

**JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**LITTLE PLACE, WINKFIELD STREET,**

**WINKFIELD, BERKSHIRE**

**SU 9004 7274**

*On behalf of*

*Heart of Oak Structures Ltd.*

**OCTOBER 2003**

**REPORT FOR**

Heart of Oak Structures Ltd.  
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**JMHS Project No:**

WILP 03  
1374

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## **Summary**

*A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services on 6-7<sup>th</sup> October 2003 during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling on this site. This trenching revealed London Clay at about 500mm below present ground level. Above this was a deposit of clay with sub-rounded and angular gravel, which was in turn sealed by topsoil. The recent demolition of a bungalow had truncated these deposits..*

*The lack of post-medieval and medieval pottery, and the presence of land drains suggest that this land had not been developed in these periods and that the land was probably under pasture.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The development site is located at Little Place, on the east side of Winkfield Street, Winkfield (NGR SU 9004 7274). A gated track runs along the north side of the site. Fields lie to the east of the property while further dwellings lie to the south. The underlying geology is London Clay and the site lies at approximately 69.4m above Ordnance Datum. Recently, a bungalow on the site has been demolished (Figure 1, black).

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Bracknell Forest Borough Council granted planning permission for the construction of a four bed-roomed dwelling (03/00787/FUL) to replace a recently demolished bungalow. The new build occupies most of the footprint of the previous bungalow. Due to the potential presence of below ground archaeological deposits a condition was attached to the planning consent that required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the course of the groundworks in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance. Babtie Group, on behalf of Bracknell Forest Borough Council, prepared a *Brief* for this work. John Moore Heritage Services (henceforth JMHS) prepared a *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining a methodology that would satisfy the requirements of the *Brief*.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site lies close to two properties of the late medieval period that may have been the centre of the original village of Winkfield. Therefore the proposed construction may have disturbed archaeological remains associated with the medieval period.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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

