



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**67 CHAPEL STREET, THATCHAM,**

**WEST BERKSHIRESHIRE**

**NGR SU 522674**

**JANURARY 2020**

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**FIELDWORK DATE** 14-15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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**JMHS Project No:** 3788  
**OASIS No:** johnmoor1-337646  
**Site Code:** THCS 17  
**Archive Location:** A copy of the digital archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 3788)  
Digitised copies of the primary records are available on OASIS



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## **SUMMARY**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 67 Chapel Street, Thatcham (NGR SU 522674). No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site for development is situated at 67 Chapel Street, Thatcham (NGR SU 522674). The area for new build occupies the southeast corner of the plot of The White House.

The site lies at approximately 78m AOD. The underlying geology is the Lambeth Group.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted on appeal (APP/W0340/W/17/3168995) for erection of a bungalow. West Berkshire Council previously had refused application 16/02125/FULD. Due to the potential presence of archaeological remains a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site.

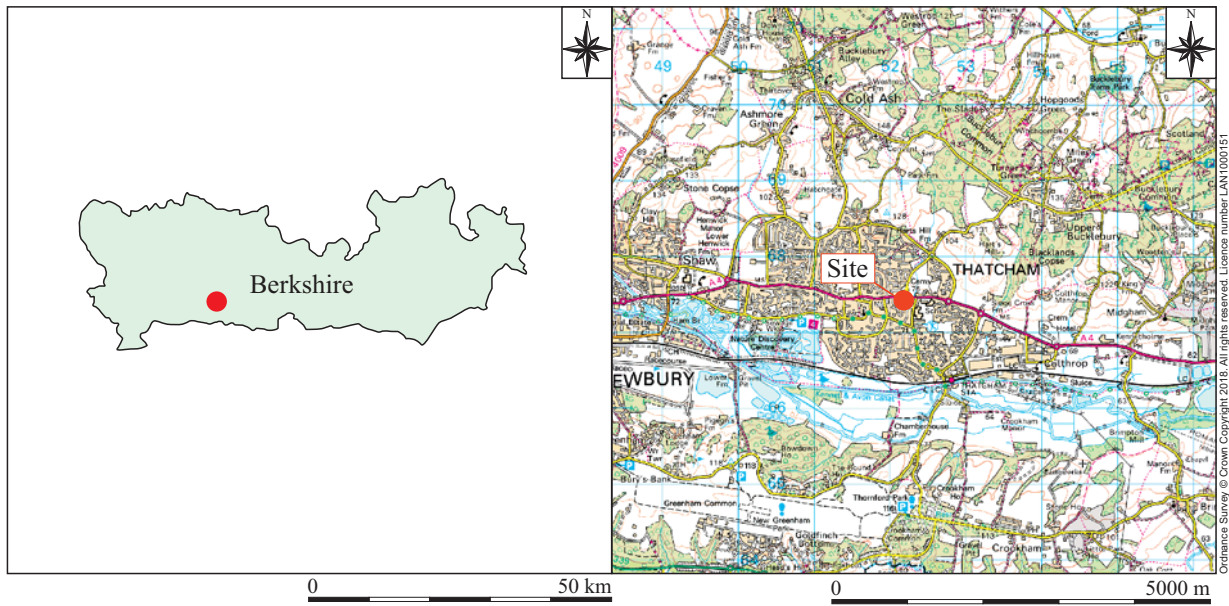
### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The following information has been taken from the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and comprises known archaeological remains within 500m of the site. 53 flint flakes and 3 cores were found during fieldwalking 470m to the north east of the site.

The route of Ermin Street, a Roman road that ran from Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) to Spinae (exact location unknown – near Newbury) is located approximately 320m to the south of the site. Apparently associated with the road, a complex of incomplete enclosures and linear features are seen on aerial photos taken in the mid-1970s (MWB2370: SU 52871 66984). Much of this area has since been built on without archaeological investigation. Roman and medieval pottery was found during fieldwalking 480m to the south west of the site (MWB9409: SU 51930 67050).

Thatcham was recorded as a settlement from the 10th century. The town was probably laid out in the late 13th century when the borough of Thatcham came into existence (MWB3535, MWB3541: SU 51856 67338). The historic core of the town was roughly centred on High Street, Church Lane and Broadway, and extended along Chapel Street towards the site. Chapel Street is likely to have its origins in the medieval period, and was made a turnpike in 1728 (MWB5936: SU 52230 67458). The site of a 15th century almshouse is located 170m west of the site on Chapel Street (MWB3547: SU 52070 67440).

