

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**28 STATION ROAD, WRAYSBURY,**

**STAINES**

**TQ 00905 74305**

*On behalf of*

*Williams and Barnes*

**AUGUST 2009**

**REPORT FOR** Williams and Barnes  
28 Station Road  
Wraysbury  
Staines  
Tw19 5NE

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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 28 Station Road, Wraysbury, Staines. The evaluation revealed a late post-medieval well but no earlier archaeology.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site is the former Green Man public house now occupied as a dwelling. It lies on the south side of Station Road, Wraysbury at NGR TQ 00905 74305. The geology is Shepperton Gravel (First Terrace) River Gravel Deposits. This was confirmed during the evaluation. The site lies at approximately 16.6m Above Ordnance Datum.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead granted planning permission for the construction of two 5-bedroom detached dwellings with single integral garages following demolition of existing. A condition (10) required that no development work shall take place until the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The Principal Archaeologist of Berkshire Archaeology decided that a trial trench should be excavated as a first stage of the archaeological work.

The archaeological evaluation was designed to establish the presence/absence and condition of any archaeological deposits thought to present within the site in order to help formulate any future mitigation strategies, if necessary. This was in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan Policies.

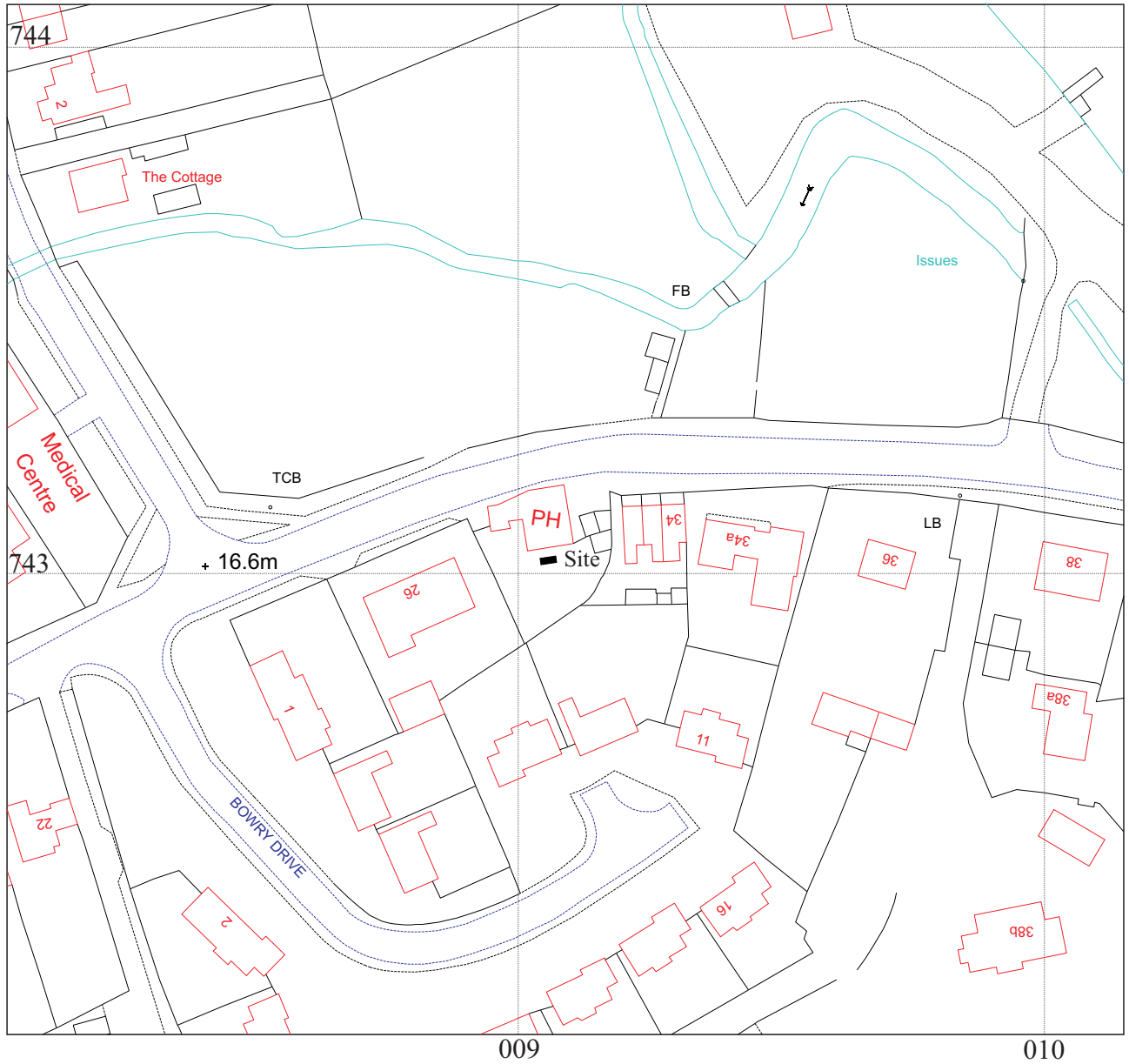
### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site lies on an area of Ham Island which is considered being of high archaeological potential. The site is located along a narrow spur of land that connects a multi-period settlement to the west and a prehistoric settlement area to the east. These areas form an extensive and high-status multi-period settlement.

