



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

MOBILE HOME, MIDDLE LANE FARM,

PONDWOOD LANE, WHITE WALTHAM,

MAIDENHEAD

NGR SU 85186 75431

MAY 2020

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FIELDWORK 26th May 2020

REPORT ISSUED 28th May 2020

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JMHS Project No: 4253
OASIS No: johnmoor1-395055
Site Code: WWPL 20
Archive Location: A copy of the digital archive is maintained by
John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4253)
Digitised copies of the primary records are
available on OASIS



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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Middle Lane Farm, White Waltham, Berkshire (NGR SU 85186 75431). A planning application has been made to The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the erection of a farm worker's cottage with removal of existing mobile home and office. Three trenches, 2no 10m in length and 1no 15m in length were excavated across the site, in areas of potential impacts. However, no archaeological features or deposits of note were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at the site of the south of Pondwood Lane, White Waltham SL6 3SS (NGR SU 85186 75431). The site lies between 38 and 39m OD. The underlying geology is London Clay Formation and the site is currently occupied by a mobile home and office.

1.2 Planning Background

A planning application has been made to The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the erection of a farm worker's cottage with removal of existing mobile home and office. For a previous application a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work was recommended by Berkshire Archaeology (BA) to be attached to any granted permission for the development:

A) No development shall take place/commence (other than demolition to ground floor slab level) until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- 1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
- 2. The programme for post investigation assessment*
- 3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
- 4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
- 6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

B) The Development shall take place in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

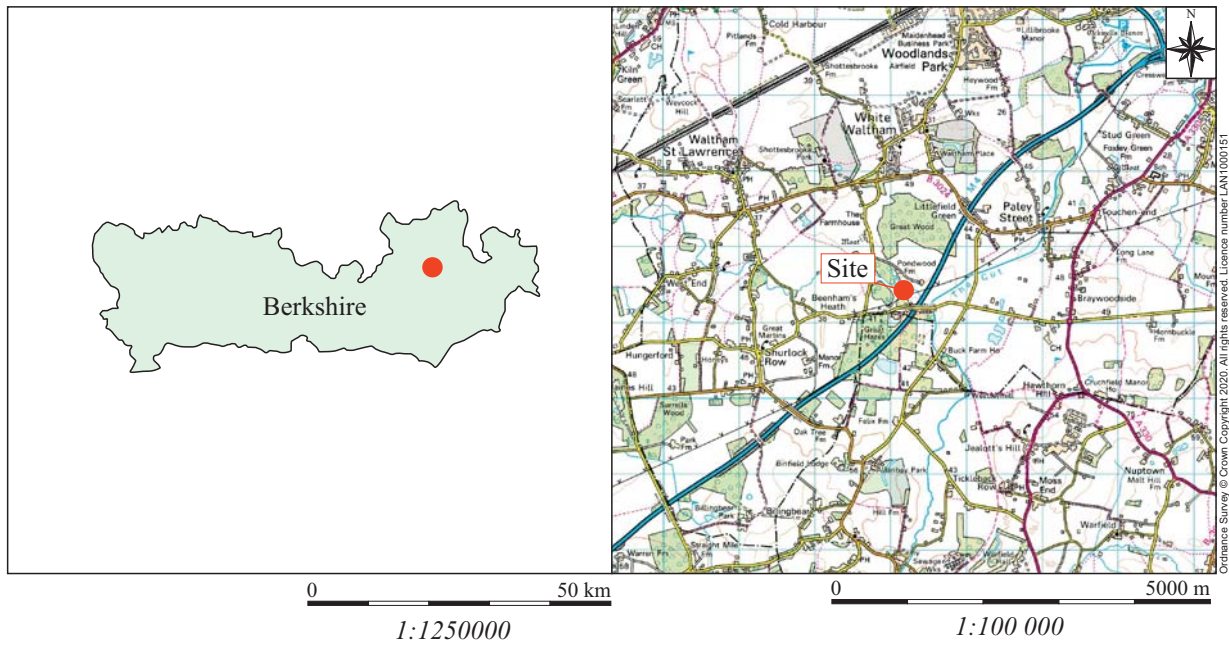


Figure 1: Site location

Reason:

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, particularly for, but not limited to, Roman remains. The potential impacts of the development can be mitigated through a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with national and local plan policy.

