

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

BAILEY HILL RESERVOIR, BAYDON,

WILTSHIRE

SU 2840 7974

On behalf of

Thames Water Utilities Ltd

DECEMBER 2007

REPORT FOR Thames Water Utilities Ltd.
Clearwater Court (RBH2)
Vastern Road
Reading
RG1 8DB

PREPARED BY Andrew Dyne

FIELDWORK 10 October - 14 November 2007

REPORT ISSUED 21 December 2007

ENQUIRES TO *John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ*

*Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk*

SITE CODE BNBH 07

JMHS PROJECT NO: 1816

ARCHIVE LOCATION Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Awaiting Accession number

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	
1.2 Planning Background	
1.3 Archaeological Background	
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	1
3 STRATEGY	3
3.1 Research Design	
3.2 Methodology	
4 RESULTS	3
5 FINDS	4
6 DISCUSSION	4
7 ARCHIVE	4
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
FIGURES	
Figure 1 Site Plan	2

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during ground-works for the construction of an extension to the reservoir at Bailey Hill, Blaydon. The site lies to the north of Blaydon. The watching brief was intended to address the concerns of the archaeological advisors, Libraries and Heritage Wiltshire County Council, to Kennet District Council that the groundworks might encroach on potential archaeological remains.

The fieldwork was carried out over a number of dates commencing 10th October and finishing 14th November 2007.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located to the immediate north of Baydon at Bailey Hill Reservoir, (NGR SU 2840 7974). The geology is Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 2006).

1.2 Planning Background

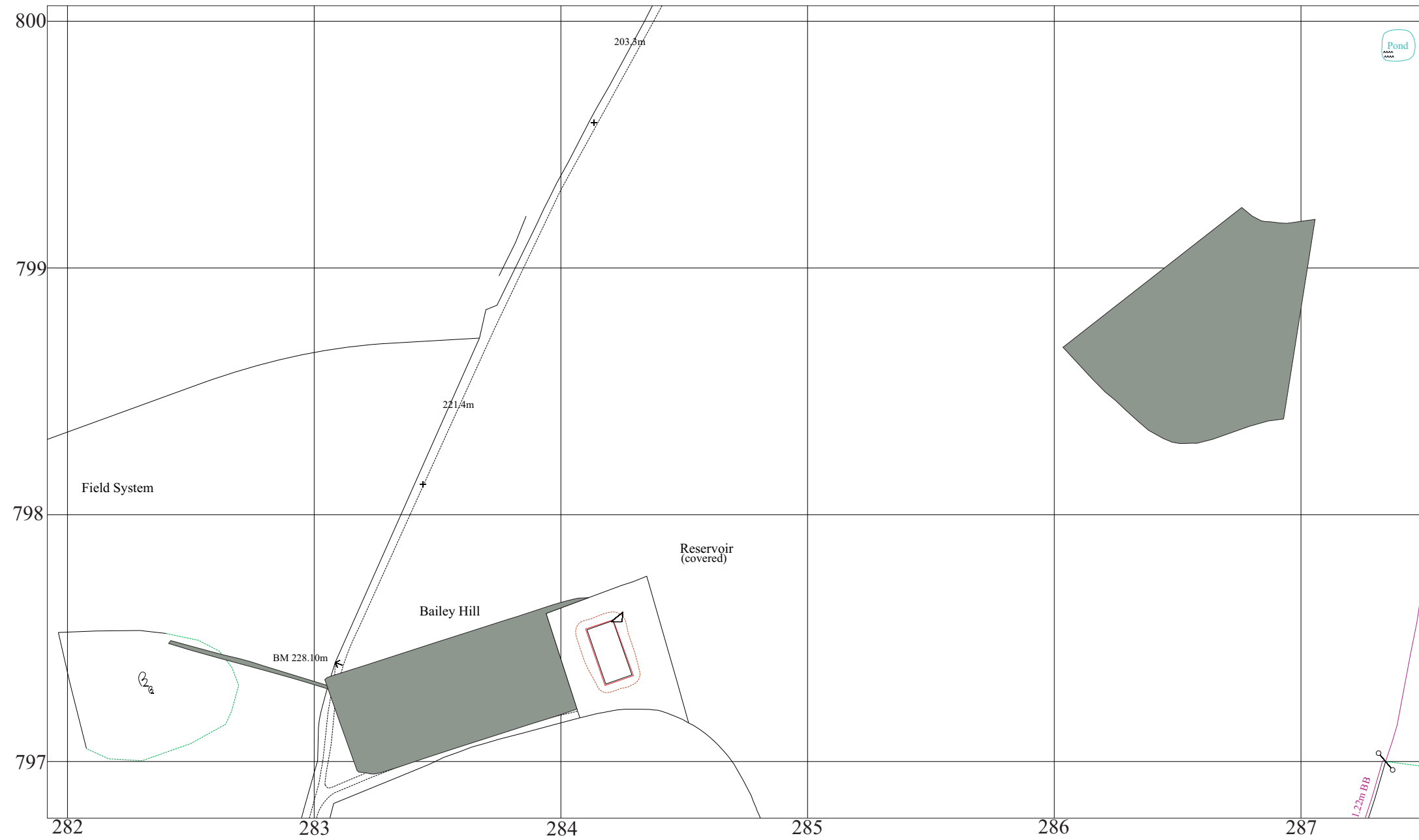
Kennet District Council granted permission for the extension of the existing reservoir and pumping station at Bailey Hill, Baydon. Since the site lies within an area of potential archaeological interest a condition was attached requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks. Wiltshire County Council, (WCC), prepared a brief for the work. John Moore Heritage Services undertook the work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by WCC.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The development lies in an area of archaeological interest. To the west a number of linear features have been noted from aerial photographs and represent the remains of earlier field systems (SMR No. SU27NE618). Field banks and lynchets have been recorded. A Scheduled Monument of a boundary ditch lies 800m to the east but it was considered likely that it extended further west and may continue through the development area. 500m to the north at Botley Bottom a Neolithic polished axe has been found (SU28SE100) along with an Iron Age brooch (SU28SE205). A similar distance to the north-west is a small Romano British enclosure with rounded corners revealed as a crop-mark in 1974 (SU28SE308). There is a concentration of pottery sherds in the area, and part of another enclosure to the south. Approximately 400m north of the development site, Romano British pottery associated with a settlement and field system has been found (SU28SE307). A kilometre to the north-west is a Romano British field system (SU28SE612) associated with a villa site further to the west (SU28SE301). 950m NNE of the site is a Scheduled Monument of an undated field system (SU28SE623).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation were to identify and appropriately record any archaeological remains revealed by the works. Of particular interest was whether the scheduled boundary ditch to the east continued into the development area.