There are also a number of Post-medieval listed buildings within 500m of the site.



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**Key**  Site boundary  Proposed Building  
 Monitored Area

0 25 m

Figure 1: Site location

## **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 revealed by the groundworks.
- In particular to identify any remains relating to the development of the historic core of Thatcham which this site lies on the fringes of.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council. The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

### **3.2 Methodology**

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. 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.

The plot was situated on the former parking area for 67 Chapel Street; this comprised a gravel hard standing area. Monitored works involved excavation of the majority of the footings trenches for the proposed dwelling. Excavation of associated services was not monitored, as these would be shallow.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the medieval occupation

## **4 RESULTS (Figure 2)**

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 lowest deposit encountered was the geological horizon (04); this was present throughout the footings trenches, with a maximum seen thickness of 0.5m to the limit of excavation. The natural geology (04) was overlain by subsoil, (03) a compact, mid to light brown grey silt, 0.58m in thickness, with 70% gravel inclusions. A garden soil (02) overlaid the subsoil; this was a friable mid grey brown silt clay, 0.22m in thickness, with frequent gravel inclusions. The parking pad (01) covered the garden soil. This was a mixed gravel deposit, which appears to have been laid down and levelled out on a membrane, directly on top of the garden soil.

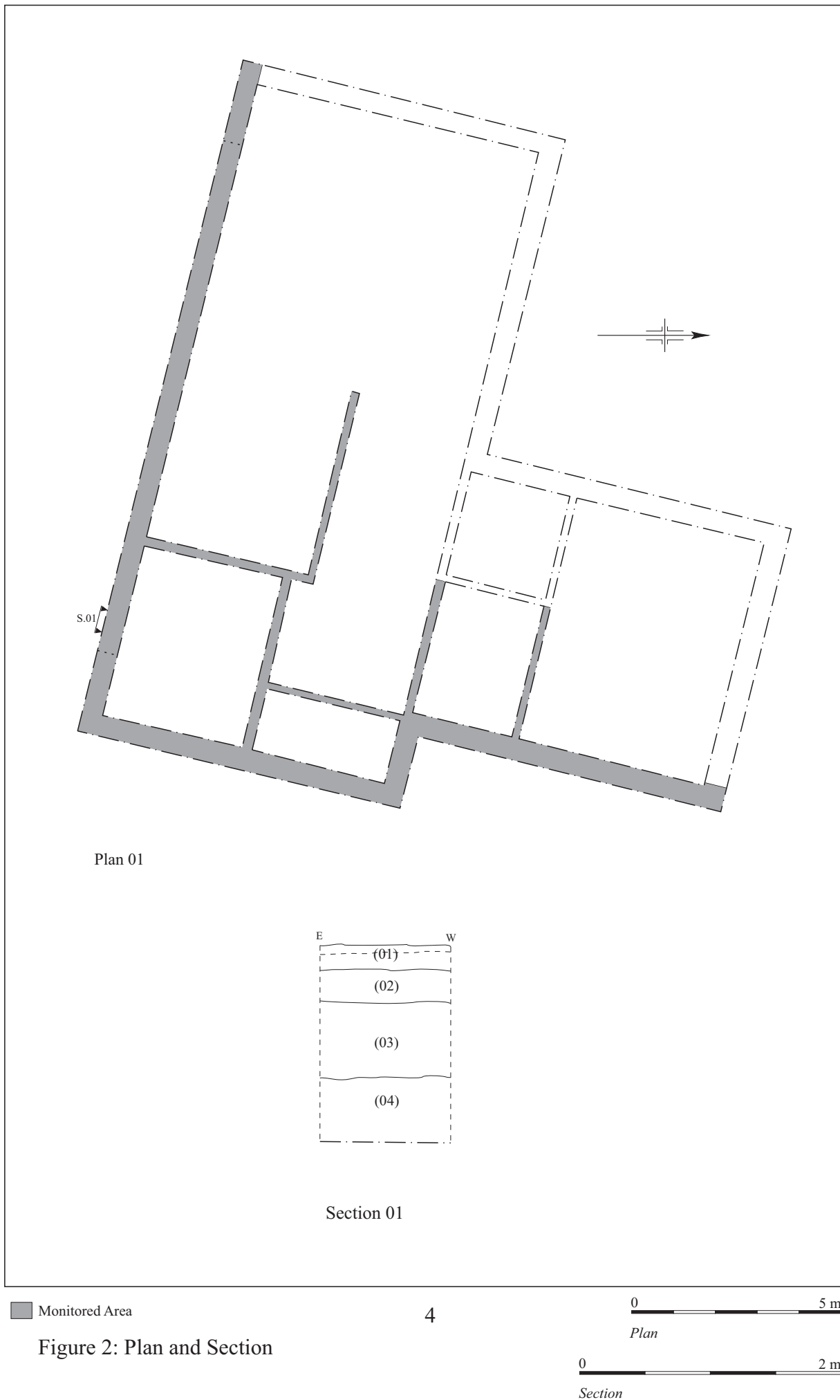


Figure 2: Plan and Section



Plate 1: Section 1: Southern footing trench, looking north.

No finds were recovered during the Archaeological Watching Brief.

#### Reliability of Results

The monitored work was undertaken in wet conditions with the water table being encountered at 1.45m below ground level. In spite of this there was excellent cooperation from site staff, ensuring that the archaeological investigation could be undertaken without impediment. The horizons that archaeology could exist at were adequately seen.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

There was no evidence for any archaeological activity found within the excavated footings trenches on site. The only material culture observed was from the gravel parking pad, and consisted of modern brick and tile fragments, and was not retained.

## **6 ARCHIVE**

A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 3788) and will be made available upon request (to [admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto:admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)). Digitised copies of all the primary records will be made publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS (ID johnmoor1-337646).

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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



## **APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnmoor1-337646**

### Project details

Project name	67 CHAPEL STREET, THATCHAM