It had been determined that in view of the nature and scale of the development and the low likelihood of the potential archaeology, should it exist, meriting preservation in situ, field evaluation through trial trenching would represent an appropriate initial phase of work in order to determine the archaeological potential and levels of previous truncation and the need for any further phases of work.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A search of the Berkshire Historic Environment Record was undertaken with a radius of 1km. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Database was also consulted. The following results are listed in chronological order.

1.3.1 Prehistoric

A series of linear features are visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks between 200 to 400m northeast of the site (MRM16309: centred SU 85704 75645). The morphology of the features suggests that they may be Iron Age or Romano-British in date.

A spread of burnt flint, including one piece of worked flint, was recorded through geophysical survey and fieldwalking approximately 520m east-northeast of the site (MRM16308: centred SU 85635 75672). The feature was interpreted as a plough-damaged burnt mound.

Finds of prehistoric date from the search area include: a Bronze Age socketed axe, found approximately 200m northeast of the site (PAS 403388: SU 85 75); a scatter of Mesolithic or Neolithic flint c.300m northeast (PAS 494066: SU 85 75); an undiagnostic flint flake found during excavation of the Nuffield to Ascot pipeline 420m east of the site (MRW8558: SU 85600 75400); a small assemblage of worked flint, including a scraper and a flake, c.680m east (MRW1064: SU 85870 75370) and a scatter of blades, scrapers and cores c.900m northwest, also found during the pipeline excavation (MRW1103: SU 84790 76280).

1.3.2 Roman

A plated Denarius and a fragment of tile were found approximately 60m east of the site (MRW15596: SU 85242 75446); the reporter also noted a series of limestone slabs in the stream 90m northeast of the site and a 3m wide area of stone.

An extensive spread of Roman pottery was recorded during excavation of the Nuffield to Ascot pipeline 630m east, though no associated features were seen in the pipe trench (MRW1064: SU 85870 75370). The quantity and date of the material found suggests occupation in the immediate area during the 3rd and 4th centuries.

A sestertius of Hadrian, AD117-138 (PAS 477989: SU 86 75) and a copper alloy disc brooch (PAS 525536: SU 86 75) were found c.880m east of the site.

1.3.3 Medieval

A linear spread of compacted flint and chalk, possibly a footpath of medieval or post-medieval date, was recorded during excavation of the Nuffield to Ascot pipeline c.270m northeast of the site (MRW1063: SU 85400 75590). In the same field linear features seen as cropmarks may represent the remains of ridge and furrow (MRM16309: centred SU 861 756).

A medieval moated site is located 850m northwest of the site at Smewins Farm (MRW692, UID 1013171: centred SU 84661 76132); the moat, a scheduled monument, has three arms, open on the eastern side, and measures approximately 60m east-west by 40m-50m north-south. The moat itself is water-filled, with an average width of 5m wide and depth of over 1.5m. Smewins Farmhouse, situated within the moat, is a grade II listed timber-framed building of 15th century date, with later extensions (DRM174: SU 84667 76138). An archaeological evaluation at the site recorded remains of an earlier house, possibly pre-dating the construction of the moat, in addition to construction layers associated with the excavation of the moat, and a range of medieval pottery and tile (MRW15682: SU 84664 76139). Trenches excavated nearby at Smewins Barn recorded a rammed chalk floor and a ditch of probable medieval origin (MRW15683: SU 84715 76124).

Excavations 170m west of Smewins Farm, undertaken by Maidenhead Archaeological and Historical Society, recorded brick kilns of medieval or post-medieval date (MRW4281: SU 84500 76100).

