



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT BROOMHURST,
CROMWELL GARDENS, MARLOW**

NGR 8505 8655

**By
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***On behalf of
Acorn Homes Ltd***

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of a new development (10/05684/FUL) at Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire (SU 8505 8655). One 10m long trench was excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of any suspected archaeological features. Two pits of late post-medieval date (19th century) were encountered at the northern end of the trench. Modern disturbance presumably associated with the previous garage truncated the natural ground at the southern end of the trench. No medieval or significant archaeological deposits or features were discovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Geology (Figure 1)

This site is located at Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow (NGR SU 8505 8655). The underlying geology is Shepperton Gravel overlying the New Pit Chalk Formation (BGS 255).

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted by Wycombe District Council for part demolition of Broomhurst Surgery and the erection of a new mixed-use building (10/05684/FUL). Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) recommended that a condition be applied requiring the applicant to secure the implementation of a two stage programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted by John Moore Heritage Services and approved by the Planning Authority. This is in line with PPS 5 and the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service's (BCAS) Brief.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The historic core of Marlow is a conservation area (DBC7281). The current built environment is a product of three distinct phases of development that combine to form a town of considerable historic interest and character. Within the conservation area there are 163 statutorily listed buildings (WDC 2004). Two are listed at Grade I, (buildings of national importance): the Suspension Bridge and Marlow Place, while 17 others are listed at Grade II*. This includes buildings with origins in the 14th and 15th centuries (HER1303501000 and 1346100000).

Trial trenching carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in May 2006 in advance of redevelopment at 27 High Street, approximately 100m to the west of the site, identified a number of post-medieval structures, 3 mortared chalk walls and 1 or 2 pits, probably representing back-yard occupation well to the rear of the street frontage. A few sherds of medieval pottery from a pit fill may be residual finds within a later context (HER 0943600000).

The name Marlow is first recorded c. 1015 as Merelafan, mere-lāf, and that the name referred to the northern edge of a lake (Mawer and Stenton 1925, 186-90). This gives us an indication of the environment that surrounded the town of Great Marlow in the early medieval period