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 67 Chapel Street, Thatcham (NGR SU 522674). No archaeological deposits or features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 14-01-2020 End: 15-01-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	3788 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	johnmoor1-337646 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	THCS 17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	16/02125/FULD - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WEST BERKSHIRE THATCHAM 67 CHAPEL STREET, THATCHAM
Postcode	RG18 4JS
Study area	272 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 522 674 51.402729435929 -1.249496235722 51 24 09 N 001 14 58 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1m Max: 1.5m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	John Moore Heritage Services
Project design originator	John Moore
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Steffan Klemenic
Type of sponsor/funding body	CLient
Name of sponsor/funding body	Empty Space Construction Limited

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	John Moore Heritage Services
Digital Archive ID	3788
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Digital Archive notes	A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 3788) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Digitised copies of all the primary records will be made publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS (ID johnmoor1-337646).
Paper Archive Exists?	No

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 67 CHAPEL STREET, THATCHAM, WEST BERKSHIRESHIRE NGR SU 522674
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Klemenic, S.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Moore, J.
Other bibliographic details	JMHS report no.3788
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	John Moore Heritage Services
Place of issue or publication	Wheatley
Description	14 pages PDF. Includes primary records and digital photos as appendix
Entered by	Simona Denis (admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)
Entered on	23 January 2020

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Grid Squares	Area/Trench	Context Type <i>Deposit</i>	Site Code <i>THCS17</i>	Context <i>(01)</i>
--------------	-------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Add. Sheets	Plan Nos. <i>P.01</i>	Section Nos. <i>S.01</i>	Matrix Location
-------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------

Photographs ~~Slide~~ Digital: *106-6769 → 6772* ~~B&W~~ *N/A*

**DEPOSIT**

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Thickness	6 Extent
7 Comments	
8 Method and Conditions	

**Description**

- ① Friable to loose
- ② dark ~~greyish~~ <sup>brownish</sup> black & drive gravels
- ③ gravel & made soils forming hard standing mixture of ballast & topsoil (Silty loam)
- ④ gravel <sup>approx</sup> 0.04m diam
- ⑤ 0.2m (gravel & red ground 0.04m & soil 0.16m)
- ⑥ entire area 17m<sup>2</sup> (current parking pad & drive)
- ⑦ N/A
- ⑧ machine 360° w/ 0.6m bucket

**CUT**

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Dimensions/Depth	
4 Break of slope-top	5 Sides
6 Break of slope-base	7 Base
8 Orientation	
9 Inclination of axis	
10 Truncation	11 Fill Nos.
12 Sketch profile	
13 Other comments	

**Stratigraphic matrix**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This context is		<i>(01)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(02)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Initials & Date**  
*SMO 14/01/20*

**Checked by & Date**

Interpretation: Internal  External  Structural  Other (specify)

**Discussion** gravel drive for current use as parking pad surface is comprised of a made levelling surface & the gravel top itself, combined as one context as they represent a single use.