Finds from the search area that date to the medieval period include: a copper alloy buckle (PAS 497096: SU 85 75) and a cut quarter of John to Henry III (PAS 494032: SU 85 75) found in a field c.300m northeast of the site; a circular lead traders weight (PAS 554972: SU 85 76), a copper alloy coin weight (PAS 546325: SU 85 76) and a copper alloy strap fitting (PAS 953225: SU 85 76) found in fields c.880 east.

1.3.4 Post-medieval

A series of narrow linear ditches are visible on aerial photographs overlying the possible prehistoric features and ridge and furrow located in fields northeast of the site; these are interpreted as post-enclosure field boundaries (MRM16309: centred on SU 861 756).

A series of finds dating to the post-medieval period have been found within the search area, including: a sixpence of Elizabeth I (PAS 497077: SU 85 75); an 18th or 19th century seal matrix (PAS 497078: SU 85 75); a copper alloy buckle (PAS 497094: SU 85 75); a circular lead half pound trade weight issued under James II, 1685-88 (PAS 494035: SU 85 75) and an Irish sixpence of James II dated August 1689 (PAS 494029: SU 85 75) all found in an area of fields c.300m northeast of the site. Finds from an area of fields 880m east include: a sixpence of Elizabeth I dated 1575 (PAS 477993: SU 86 75); a lead token (PAS 554976: SU 86 75); a copper alloy token (PAS 546335: SU 86 75); a Nuremburg jetton issued between 1586 and 1635 (PAS 546329: SU 86

75); a copper alloy clasp (PAS 953224: SU 85 76) and a copper alloy strap fitting (PAS 953246: SU 85 76).

1.3.5 Undated

A series of undated earthworks are present in Bracknell Forest, approximately 500m to 800m southwest, including: scoop shaped features interpreted as borrow pits (MBF6683: centred SU 84831 75007); and a short length of bank (MBF6682: SU 84800 75000).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular

- To determine whether there has been any Roman activity on the site.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the development under consideration.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Berkshire Archaeology (BA) the archaeological advisors to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

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

3.2 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of 3no. trenches; Tr. 1 10m in length, Tr. 2 15m long and Tr. 3 11m in length. Each trench was targeted on an area of impact associated with the proposal. The location of Trenches 1 and 3 were moved slightly in order to avoid buried utilities. 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

Trench 1

Trench 1, 10m in length and aligned WNW-SSE, was excavated in an area of proposed planting. The lowest deposit encountered was (1/03), the geological horizon. This was a compact mid orange brown silty clay. This was overlain by a thin layer of subsoil (1/02), a friable mid grey silty clay 0.12m in thickness. Topsoil (1/01) was a friable mid brown grey sandy silt 0.19m in thickness.

Trench 2

Trench 2, 15m in length and aligned NE-SW, was excavated across the footprint of the proposed dwelling. The lowest deposit encountered was (2/03), a compact mid orange-brown silty clay. This was overlain by subsoil (2/02), a friable to firm mid grey silty clay 0.2m in thickness. Subsoil (2/02) was overlain by topsoil (2/01), a friable mid grey-brown sandy silt 0.24m in thickness.



Plate 1: Trench 2. Looking north west.

Trench 3

Trench 3, 10m in length and aligned NE-SW, was excavated in an area of proposed planting. The lowest deposit encountered was geological horizon (3/04), a compact mid orange brown and grey brown silty clay. This was overlain by an alluvial deposit (3/03) of dark grey brown silty clay with flecks of orange and red mottling, 0.25m in thickness. This was overlain by made ground (3/02), a mid-yellow grey sandy clay with frequent fine gravel, 0.2m in thickness. This layer of made ground was overlain by topsoil (3/01) a friable mid-grey brown sandy silt 0.11m in thickness.



Plate 2: Trench 3, section 3.1, showing alluvial deposit (3/03) and made ground (3/02). Looking north west.