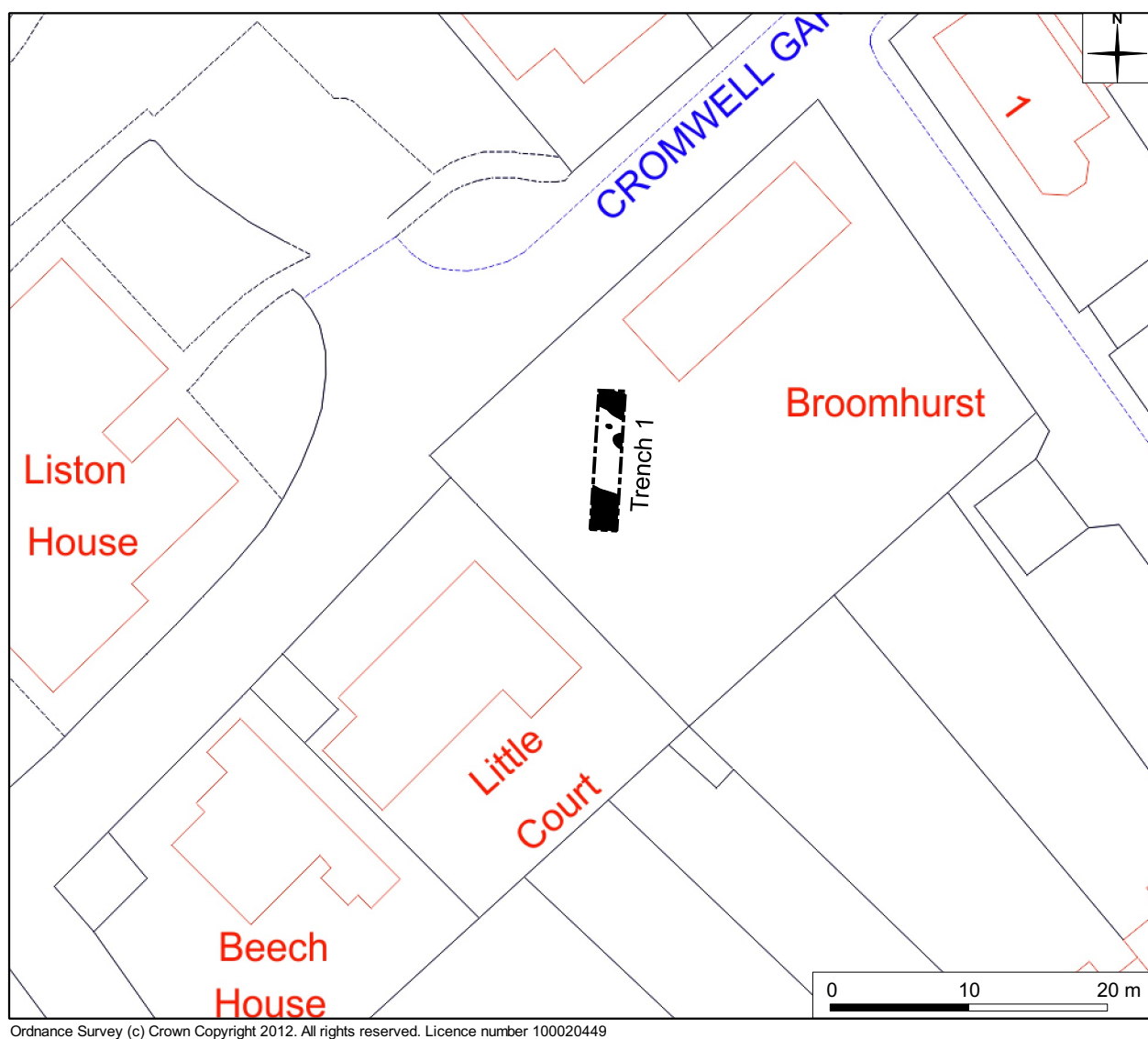
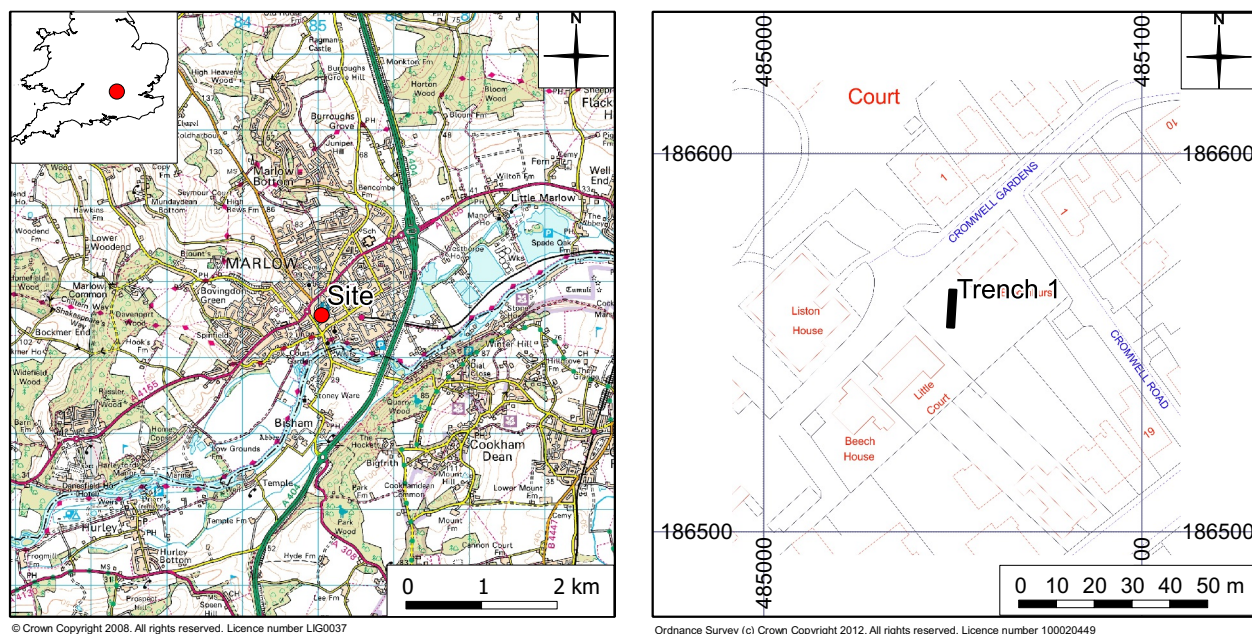


Figure 1. Site location

and presumably back into prehistory. The local place-name Bomoor, recorded Bomere in 1295, and Widmere, Withemere in 1233, both refer to a lake and may contain the earlier names of the lake.