Context same as:

**Finds**

Levels on plan  sheet

Highest  Lowest

none  pot  bone  glass  metal  CBM  wood  leather  burntmat.

Other finds (specify) *modern mat.*

Environmental Samples Nos.

Finds sample (BM) Nos.

Small finds Nos.

Finds sieving: on-site  off-site  metal detecting: in situ  on-site  off-site

Checked Interpretation

Provisional Period *Modern.*

Group

Initials & Date

Grid Squares	Area/Trench	Context Type <i>Layer</i>	Site Code <i>THCS 17</i>	Context <i>02</i>
--------------	-------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------

Add. Sheets	Plan Nos. <i>P.01</i>	Section Nos. <i>S.01</i>	Matrix Location
-------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------

Photographs ~~Slide~~ *Digital* ~~B&W~~ *N/A*  
*106-6769 → 6772*

**DEPOSIT**

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Thickness	6 Extent
7 Comments	
8 Method and Conditions	

Description *① Friable*

- ② Mid grayish brown*
- ③ Silty clay*
- ④ gravel quite frequent*
- ⑤ c. 22m*
- ⑥ outline area*
- ⑦ N/A*
- ⑧ machine*

**CUT**

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Dimensions/Depth	
4 Break of slope-top	5 Sides
6 Break of slope-base	7 Base
8 Orientation	
9 Inclination of axis	
10 Truncation	11 Fill Nos.
12 Sketch profile	
13 Other comments	

Stratigraphic matrix

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(01)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This context is		<i>(02)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(03)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Initials & Date  
*SMS 14/01/20*

Checked by & Date

Interpretation: Internal    External    Structural    Other (specify)

Discussion *Crarden soil - possible made layer but nothing to indicate its been redeposited except relative depth in relation to the gravel drive.*

Context same as:

Finds

Levels on plan  sheet  
 Highest Lowest

none  pot  bone  glass  metal  CBM  wood  leather  burntmat.   
 Other finds (specify)

Environmental Samples Nos.

Finds sample (BM) Nos.

Small finds Nos.  
 Finds sieving: on-site  off-site  metal detecting: in situ  on-site  off-site

Checked Interpretation

Provisional Period *N/A*

Group

Initials & Date



Grid Squares	Area/Trench	Context Type <i>Layer</i>	Site Code <i>THCS 17</i>	Context <i>(03)</i>
--------------	-------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

Add. Sheets	Plan Nos. <i>p.01</i>	Section Nos. <i>S.01</i>	Matrix Location
-------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------

Photographs Slide ~~B&W~~ *N/A*  
*106-6769 → 6772*

**DEPOSIT**

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Thickness	6 Extent
7 Comments	
8 Method and Conditions	

Description

- ① compact
- ② Mid to light brownish gray
- ③ gravel & silt
- ④ gravel 70%
- ⑤ 0.58m
- ⑥ entire area 17m<sup>2</sup>
- ⑦ N/A
- ⑧ machine

**CUT**

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Dimensions/Depth	
4 Break of slope-top	5 Sides
6 Break of slope-base	7 Base
8 Orientation	
9 Inclination of axis	
10 Truncation	11 Fill Nos.
12 Sketch profile	
13 Other comments	

Stratigraphic matrix

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(02)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This context is		(03)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(04)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Initials & Date  
*SND 14/01/20*

Checked by & Date

Interpretation: Internal    External    Structural    Other (specify)

Discussion *Subsoil - some striations in this deposit & ~~and~~ the discoloration gives the impression that this layer is subject to water leaching or else was redeposited. However, this banding is continuous across the area so it would appear to be a natural occurrence*

Context same as:  Finds

Levels on plan  sheet Highest Lowest

none pot bone glass metal CBM wood leather burntmat.