5 FINDS

No artefactual evidence was encountered during the evaluation.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation was successful in meeting the aims laid out in the WSI. No features or deposits of archaeological merit were encountered in any of the trenches. A deposit of alluvial material was encountered in Trench 3, perhaps indicating the area of the trench was formerly riverine or marshy, demonstrating the former southern extent of the stream that is now located approximately 20m to the north of the site. This alluvial material was covered with a layer of undated made ground and topsoil.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4253) 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 johnmoor1-395055).

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*

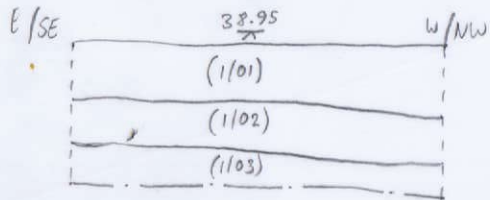
APPENDIX 1. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	 Finds	 Interpretation	 Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt	0.19	>1.2	>10	None	Topsoil	Undated
1/02	Deposit	Friable mid grey silty clay	0.12	>1.2	>10	None	Subsoil	Undated
1/03	Deposit	Compact mid orange brown silty clay	N/A	>1.2	>10	None	Natural	Quaternary
Trench 2								
2/01	Deposit	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt	0.24	>1.2	>15	None	Topsoil	Undated
2/02	Deposit	Friable to firm mid grey silty clay	0.2	>1.2	>15	None	Subsoil	Undated
2/03	Deposit	Compact mid orange-brown silty clay	N/A	>1.2	>15	None	Natural	Quaternary
Trench 3								
3/01	Deposit	Friable mid-grey brown sandy silt	0.11	>1.2	>10	None	Topsoil	Undated
3/02	Deposit	Friable mid-yellow grey sandy clay with frequent fine gravel	0.2	>1.2	>10	None	Subsoil	Undated
3/03	Deposit	Firm dark grey brown silty clay with flecks of orange and red mottling	0.25	>1.2	>10	None	Alluvial deposit	Quaternary
3/04	Deposit	Compact mid orange brown and grey brown silty clay	N/A	>1.2	>10	None	Natural	Quaternary

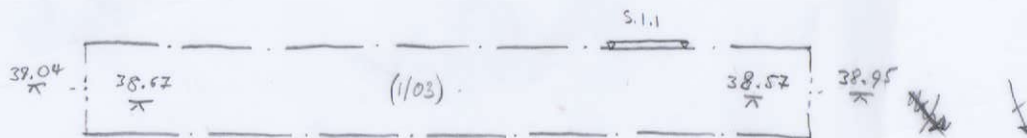
SITE: MIDDLE LANE FARM						SITE CODE: WWP 20		SHEET No: 1/	
Level No	TBM	BM/TBM Location Description	Backsight	Instrument Height (IH) (TBM+ Backsight)	Foresight	Reduced Level (IH - Foresight)	Comments (Context No, Small Finds No, etc.)	Section No.	Recorder Initials & Date
4	38.81	TBM - CONCRETE			1.29		TBM		TRJ 26/5
1		ELECTRIC BOX	1.69	40.5	1.55	38.95	TR1 TOP W		
2					1.93	38.57	TR1 BASE W		
3					1.55	38.95	TR1 REP SEC	1.01	
4					1.46	39.04	TR1 E TOP		
5					1.83	38.67	TR1 E BASE		
6					1.54	38.96	TR2 NW TOP		
7					1.87	38.63	TR2 NW BASE		
8					1.51	38.99	TR2 REP SEC	2.1	
9					1.55	38.95	TR2 SE TOP		
10					2.03	38.47	TR2 SE BASE		
11					1.59	38.91	TR3 SW TOP		
12					2.18	38.32	SW BASE		
13					1.75	38.75	TR3 REP SEC	3.1	
14					1.68	38.82	NE TOP		
15					2.28	38.22	NE BASE		
16	40	CHAIN	1.06	41.06	1.06 2.2	38.86	CHAIN		
17	38.86	CHAIN	1.04	40.26	1.45	38.81	TBM		

