

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

142 PARK VIEW DRIVE NORTH,

CHARVIL,

READING, BERKSHIRE

NGR SU 77235 76655

On behalf of

Mr C Gregory

MAY 2013

REPORT FOR Colin Gregory
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FIELD WORK 10th April 2013

REPORT ISSUED 9th May 2013

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Site Code CHPVDN 13

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted a watching brief during the construction of an extension at 142 Parkview, Charvil, East Berkshire (NGR SU 77235 76655). Despite the surrounding fields being scheduled due to their cropmarks, the small set of foundation trench cuts failed to find any archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at 142 Parkview, Charvil (NGR SU 77235 76655). Charvil now has its own civil parish, but more recently this was located in the parish of Woodley and Sandford, which was historically part of Sonning parish, that also included Sonning Town, the liberty of Earley and the liberty of Eye and Dunsden (VCH 1923, 210). The part of this parish in which Charvil was located was part of the Hundred of Sonning, in the historic county of Berkshire. It is now located in Wokingham Borough District.

The development site has a residential plot bounding it to the south, a trackway on the west, and open fields on all other sides.

The site lies between at about 36m Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology is Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formations formed up to 71 to 89 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. The Superficial deposits overlying this are the Taplow Gravel Formation of sand and gravel formed 2million years ago in the Quaternary. To the north there are alluvial deposits.

1.2 Planning Background

Wokingham Borough Council granted planning permission for the erection of an extension (ref. F/2012/1629). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission by Berkshire Archaeology the archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of groundwork operations on the site. This was in line with NPPF (the National Planning Policy Framework at the time) and other Local Planning policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background (by John Moore and Stephen Yeates)

The site is located just outside of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Cropmark Enclosure and Pits northeast of St Patrick's Avenue (SAM 182). There are two linear features, one crossing the enclosure. A further Scheduled Ancient Monument 181 of a ring ditch east of St Patrick's Avenue lies just to the south while a third (SAM 180) Cropmark Site southwest of St Patrick's Avenue lies away from the site.

There are various other cropmark sites, thought to be prehistoric, and find scatters of prehistoric flintwork and pottery in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

