

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**PENN RIDGE, CHURCH STREET, PENN,**

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**NGR SU 9134 9330**

*On behalf of*

*Cathedral Homes*

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

**REPORT FOR**

Cathedral Homes  
c/o CgMs Consulting  
Morley House  
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**Site Code**

PNCR 08

**JMHS Project No**

1978

**Archive Location**

Buckinghamshire County Museum

**Museum Accession No.**

Awaited

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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during removal of foundations for the existing residence. No finds of archaeological importance were observed and it was clear that there was no potential for remains in the area of the proposed new build.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site lies on the east side of the village of Penn. The overall site boundary is 1.24 ha in extent and is bounded to the south by Church Road, to the west by the residential property of Penn Lodge and to the north and east by farm lands. The site is centred at Grid Reference NGR SU 9134 9330. The 1:50,000 British Geological Survey (Sheet 255) indicates that the site is underlain by Reading Beds of mottled clay with sand and pebbles at the base.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning permission (planning ref. CH/2008/0626/FA) was granted for the redevelopment of a residential property at the site. A schedule of planning conditions was issued and these included Condition 7 which required that:

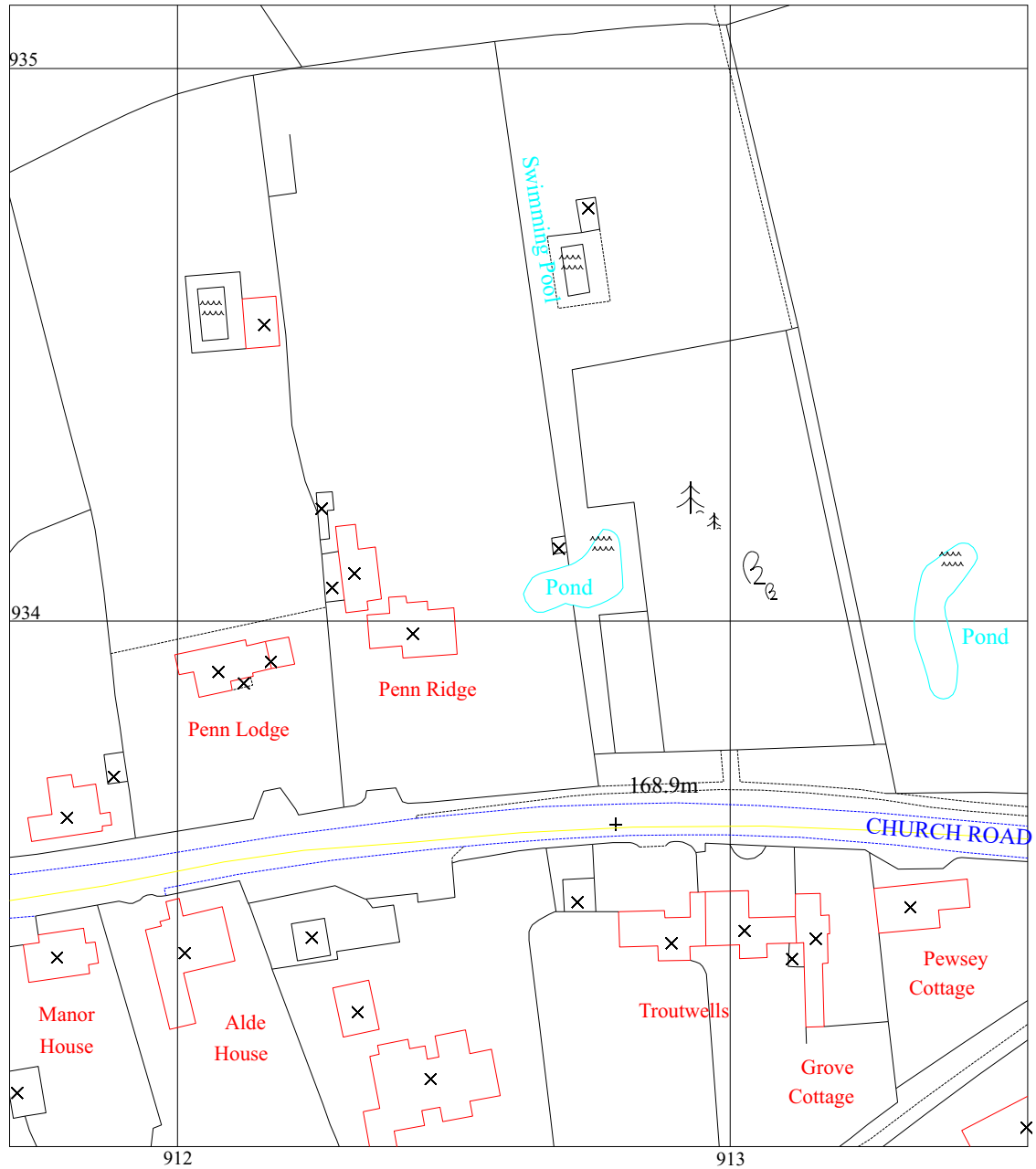
*No development shall take place until the applicants, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Accordingly a brief was issued by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) to specify the required scope of the works. The brief proposed that the impact of the development on potential deposits be mitigated by a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording whilst the groundworks for the development of the site are taking place. Archaeological monitoring principally was to be undertaken on the removal of existing foundations, the cutting of new foundations and the reduction of any topsoil and subsoil prior to construction. CgMs Consulting prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation for the work that was approved by BCAS.

