



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

LAND AT EASTCOTT AND GENERAL STORAGE

YARD, NEWBURY ROAD,

HEADLEY, HAMPSHIRE

NGR

SU5187862124

OCTOBER 2019

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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on the east side of Newbury Road (A339), immediately south of a property called Eastcott, Headley, Hampshire (NGR SU5187862124). A single ditch was found, within the footings of the central house, likely representing a previous boundary. A variety of modern features and modern ground levelling deposits were also encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located on the east side of Newbury Road (A339), immediately south of a property called Eastcott, Headley (NGR SU5187862124 centred).

The site lies at approximately 104m AOD. The underlying geology is London Clay Formation, Clay, Silt and Sand

1.2 Planning Background

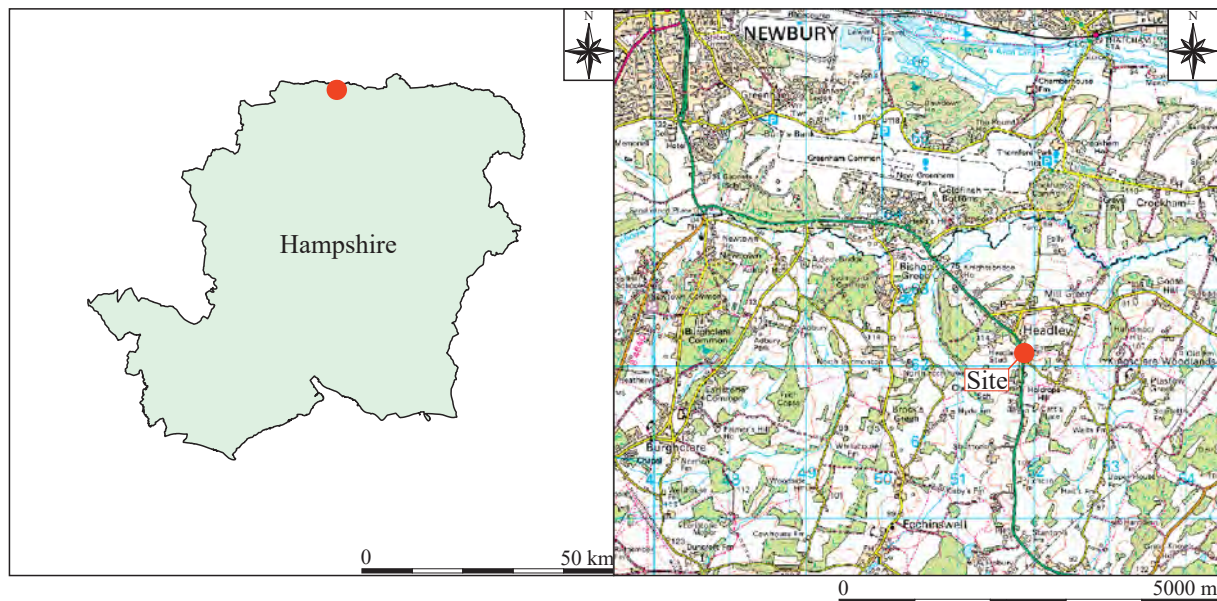
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council granted planning permission for the erection of **3 dwellings and garages, parking and associated amenity areas**. Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site. This was in line with NPPF (2018) and *Policy EM11 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029*.

1.3 Archaeological Background

There is a potential for archaeological remains to be encountered during groundworks as evidence for possible Roman activity has been recorded approximately 35m north of the north boundary of this site. This is recorded in the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) as the site of a possible Roman villa. Coins dated to the 4th century, pottery sherds, building materials and quernstone fragments were found during the construction of an approach road in the 20th century (HER 21051, HER 21058). Further excavation revealed shallow gullies thought to represent the beam slots of a timber framed building (HER 21057).

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) within the area of these earlier finds (JMHS 2016; HER 69165). Excavation revealed a small posthole structure that was tentatively dated to the Romano British period through associated pottery; no evidence of the possible villa building was found. Also recorded was a line of post holes and a well, considered to date to the post-medieval period.

A small quantity of prehistoric material has also been found throughout the wider area, including a pebble macehead with hourglass perforations found in a drainage ditch approximately 470m to the north (HER 21062); a bronze palstave found during the excavation of foundations for Beenham Court, 340m to the south east of the site



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Key Site boundary Monitored areas Archaeological features Modern features

0 50 m
1:1000

Figure 1: Site location

and a Neolithic Axe was found within 500m of the site, however the exact location of the find, or the form and condition of the axe, is not known (HER 21052).