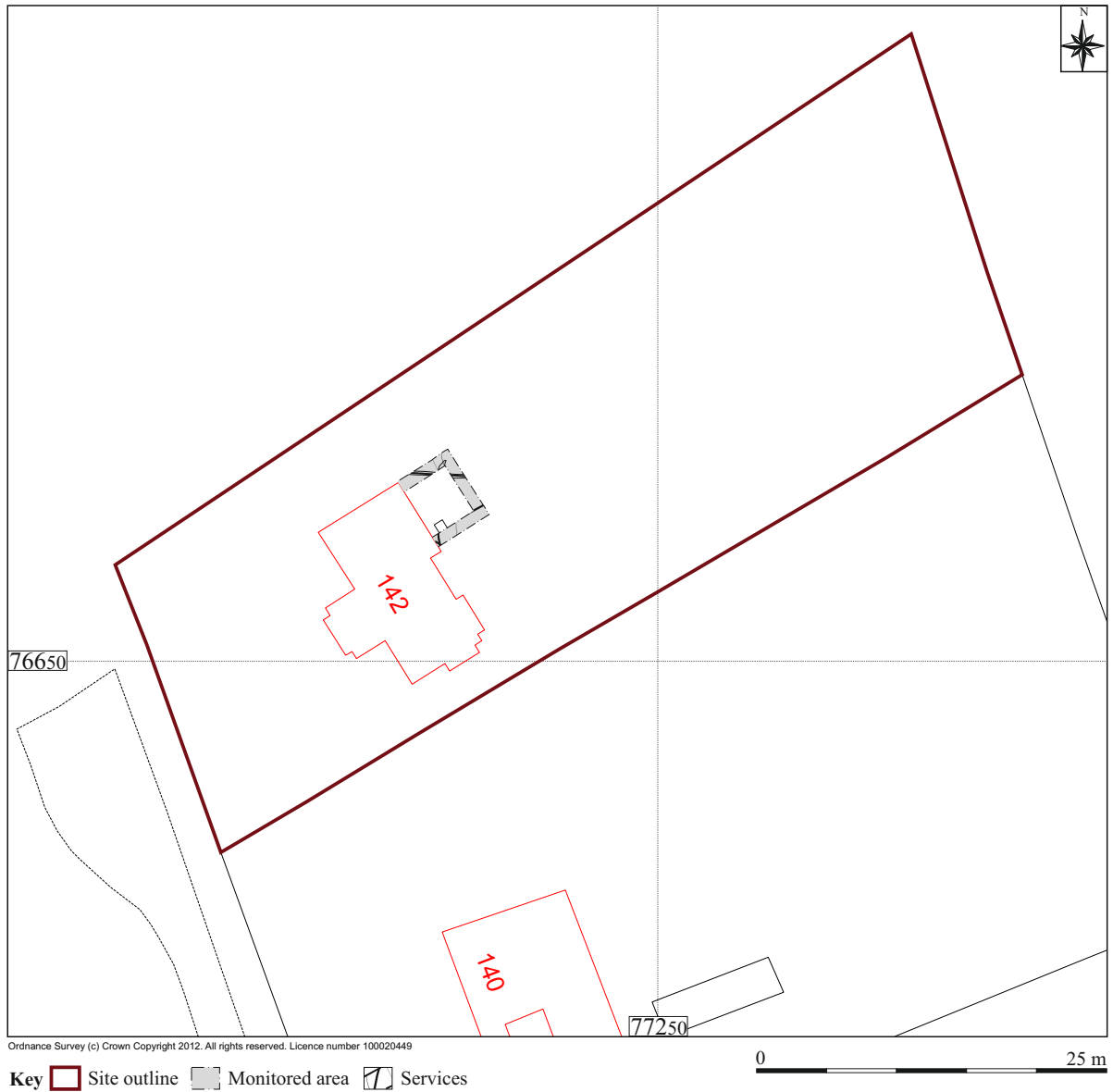
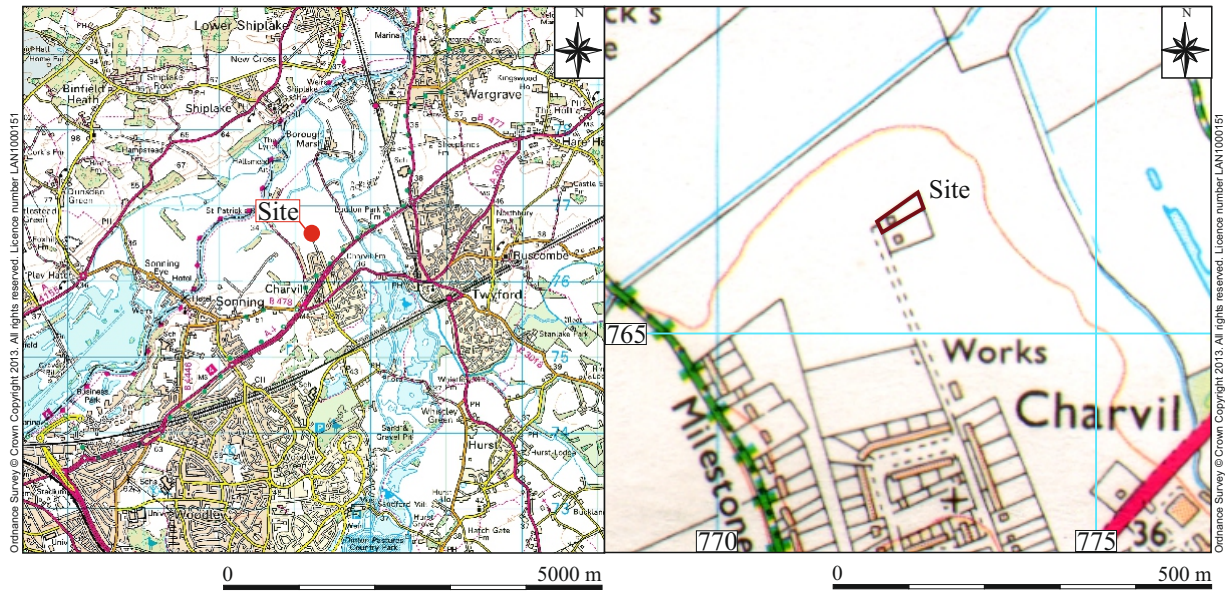


Figure 1. Site location

The name of Charvil is associated with a farm. The earliest recorded forms of the name are Charfeld 1603-4, Charfeild c. 1605, Charvil Farm from 1822, and Charval Field and Upper and Lower Charval from 1840 (Gelling 1973, i.146-7). The first part of the name is thought to be derived from **cert**, rough ground, or **cearr(e)**, bend or turn, with the latter part meaning **feld**, field. One possible reason for the field being referred to as the rough field may have been the significant number of cropmarks that showed up in the area, which presumably may have still been seen as partially standing monuments, hence the rough or uneven land.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To record any archaeological remains that will be impacted on by the groundworks.