The Domesday Book records four manors with the name Marlow in 1086 (Morris 1978, 4.1, 23.4, 28.2, 52.1). The first of these was held by Theodwald from the bishop of Bayeux and was valued at 5 hides. There were 6 villagers, 4 smallholders, and 1 slave, a mill, and a fishery. In 1066 the manor was held by Queen Edith. The second manor was held by Ralph and Roger from Miles Crispin. It contained 8 ½ hides and ½ a virgate and is accounted with 14 villagers, 6 smallholders, 2 slaves, with extensive woodland. In 1066 the estate had been held by Haming a thane of King Edward. These two estates are considered to have formed the Marlow that became Great Marlow. The other two manors are considered to have formed Little Marlow. The later of these manors was an estate of 15 hides, which was held by Queen Matilda.

The descent of the manors have been described by the Victoria County History (VCH 1925, 70-74), the two Domesday Manors developed into five manors: Great Marlow Manor, Harleyford Manor, Manor of Farm of Seymors and Bormer Manor. The main manor eventually came into the hands of the Dukes of Gloucester.

A borough was established at Marlow in the middle ages (VCH 1925, 69-70), but no texts survive to indicate when this was established. There are only later references to the town. The original focus of the medieval settlement is considered to be located in the vicinity of the church. The church lies near the bank of the River Thames; the High Street extended to the churchyard, the course of the road was altered to accommodate the present crossing of the river. Smaller roads leave the High Street, Duke Lane to the East and Pound Lane to the west.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

As laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation the aims were:

To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.

In particular:

- To identify and characterise any evidence for medieval occupation and identify the potential for deposits to contribute to our understanding of how Marlow developed as a town.
- To establish whether there is any evidence for understanding medieval settlement morphology
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2011). The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of one 10m long trench (1.9m wide).

The trench was excavated by a 360° type tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were, where necessary, cleaned by hand, prior to hand excavation of the archaeological features.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trench was backfilled after recording.

The work was undertaken by Paul Riccoboni (AIFA) (Project Officer), and Gavin Davis (Assistant Archaeologist) over a day under the general direction of John Moore MIFA.

The Planning Archaeologist for BCAS Eliza Alqassar monitored the work.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2) (Appendix 1)

The trench was set out within the footprint of the proposed new building excavated to a length of 10m (1.9m wide). The lowest deposit noted within the trench consisted of natural clay with gravels, which was reached at varying heights of between 29.33m AOD at the southern end and 30.22m at the northern end.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest) (Fig 2; S: 1.1). The natural clay with gravel patches was seen at the base of the trench (1/03). Overlying the natural was 0.20m thick mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (1/02). This was overlain by dark grey-black silty clay topsoil (1/01). A layer of hardcore (1/00) associated with the previous concrete hardstanding was recorded at the surface of the trench (mostly removed prior to archaeological work as part of site clearance works).