Other finds (specify)

Environmental Samples Nos.    Finds sample (BM) Nos.

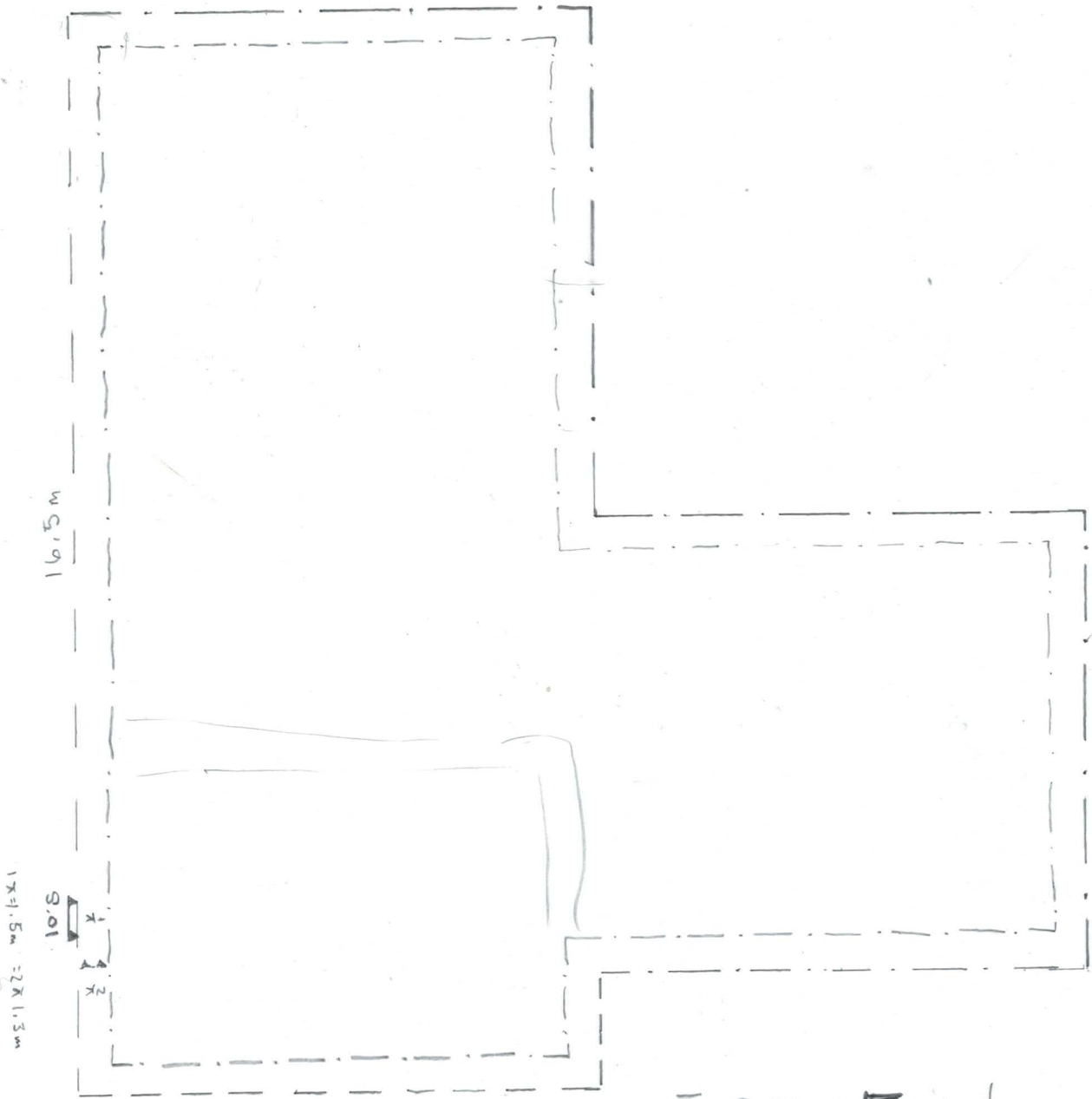
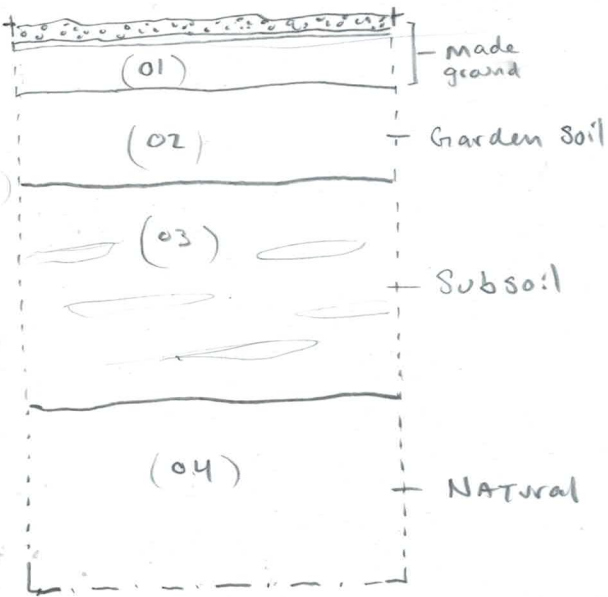
Small finds Nos.  
Finds sieving: on-site  off-site  metal detecting: in situ  on-site  off-site

