



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

**140 PARK VIEW DRIVE NORTH,
CHARVIL, READING, BERKSHIRE**

NGR SU 772 766

*On behalf of
Robert Jones*

MAY 2017

REPORT FOR Mr R Jones
140 Park View Drive North
Charvil
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension at 140 Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire. Despite the nearby location of a Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other cropmarks and finds spots of flint and pottery, the excavations did not reveal any archaeological features or significant finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is at the north end of Park View Drive North, Charvil (NGR SU 772 766). The underlying geology is Taplow Gravel (BGS 268). The site lies at approximately 35m aOD.

1.2 Planning Background

Wokingham District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a two storey side and rear extension to dwelling (152753). 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. Berkshire Archaeology had indicated that this should be a continuous watching brief during the course of groundworks. This was in line with NPPF and the Local Plan.

1.3 Archaeological Background

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

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.

A watching brief during an extension of the property immediately to the north did not find any archaeological remains (Yeates 2013).

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

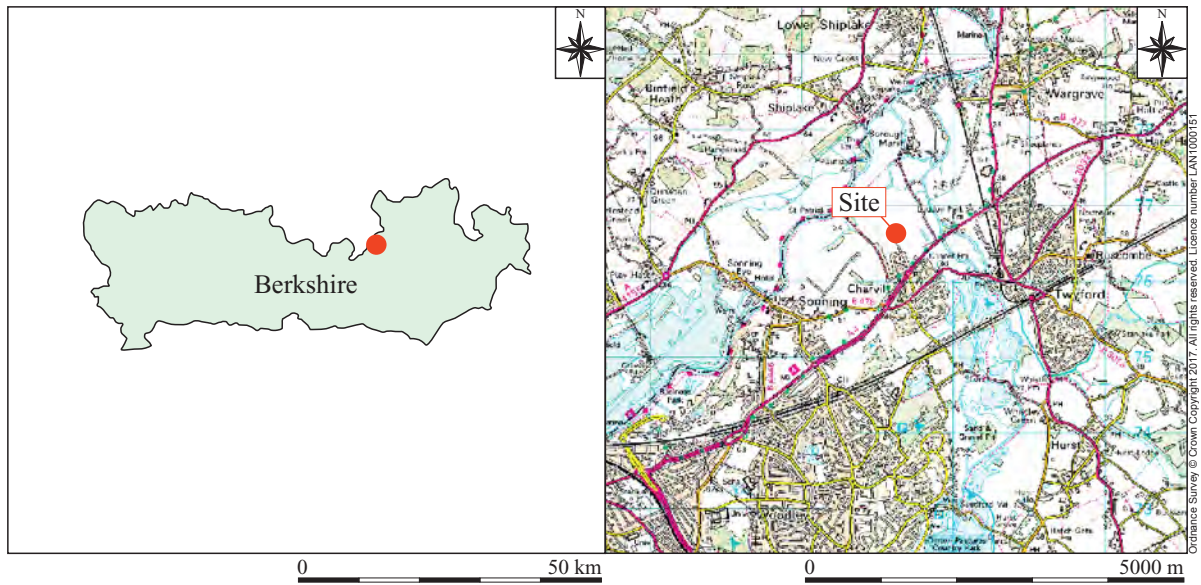


Figure 1: Site location

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with by Berkshire archaeology, the archaeological advisors to Wokingham District Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

The foundation trenches for the extension were excavated 360 ° excavator under the continuous watch of the archaeologist. All deposits were recorded identified down to the top of the natural sand and gravel geology. Archaeology was checked for in both plan and section. The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned for finds.

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 (Plate 1)

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

The results of the excavation revealed no archaeological remains. The lowest layer identified was a mid to dark orange sand and gravel (4). This was identified as natural sand and gravel deposited up to 2 million years ago.

Above the natural geology was a subsoil deposit of mid to dark orange brown loamy sand (3). The deposit was between 0.4m and 0.6m thick and contained a rare inclusion of sub angular to sub rounded small stones and interpreted as an old ploughsoil.

The uppermost soil deposit was a friable, dark brown loamy sand with very rare sub angular to sub rounded stone inclusions (2). The layer was between 0.2m and 0.4m thick and was identified as the topsoil. The layer had been buried on the east side of the house by a concrete slab patio.

Deposited above the topsoil on the east side of the house was a loose, light yellow coarse sand with moderate to frequent rubble inclusions (1). This layer was 0.1m to 0.2m thick and was identified as a levelling deposit for the patio slabs. The layer had been recently disturbed by the demolition of a conservatory extension and the patio (Plate 1. Section 1).

No archaeological features were identified in plan or section.

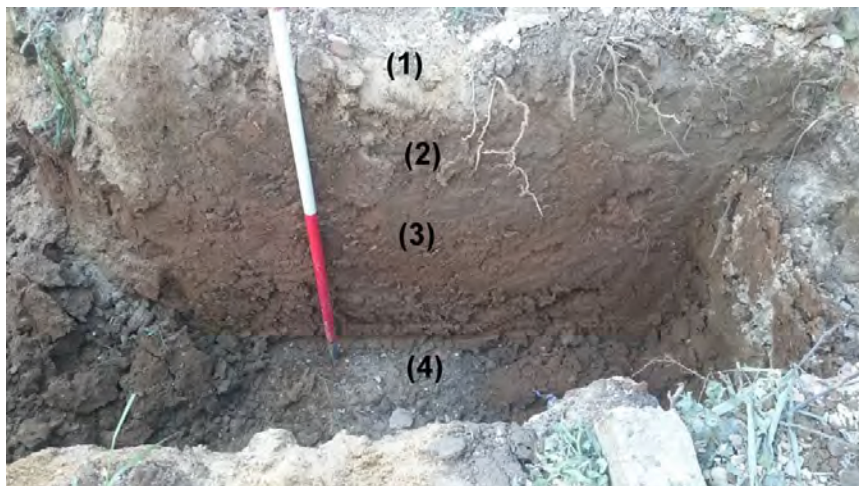


Plate 1. Section 1. North Facing.

5 FINDS

The only find identified was a complete modern wine bottle recovered from the topsoil at the south side of the house. The item was not retained.

6 DISCUSSION

Despite the close proximity of archaeological features and finds locations, no features or finds were identified during the excavations, except for a modern wine bottle. The results were the similar at the next door property immediately to the north of the site where no significant finds were identified and archaeological features were absent (Yeates 2013).

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 record

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

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Yeates, S, 2013 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 142 Park View Drive North, Charvil, Reading, Berkshire*. Unpublished. JMHS.