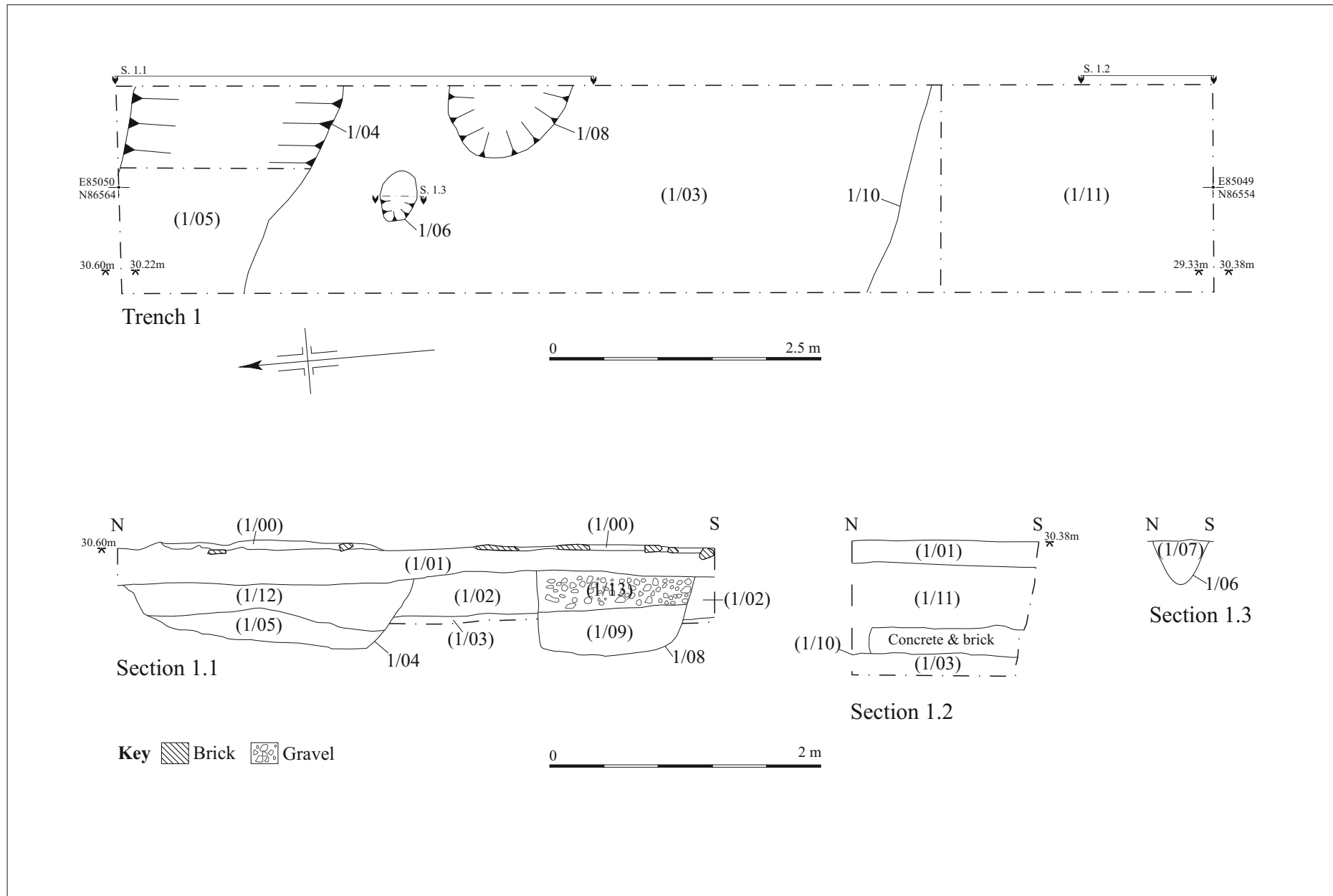


Figure 2. Trench plan and sections

Pits (cut through subsoil 1/02)

Pit 1/04 was encountered at the northern end of the trench. It was 2.1m in length (as seen), 1.8m wide and 0.40m deep with concave sides and a flat base. This primary fill was 0.20m thick firm mid brown grey silty clay (1/05) with gravels and occasional brick and pot fragments dated to the late post-medieval period. The latest fill was 0.20m thick mottled orange and grey sandy clay (1/12). The pit was sealed by topsoil (1/01).

Pit 1/08 was 1.25m in width and 0.50m deep with sharp concave sides and a roughly flat base. It was filled by firm grey brown sandy loam with flint gravels (1/09) at the base, followed by a final fill of 0.25m thick dark grey sandy silt with frequent flint gravels (1/13). The pit was sealed by topsoil (1/01).

Posthole (cut through subsoil 1/02)

A posthole 1/06 was recorded. It was sub circular in shape 0.40m wide and 0.30m deep with very sharp concave sides and a slightly rounded base. It was filled by friable mid grey sandy silty loam (1/07) with one white earthenware sherd of 18th-20th century date. The posthole was sealed by topsoil (1/01).

Modern (cut through subsoil 1/02)

At the southern end of the trench was a large modern cut 1/10, c. 0.70m deep and at least 3m in length. It was filled by concrete and modern frogged bricks (1/11). This was presumed to be associated with the construction of the previous garage on the site. The modern disturbance was sealed by topsoil (1/01).