Excavations in 1980 identified occupation in the area around St Andrew's Church during the prehistoric, Roman and late Saxon/early medieval periods. This covers an area of 249900m<sup>2</sup> and is located to the west of the site. 160m to the southeast of the site is a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed listed building. Its location indicates that multi-period settlement was extensive in this area.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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



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Figure 1. Site and trench location

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To address some of the key issues highlighted in the emerging Solent Thames Research Framework.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the development

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

In response to The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenheads' request, a scheme of investigation was designed by JMHS and agreed by Berkshire Archaeology and the applicants. The work was carried out by JMHS and involved the excavation of one trial trench between the proposed footprints of both new house plots on the site.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The investigation involved the hand excavation of a 3m long and 1.2m wide deep trench undertaken by the applicants in an area of land to the rear of the current property down onto the natural gravels. A continuous archaeological presence was maintained during digging.

The resulting surface was hand cleaned before any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand in order to meet the aims as defined above. It was intended that the integrity of any archaeological features or deposits that might require a further stage of archaeological investigation, or warrant preservation *in situ* would not be compromised.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale

plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. Following discussion with Fiona MacDonald, the Principal Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology the trench was backfilled after recording.

## 4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in ( ) indicate fills or deposits of material whilst numbers referring to features themselves are shown without brackets.