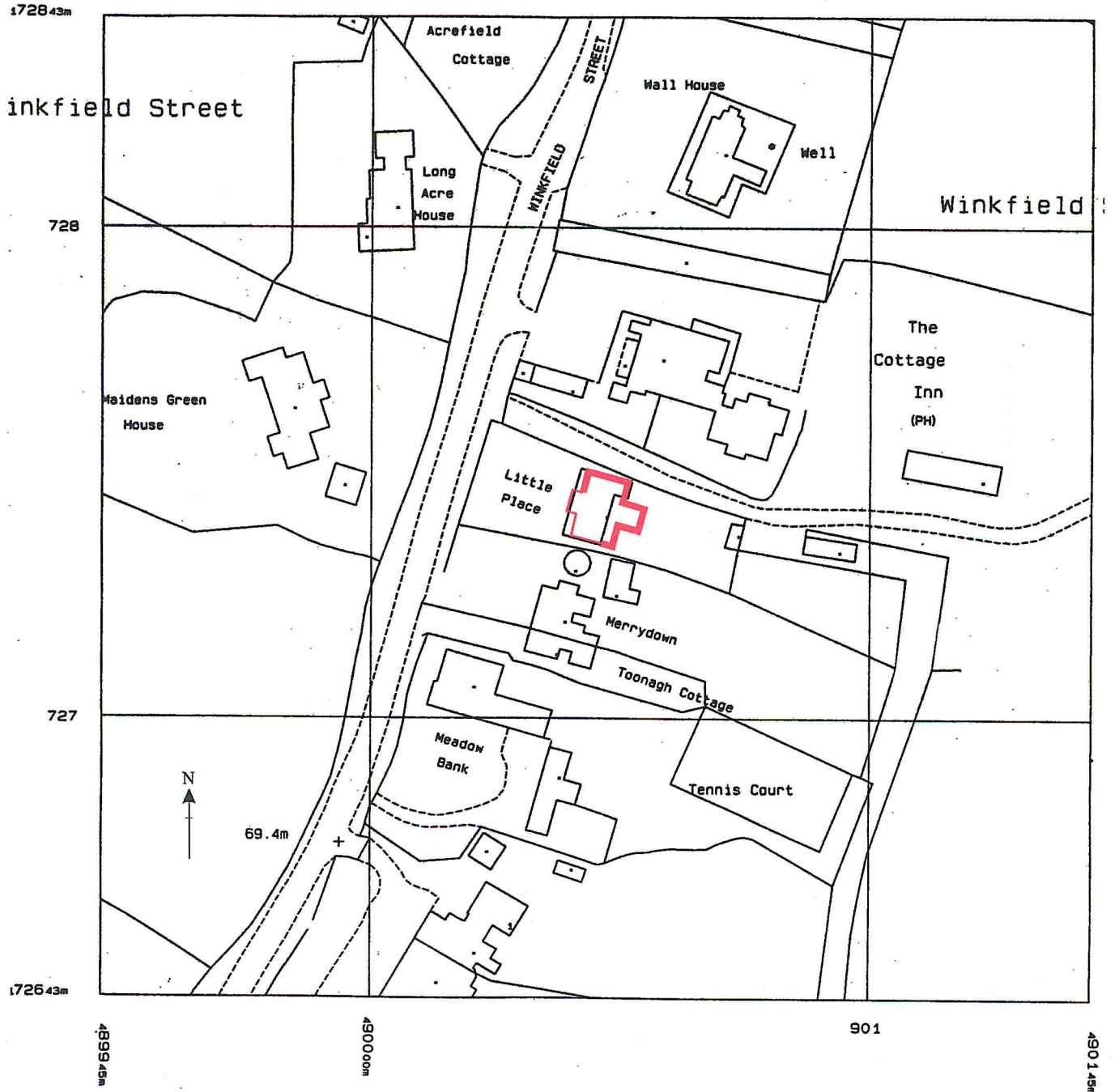


Figure 1. Site and new build location.

Scale 1:1250

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.
- To determine whether further remains relating to the medieval period in the area are present.
- The results of the investigations will be made public.

### 3 STRATEGY

#### 3.1 Research Design

In response to a *Brief* issued by Babbie Group, a scheme of investigation was designed by JMHS and subsequently agreed with Babbie Group and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS and involved the monitoring of intrusive groundworks associated with the excavation of the foundation trenches.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

#### 3.2 Methodology

A site presence was maintained throughout the duration of the excavation of the northern third of the west foundation, the north and east foundations, and the eastern third of the southern foundation (thicker line on Fig. 1). No internal foundation trenches were to be excavated. The excavation of the foundation trenches to a depth between 1m and 1.8m was undertaken using a two foot toothed bucket. Spoil was scanned for artefact retrieval and all exposed sections were examined for the presence of 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.

### 4 RESULTS

The lowest recorded deposit comprised grey orange London Clay (03). This constituted the natural of the site and was seen to be c. 500mm below the present ground level. It had been truncated in the area of the former bungalow. A 130mm thick layer of sub-rounded and angular medium large gravel in a yellow clay matrix (02) sealed the clay. The gravel formed 40% by volume of the deposit and is a natural deposit. Topsoil, composed of compact pale yellow grey slightly clayey silt with 5% sub-rounded gravel and the occasional brick fragment (01), sealed the natural deposits. The topsoil was 350-380mm thick. This sequence was seen outside the footprint of the previous bungalow.

Within the footprint of the previous bungalow was a loose mixture of topsoil-like material, and some elements of natural deposits (02 and 03), with abundant amounts

of brick, concrete and tile. This deposit (04) was 300-1050mm thick and represents the demolition of the bungalow.

At the interface of topsoil (01) and the gravelly horizon (02) was a land drain orientated north east – south west. The land drain was oval with an internal diameter of 46-51mm and had walls 6mm thick. The top of the land drain was 350mm below the present ground surface and was seen in the east foundation trench. Further lengths of land drain were seen in the demolition material (04) during excavation of the north west corner of the new foundations.

## 5 FINDS

No finds other than the land drains and modern demolition material were seen during the course of the fieldwork. Nothing was retained.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The deposits seen did not include a ploughsoil. The normal practice of manuring of the land did not occur, as no remains from midden deposits being brought onto the land were present. The presence of the land drain at a depth of 350mm below present ground level suggests that there was no intention of ploughing in the future when the drains were laid. It seems likely that this site was in pasture during the post-medieval period and probably during the preceding medieval period.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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