In particular:

- To record the remains associated with the adjacent Scheduled Ancient Monument and prehistoric activity in the area.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Berkshire Archaeology (BA) the archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

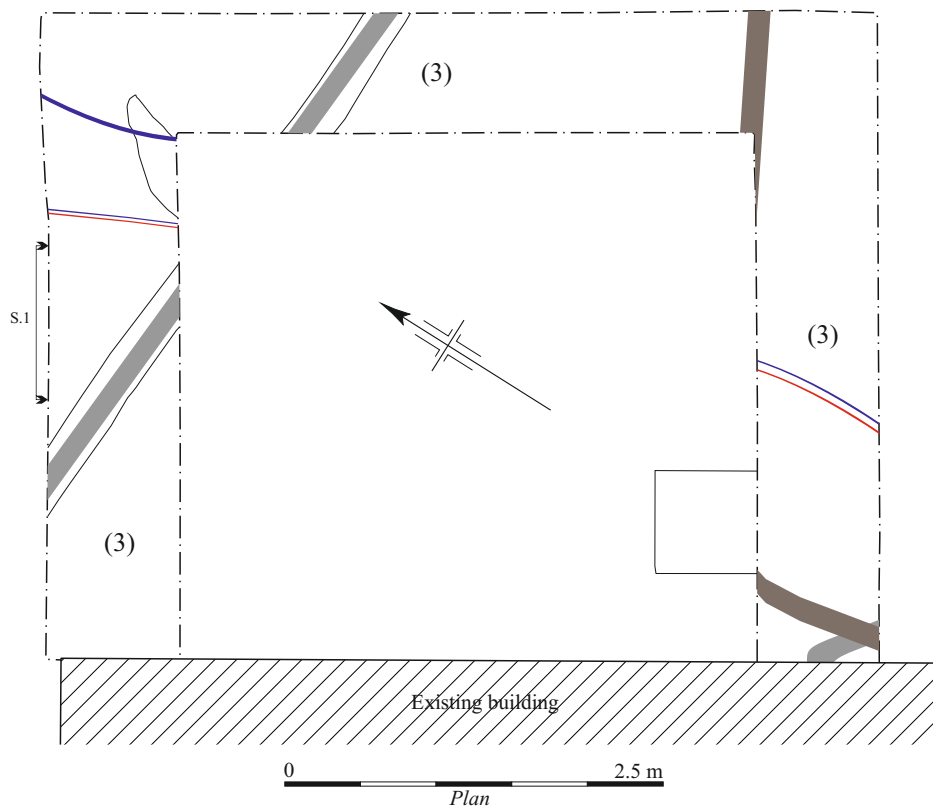
The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was on site during the excavation of all groundwork at the site. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

The remains of three deposits were noted in the excavated footings for the extension. The earliest of these was the natural (3) a highly compact brown yellow gravel. Overlying the natural was layer (2) a compact yellow brown silt sand 0.28m deep. Sealing this was layer (1) a moderately compact black grey silt sand 0.26m deep. Cut through the top of the topsoil were a cut for recent services (drainage, water and



Key ■ Drainage ■ Service ■ Water pipe ■ Electric cable

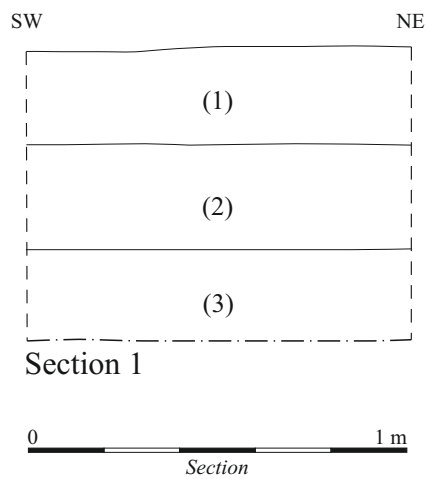


Figure 2. Plan and section

electrical) and also for a patio and path. These due their modern origins were not numbered.

5 FINDS

5.1 Animal Bone

One fragment of animal bone was recovered weighing 12g. Both ends were missing so the piece was not fully identified. Though unstratified the piece did not come from the topsoil. The bone has ridges along its side as if diseased, but there is also evidence of some cut marks. The object has not been retained.

5.2 Flint

A piece of burnt flint was recovered weighing 6g, this was also unstratified. The piece does not appear to be worked but has been thermally fractured. The flint has not been retained.

5.2 Brick and tile

Fragments of brick and tile were noted in the topsoil and upper subsoil, these were left on site as none could be ascertained properly for their dimensions. They were all probably late in origin.

6 DISCUSSION

Though the potential for the site was high due to the proximity of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the small area uncovered failed to locate any archaeological features.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

The project brief	The project report
Written scheme of investigation	The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the relevant museum when one is available.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gelling, M 1973 *The Place-names of Berkshire, part I*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

VCH 1923 *A History of the County of Berkshire: volume 3*, London: Saint Catherine's Press