© Crown Copyright 2007. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449



Figure 1. Site Location

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to a Brief issued by Wiltshire County Council, a written scheme of investigation was designed by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) and agreed with WCC. Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, including plans, section drawings and a written record for each deposit encountered.

The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

A desk – based assessment of the site was undertaken and the results were incorporated into the Written Scheme of Investigation and into this report.

All invasive ground-work was monitored by an archaeologist and all resulting surfaces were then inspected for any significant archaeological features.

Monitoring took place periodically between 10th October and 14th November 2007.

4 RESULTS (Figure 1)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in square brackets - [] - indicate features i.e. cuts; while numbers in parentheses - () - show feature fills or deposits of material.

Initial ground-works concerned the establishment of the compound for the site huts, plant etc, in the western part of the site adjoining the farm access track and the existing Thames Water access track. Topsoil was scraped to a depth of a few inches revealing the natural, which consisted of clay with heavy flint deposits, (01) with large pockets of chalk present (02). No archaeology was found in this area. The same method was used to reveal the area for the new reservoir itself with exactly the same results and no archaeology present.

The next stage of excavation involved the burying of the overhead power-cables to a depth of up to one metre. These excavations ran from the south - west corner of the existing reservoir compound through the centre of the site and off to meet the copse a full 60 meters to the west of the newly established compound. No archaeology was present in these excavations with only natural deposits being revealed, clay (01) and chalk (02).

One other area was stripped of topsoil with the dual purpose of acting as a spoil dump for the main excavations and to level out an existing hollow for the landowner. The centre of this area was located approx 250m to the north-east of the existing reservoir and covered an area of approximately 100m x 100m allowing for the steep incline and uneven nature of the topography.

Undisturbed chalk (12) was found buried under colluvial deposits (11) comprising slightly red grey-brown slightly clayey silt containing up to 25% fractured chalk and flint nodules. This deposit was 450mm thick in the middle of the area thinning to nothing along the eastern side and

the extreme west corner of the area. Modern ploughmarks were noted in the surface of the chalk where it was not covered by colluvium.

Overlying the colluvium was a ploughsoil of mid-dark brown slightly clayey loam with 20% chalk and flint fragments (10). The topsoil was 200-220mm thick.

5 FINDS

There were no finds of any significance other than occasional modern farm debris. These were not retained.

6 DISCUSSION

No archaeology of any significance was observed anywhere within the development site or the area of the spoil dump. It seems reasonable to suggest that if the scheduled boundary ditch does continue to the west of its known position then it will do so further up the scarp and to the immediate south of the area of development.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

WCC Brief	The primary site records
Written Scheme of Investigation	The drawn record
The project report	

Archive Location

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services pending notification of an accession number. The archive will be transferred to the Wiltshire Heritage Museum.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey, 2006. Newbury, England and Wales Sheet 267. Bedrock and Superficial Deposits. 1:50,000. (Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey)

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.