Checked Interpretation

Provisional Period *N/A*    Group    Initials & Date





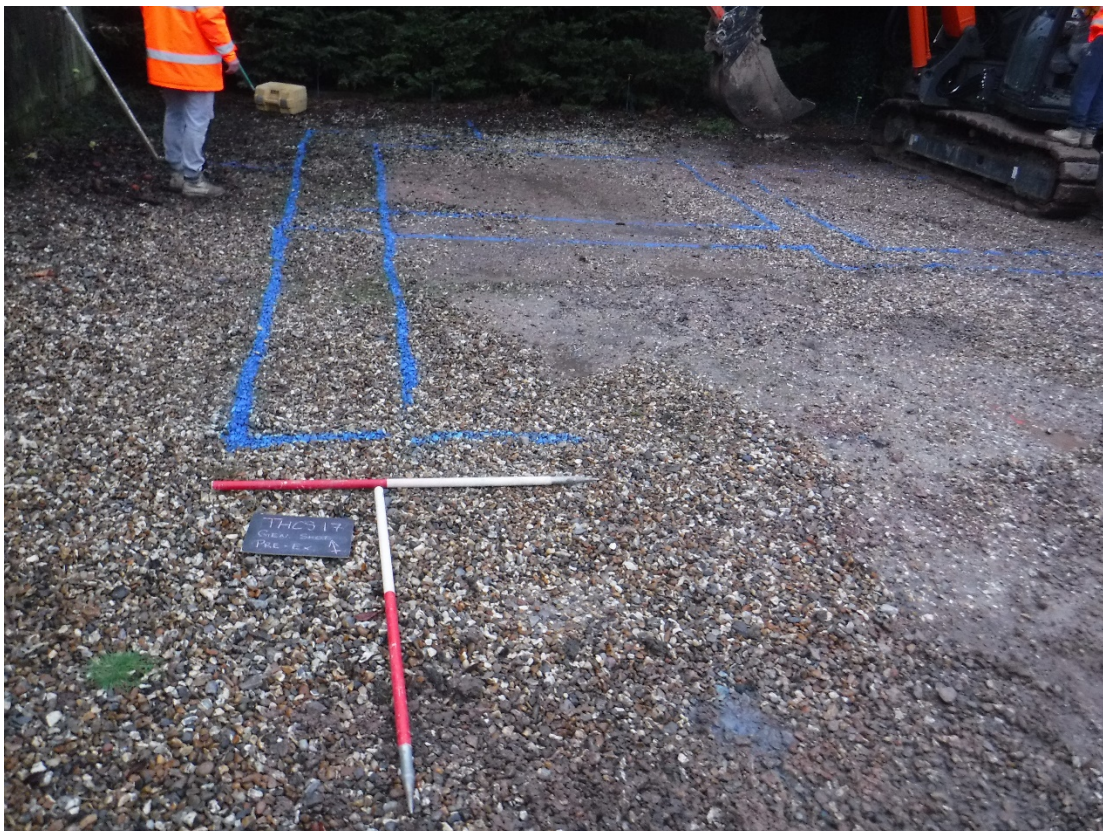


THCS 17  
SITE PLAN

1:100  
CAH  
14/01/20  
SMB



Section 01



Pre-Excavation shot of Footings Location