

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT 67 CHAPEL STREET, THATCHAM,

**NGR SU 522674** 

**WEST BERKSHIRESHIRE** 

**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.

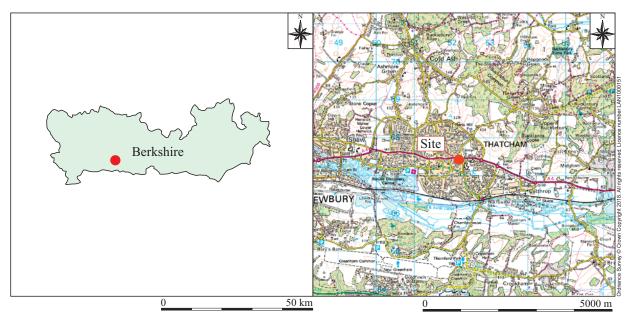
#### 1.3 Archaeological Background

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 (Silcester) 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.





2

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.

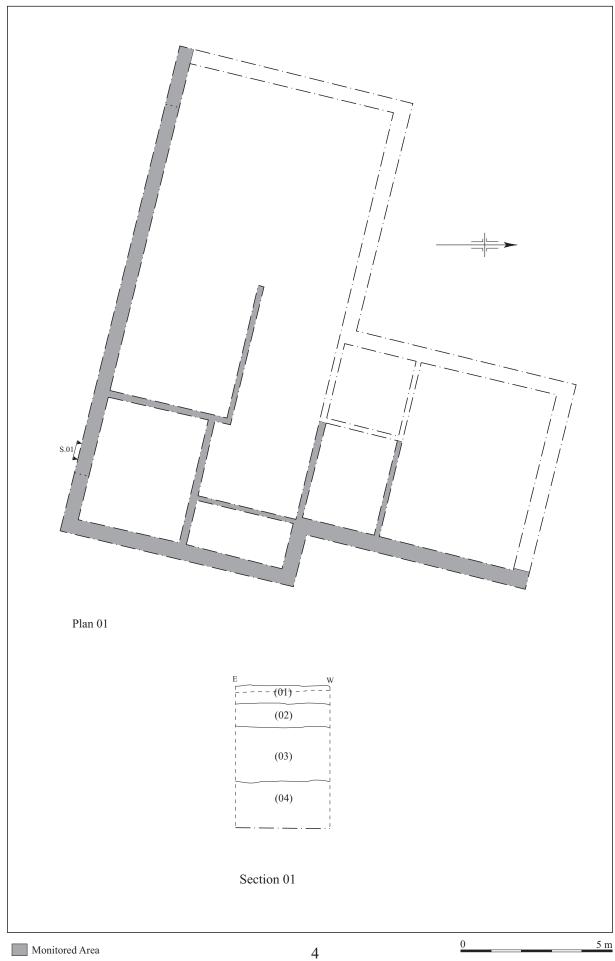


Figure 2: Plan and Section



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 <a href="mailto:admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk">admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk</a>). 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**

67 CHAPEL STREET, THATCHAM Project name

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.

3788 - Contracting Unit No.

Start: 14-01-2020 End: 15-01-2020 Project dates

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

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

**NONE None** Monument type **NONE None** Significant Finds "Watching Brief" Investigation type

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

SU 522 674 51.402729435929 -1.249496235722 51 24 09 N 001 14 58 W Point Site coordinates

Height OD / Depth Min: 1m Max: 1.5m

#### **Project creators**

23/01/2020, 12:32 1 of 3

Name of Organisation John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator John Moore Heritage Services

Project design originator John Moore

Project director/manager

John Moore

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Project supervisor Steffan Klemenic

Type of

CLient

sponsor/funding body

Name of

**Empty Space Construction Limited** 

sponsor/funding body

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

No

Exists?

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

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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

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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

# OASIS:

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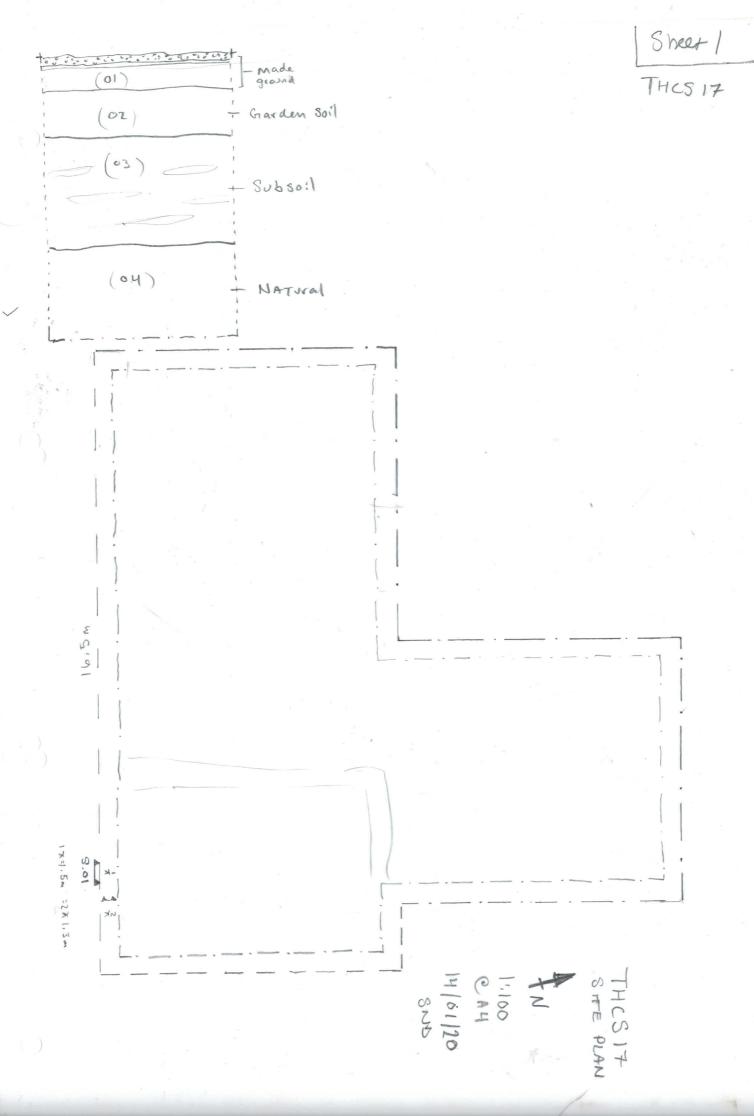
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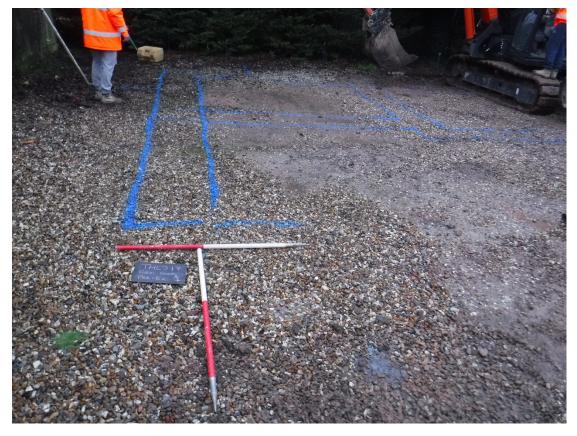
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Section 01



Pre-Excavation shot of Footings Location