A possible medieval well (HER 21056) was found 170m to the north of the site; pottery dating to the 12th century was also found nearby (HER 21063).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To identify, investigate at an appropriate level, and record and report on any remains associated with the possible Roman activity further to the north.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Hampshire County Senior Archaeologist (Neil Adam), the archaeological advisor to Basingstoke and Deane Borough 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.

Upon arrival the site had already been stripped, and a layer of crush hard standing laid down. Monitored works involved excavation of footings trenches for the proposed dwellings. Excavation of associated services was not monitored, as these would be shallow, and within the layer of hardstanding already laid down.

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

4 RESULTS (Figures 2, 3)

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 London Clay geological horizon (03); this was present throughout the footings trenches, with a maximum thickness of 0.48m. Slightly different stratigraphy was encountered within the footings trenches for each house plot. Within the footings for House 1 (03) was overlain by (08) a compact, mid orange/grey brown sandy clay 0.26m in thickness, with occasional brick and squared timber inclusions. This deposit was interpreted as a made ground deposit, likely a redeposited form of Natural deposit (02), and potentially derived from the original excavation of a (now) backfilled swimming pool situated within the adjacent Eastcott Cottage's garden immediately to the north (Pers. Comm. from ground workers on Site) . House 1 would have been within the garden of Eastcott at the time of the excavation of the swimming pool. Another layer of made ground overlaid (08); (07) was a soft mid brown grey silt clay, 0.41m in thickness, with occasional concrete, brick and tile (CBM) inclusions. Above (07), was a layer of redeposited natural (06), a soft, mottled orange/yellow grey clay sand, 0.29m in thickness, with occasional CBM inclusions. Deposit (06) is likely the same as deposit (08), however context (07) separated them.



Plate 1: Section 2: Southern footing trench of House 1, looking south.

Within the southwestern garage footings for House 2 (03) was a cut for a linear feature 04 of indeterminate date. This followed a northeast-southwest orientation for 5m along the length of the southwest garage footing trench. Filling 04 was (05), a compact, light brown grey silt clay, 0.6m wide at the limit of excavation of the trench. The feature did not survive further northwards. There were no visible inclusions within this fill, and no dating evidence. Ditch 04 and natural (03) were overlain by (02) a compact, mottled orange/yellow grey clay sand 0.2-0.35m in thickness with light rooting inclusions. This is a truncated natural deposit, only seen within the footings trenches for House 2. A modern soakaway was recorded in plan within the northern footing trench of House 2; this cut (02).

