped down and levelled during previous development and subsequently landscaped.

The paucity of archaeological features may be a result of previous landscaping and does not necessarily indicate that archaeology is not present within this part of Littlewick Green.



Figure 3: General view of the site 1m scale



Figure 4; East facing section of feature 04. 1m scale

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

The project report

Written Scheme of Investigation

The primary site records

The drawn records

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Site Name: Land at Nags Head, Gilchrist Lane, Littlewick Green, Berkshire	
Site Address: Nags Head, Gilchrist Lane, Littlewick Green, Berkshire	
Summary: <i>An archaeological watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during ground works at Nags Head Cottage, Gilchrist Way, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3RF (SU 8390 8015). A total of two site visits were made during excavation of wall footing trenches across the site of the new build (Planning Ref: 10/02319). One feature was recorded which contained 20th Century AD building material. No other finds or features of archaeological significance were observed.</i>	
District/Unitary: Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	Parish: White Waltham
Period(s): Modern	
NGR (centre of site: 8 figures): SU 8390 8015	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Watching Brief	
Date of Recording: 17 th Feb & 23 Feb 2011	
Unit undertaking recording: JMHS	
Geology: Upper Chalk with overlying 'Head' deposits	
Title and author of accompanying report: An Archaeological Watching Brief at Nags Head, Gilchrist Way, Littlewick Green, Berkshire Prepared by Paul Riccoboni BA (Hons) Arch AIFA	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) No archaeological features or finds.	
Location of archive/finds:	
Contact at Unit: Paul Riccoboni info@jmheritageservices.co.uk	Date: 3/3/11