WWPL20

S.1.1 Rep Sec Cw 1:20 26/5/20

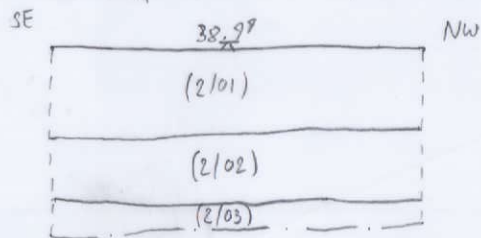


Plan of Trench 1 Cw 1:100 26/5/20 WWPL20

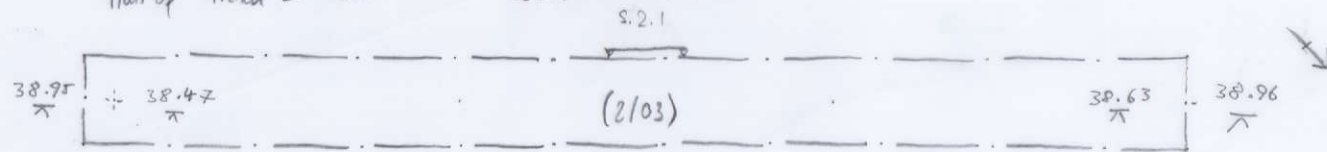


WWPL20

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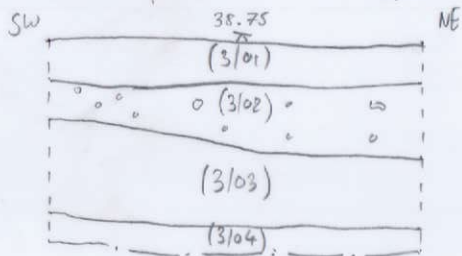


Plan of Trench 2 Cw 1:100 26/5/20 WWPL20

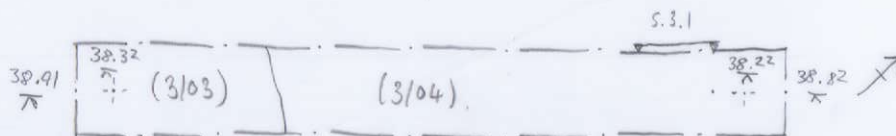


WWPL20

S.3.1 Rep Sec Cw 1:20 26/5/20



Plan of Trench 3 Cw 1:100 26/5/20 WWPL20



key o = gravel

WWPL20

SHEET 1

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-395055

Project details

Project name	Middle Lane Farm, Pondwood Lane, White Waltham, Maidenhead
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Middle Lane Farm, White Waltham, Berkshire (NGR SU 85186 75431). A planning application has been made to The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the erection of a farm worker's cottage with removal of existing mobile home and office. Three trenches, 2no 10m in length and 1no 15m in length were excavated across the site, in areas of potential impacts. However, no archaeological features or deposits of note were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 26-05-2020 End: 26-05-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WWPL 20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4253 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	johnmoor1-395055 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PALAEOCHANNEL Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD WHITE WALTHAM Mobile Home, Middle Lane Farm
Postcode	SL6 3SS
Study area	2000 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 85186 75431 51.470934482752 -0.773402446245 51 28 15 N 000 46 24 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 38.22m Max: 38.67m

Project creators

Name of Organisation John Moore Heritage Services
 Project brief originator Berkshire Archaeology
 Project design originator JMHS
 Project director/manager John Moore
 Project supervisor Tom Rose-Jones
 Type of sponsor/funding body client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient JMHS
 Digital Archive ID johnmoor1-395055
 Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
 Digital Archive notes A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4253) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Digitised copies of all the primary records are publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS
 Paper Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title An archaeological Evaluation at Middle Lane Farm, Pondwood Lane, White Waltham, Maidenhead
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Moore, J.
 Other bibliographic details JMHS Report no.4253
 Date 2020
 Issuer or publisher John Moore Heritage Services
 Place of issue or publication Boarstall, Buckinghamshire
 Description 22 A4 pages PDF including Primary Records
 Entered by Simona Denis (admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk)
 Entered on 4 August 2020

OASIS:

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