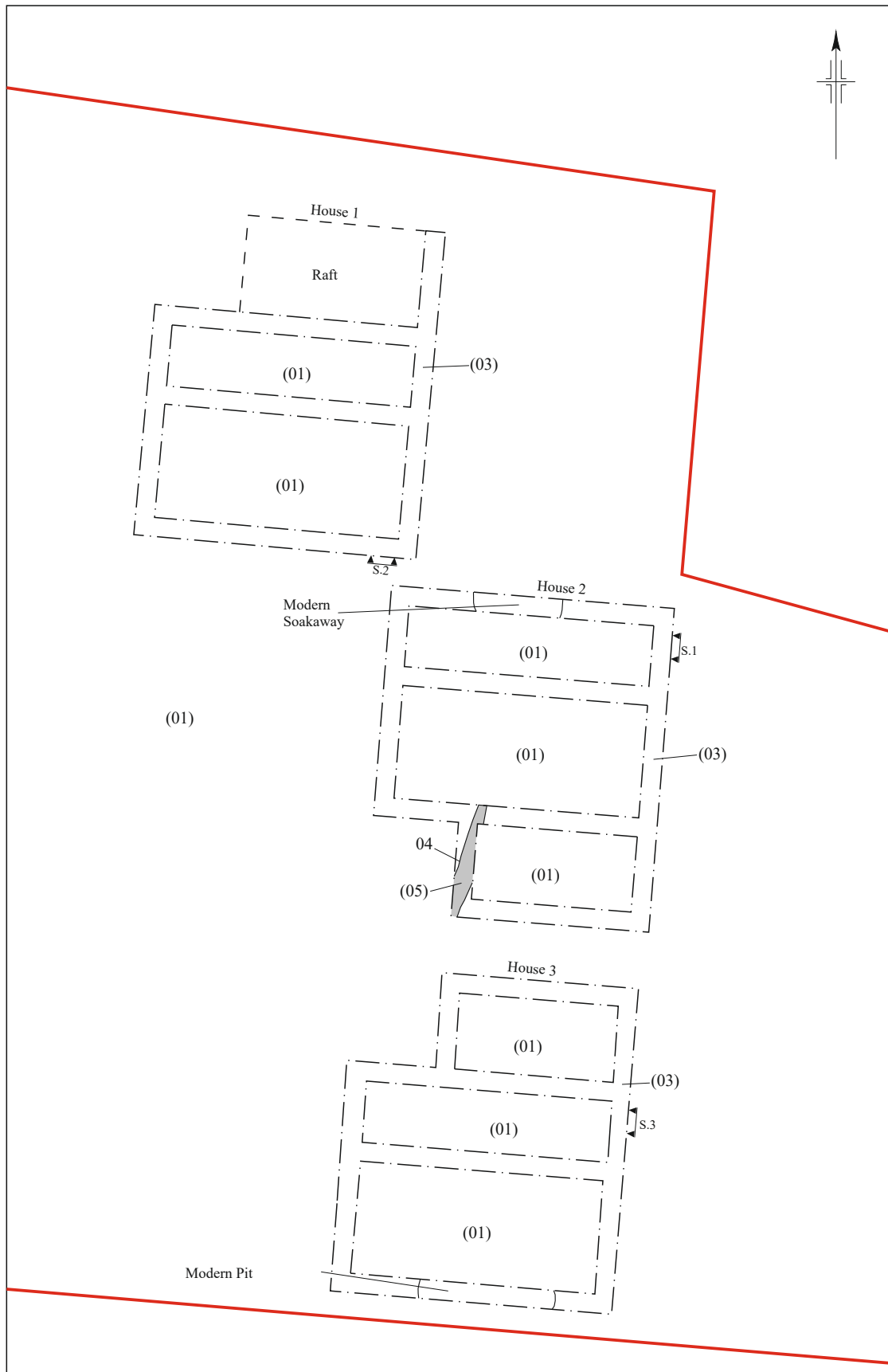


Figure 2: Footings Trenches

0 10 m
1:200

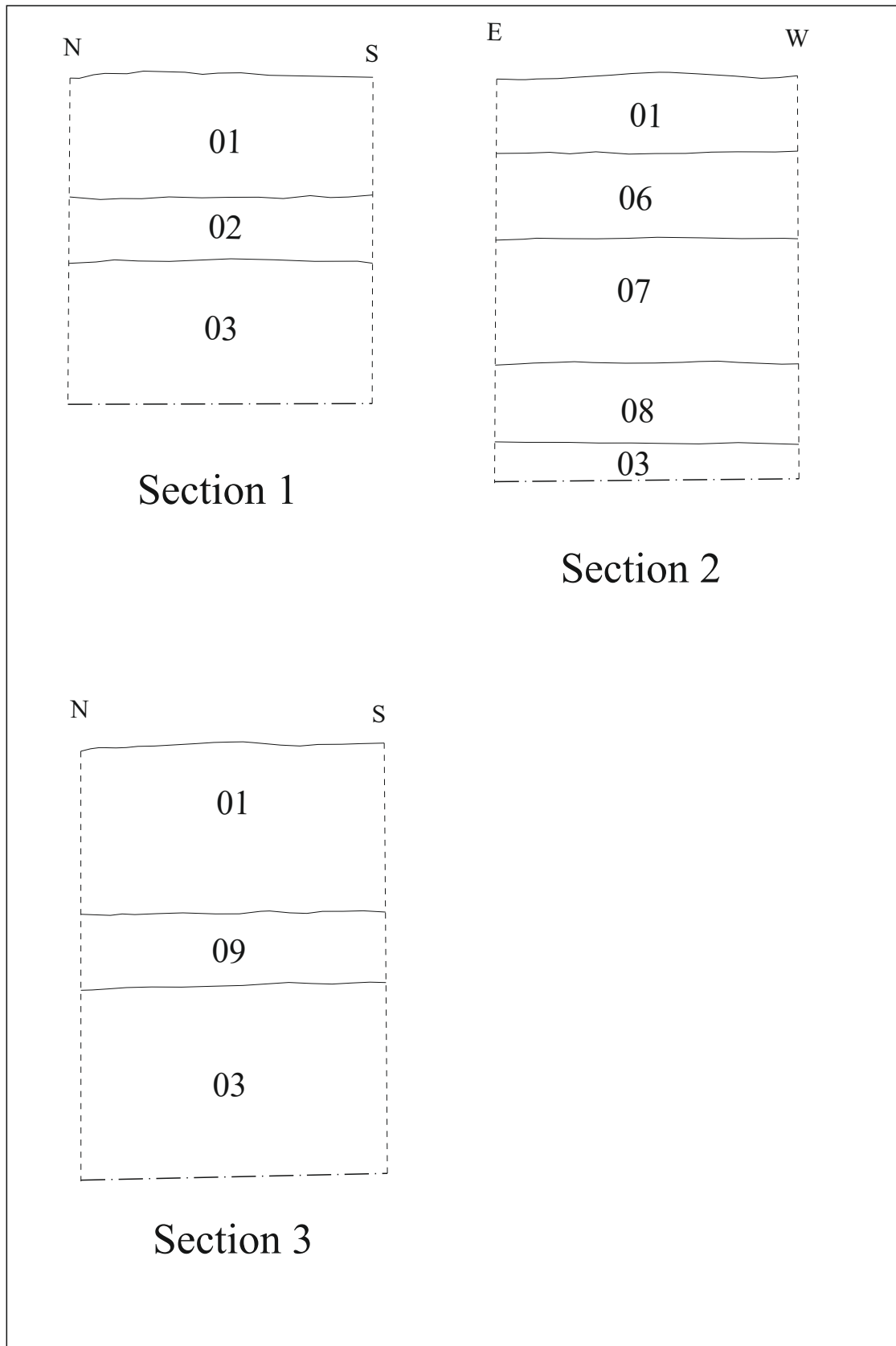


Figure 3: Sections

0 1 m
1:20



Plate 2: Ditch 04, looking north



Plate 3: Section 1: Eastern footing trench of House 2, looking east.

Within the southern footing trench for House 3 was a modern pit, which was recorded in plan. Layer (03) was overlain by (09) a loose, mid grey brown silt clay 0.24m in thickness, with plastic, brick and squared timber inclusions. Deposit (09) is interpreted as a ground levelling deposit, and may be the former yard surface. Overlying deposits (02), (06), and (09), deposit (01), which was present across site, was a layer of crush 0.4-0.7m thick.



Plate 4: Section 3: Eastern footing trench of House 3, looking east.

No finds were recovered during the archaeological Watching Brief.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The contractor failed to notify JMHS of the start of the ground reduction, and the whole site was stripped, then built up with crush hardstanding prior to archaeological monitoring of the footings. Once on site the monitored work was undertaken in fair conditions with excellent cooperation from site staff, ensuring that the archaeological investigation could be undertaken without impediment. It is considered that no archaeological remains would have been destroyed during the stripping of the site.

5 DISCUSSION

The earliest evidence for activity was ditch 04. While no finds were retrieved from this feature, the northeast-southwest alignment that it is on is the same as that of a previous boundary that ran across the site, suggesting that ditch 04 is a previous iteration of this boundary. A map regression exercise shows that this boundary dates to sometime between 1911 and 1967 (Old Maps). The next phases of activity are comparatively modern in date, and are represented by the ground levelling deposits (06)-(09) seen on site, and the modern features within the footings trenches of Houses 2 and 3. These contained modern materials, which were not retained; however, in the case of the modern pit, given that it does not