### **1.3 Archaeological background**

The historical and archaeological background of Penn has previously been charted by Miles Green in 'The History and Architecture of the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation Area' (to be published). A brief site specific review of the archaeological background was undertaken by CgMs Consulting within the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service Brief (BCAS 2008).

Neolithic or Bronze Age flints comprising scrapers and flakes were found on a ploughed field c. 1km from the study site near the village of Penn Street (SMR 0408700000).



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Figure 1. Site location.

The foundation of the late 12th century church at Penn attracted the early settlement core around it and along the Ridgetop. Fourteenth to fifteenth century wall paintings were found at the church during repairs to the roof (SMR 0447100001). The development of the 14th century tile industry in Penn saw a second nucleus of settlement spring up around the materials extraction areas around Tylers Green (Green 2003). Upon Church Road, to the west of the study site, fourteenth century tile finds were uncovered whilst digging a well at Dell Cottage (SMR 0424600000).

The archaeological brief (BCAS 2008) highlights the recent excavation at Rose Cottage, 2 Elm Road that revealed a two stage Medieval Kiln, thought associated with the tile industry. A Post-hole and medieval finds were located during an archaeological evaluation at Stumpwell Cottage (SMR 0686800000).

The archaeological brief (BCAS 2008) mentions the finding of Post-Medieval kilns, thought associated with the tile industry, along with the two stage Medieval Kiln, at Rose Cottage, Elm Road. The SMR lists an entry contained within the north-east of the study site. The entry is recorded as a mineral extraction pit shown on 19th century map (SMR 0835800000). The pit and a similar pit to the west (SMR 0835900000) are thought to be associated with floor tile industry.

A number of listed buildings are located mainly to the east of the study site, on the south side of Church Road, towards the historic core of the village.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims and objective of the monitoring exercise as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation were to identify and record, the presence/absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the groundworks of the study site.

In particular:

- Record any archaeological deposits which may be exposed during construction work.
- Integrate the results of the archaeological fieldwork with the documentary, cartographic and known archaeological sources, as an archive report.
- Particularly seek to clarify the presence and character of any Medieval or Post-Medieval deposits, including the potential for tile kilns.

## **3 STRATEGY**

An archaeologist visited the site on two occasions during the removal of mass concrete foundations of the existing building. After the second visit when it was apparent there was no potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site it was recommended to CgMs Consulting that further monitoring would be inappropriate.

## **4 RESULTS**

The foundations of the building being demolished were *c.* 3m deep and *c.* 1m wide. In order to remove them the excavator had to dig down on at least one side of them.

No old ground surface was present having been removed during the construction of the previous building. There was no evidence for features cut into the Reading Beds other than those associated with the construction of the former house.

The reliability of results is considered to be good even though the work took place during clearance of mass concrete foundations.

## **5 FINDS**

No artefacts were present other than those associated with the demolition of the former house, which were bricks.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

There was no evidence for use of the site in connection with the medieval and post-medieval tile industry. It is likely that the site was agricultural land until developed for residential use.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BCAS 2008 *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Penn Ridge, Church Road, Penn.*

Green, M, 2003 *Penn Tiles* (unpublished)