4.3 Reliability of Results

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in dry conditions and competent machine driver. The developers were on site and were extremely helpful in aiding us in our work.

The methodology employed fully complied with WSI and a high level of recording was achieved in line with all IfA standards and guidance. Overall, the reliability of the results can be considered to be very good and the nature of the work to evaluate the site has been successful.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 Pottery (By David Gilbert)

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 73g. It comprised exclusively of late post-medieval wares, which are all typical of sites in the region.

The material was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat *et al.* 1994), as follows:

Context (1/05): 3 sherds (71g) of *Red earthenware (PM8)* “flowerpot”

Two sherds are marked R Sankey & Son, Nottingham, this company manufactured clay flowerpots from 1855 to 1976.

Context (1/07): 1 sherd (2g) of *White Earthenware* (**PM25**) Late 18th – 20th century.

It is recommended that this material be discarded.

DISCUSSION

The archaeological evaluation at Bloomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire was useful in establishing the presence of late post-medieval features considered to be garden waste pits, perhaps related to the adjacent property constructed sometime between 1913 and 1926.

Modern disturbance at the southern end of the trench was very destructive and would have truncated any archaeological remains (had they been present). This area was assumed to be associated with the garage, which existed over this area.

A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved and that no important archaeological remains will be affected by the development.

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 Finds (discarded)

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum in due course.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 1994. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Revised 1999

John Moore Heritage Services 2011 10/05684/FUL – *Broomhurst Surgery, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire; Archaeological Field Evaluation; Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub JMHS Doc. 2389

BCAS 2011 Brief for Archaeological Works at Broomhurst Surgery, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Author Eliza Alqassar. Unpub BCAS Doc.

Appendix 1: Summary of contexts within Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 1							
1/00	Deposit	Dark greyish black brick and rubble layer	0.15	Tr.	Tr.	None	Modern
1/01	Deposit	Dark greyish black silty clay	0.30m	Tr.	Tr.	None	Modern
1/02	Deposit	Mid grey brown silty clay	0.20m	Tr.	Tr.	None	/
1/03	Deposit	Natural	/	Tr.	Tr.	None	/
1/04	Cut	Pit	0.30	1.8m (min)	2.1	pot	Late post-medieval
1/05	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay	0.30	1.8m (min)	2.1	None	/
1/06	Cut	Posthole	0.30	0.40	0.40	/	/
1/07	Fill	Friable mid grey silty loam	0.30	0.40	0.40	pot	Modern
1/08	Cut	Pit	0.50	1.25	0.80 (min)	/	/
1/09	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay loam	0.50	1.25	0.80 (min)	pot	Late post-medieval
1/10	Cut	Cut of modern feature	0.70	Tr.	3.5	/	/
1/11	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay	0.70	Tr.	3.5	brick	Modern
1/12	Fill	Mottled orange and brown sandy loam	0.20	0.8	1.25	None	/
1/13	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty loam with freq. Gravels.	0.25	0.8	1.25	None	/

Figure 3; General shot of Trench looking NE



Figure 4; West facing section of Pit 1/04



Figure 5; West facing section of pits 1/04 & 1/08 cutting subsoil layer (1/02) (1m scale).



HER Summary Form

Site Name: Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire	
Site Address: Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire	
Summary: <i>John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of a new development (10/05684/FUL) at Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire (SU 8505 8655). One 10m long trench was excavated to the underlying natural geology or uppermost surface of any archaeology. Two pits of late post-medieval date were encountered at the northern end of the trench. Modern disturbance presumably associated with the previous garage truncated the natural ground at the southern end of the trench. No medieval or significant archaeological deposits or features were discovered.</i>	
District/Unitary: Buckinghamshire	Parish: MARLOW
Period(s): late post-medieval	
NGR (centre of site: 8 figures): SU 8505 8655	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 16/05/2012	
Unit undertaking recording: JMHS	
Geology: Shepperton Gravel	
Title and author of accompanying report: An Archaeological Evaluation at Broomhurst, Cromwell Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire Prepared by Paul Riccoboni BA Arch AIFA	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) Late Post medieval; 2 x pits Modern; posthole <div style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</div>	
Location of archive/finds:	
Contact at Unit: Paul Riccoboni <i>info@jmheritageservices.co.uk</i>	Date: 21 May 2012