cut (09), it can be said to pre-date (09). As there were no interactions between the modern soakaway and any of the ground levelling deposits observed, no valid inference can be made as to their relative dates, however the clear stratigraphic relationships between (06), (07) and (08) make it possible to date those layers with (08) being the oldest, and (06) being the most recent; however, given the nature of the deposits, they could conceivably have been laid down on the same day.

6 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Hampshire Cultural Trust with accession number HCCMAS:A2018.19

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Old-Maps, Headley <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/451877/162129> (accessed 10/10/2019)

APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM**1.1 OASIS ID: johnmoor1-371341****Project details**

Project name	Eastcott and General Storage Yard, Headley, Hampshire
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief on the east side of Newbury Road (A339), immediately south of a property called Eastcott, Headley, Hampshire (NGR SU5187862124). A single ditch was found, within the footings of the central house, likely representing a previous boundary. A variety of modern features and modern ground levelling deposits were also encountered.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2019 End: 07-10-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Type of project	Recording project
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE EAST HAMPSHIRE HEADLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT LAND AT EASTCOTT AND GENERAL STORAGE YARD, NEWBURY ROAD, HEADLEY, HAMPSHIRE
Postcode	RG19 8AE
Study area	150 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 51878 62124 51.35531757018 -1.254896048443 51 21 19 N 001 15 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 104m Max: 104m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Steffan Klemenic
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Entered by	Stephanie Duensing (admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)
Entered on	22 October 2019