### 4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

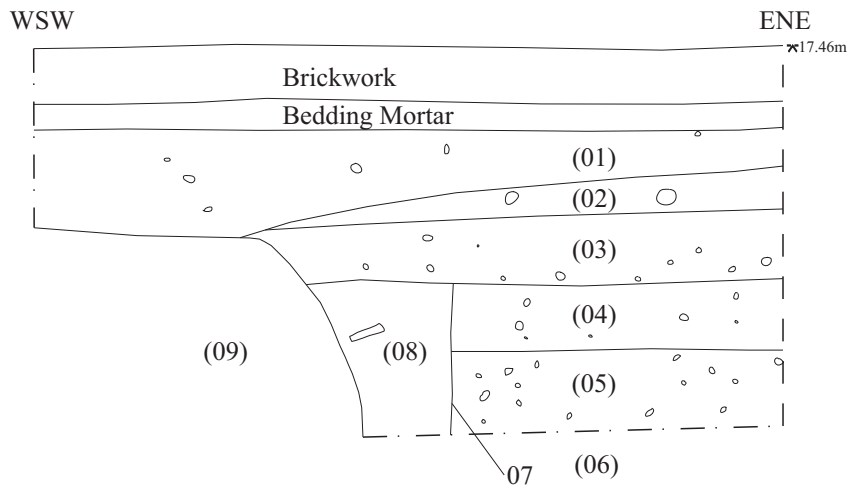
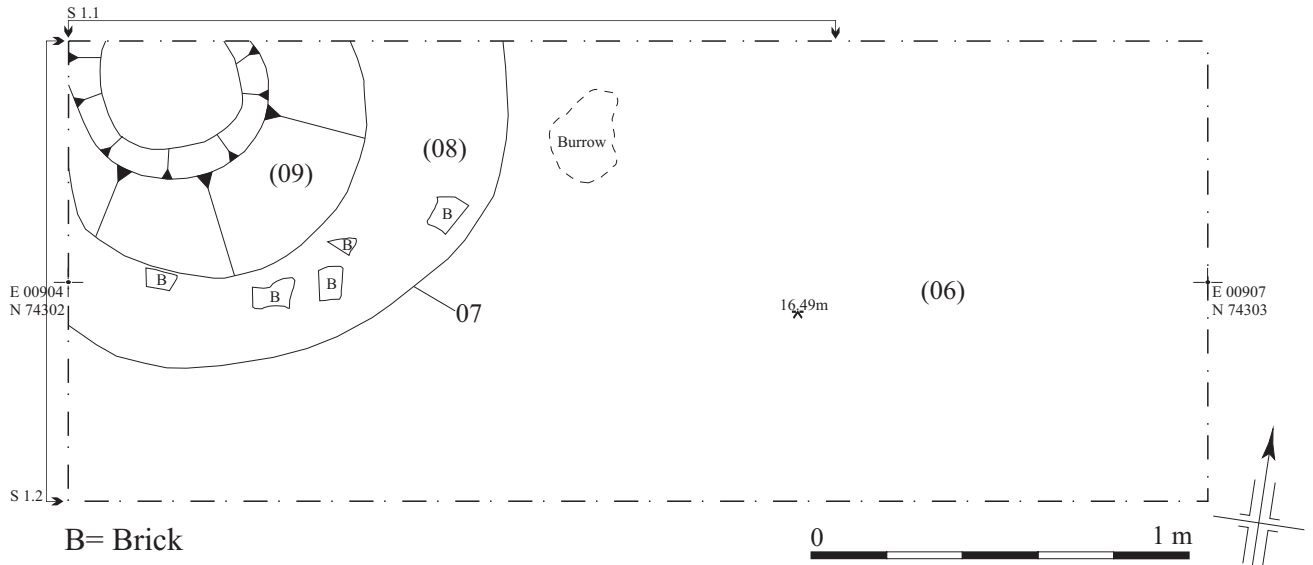
The trench was located close the position indicated on the Written Scheme of Investigation. The trench was issued with a set of context numbers. Context numbers in ( ) indicate feature fills or deposits of material. Those without brackets refer to features themselves. The topsoil observed as deposit (01) in the trench for example was recorded as (01).

#### Trench 1 (Figure 2)

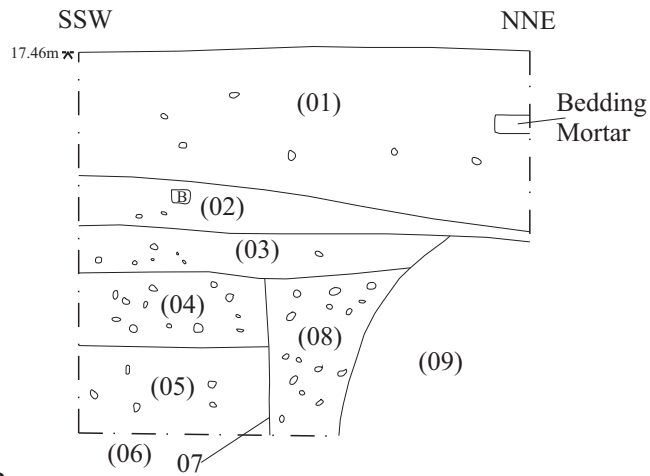
The trench was aligned approximately E-W and was 3m long and 1.2m wide as agreed. The natural encountered was composed of a mid orange-yellow sandy gravel (06) and was reached at a depth of 16.49m OD. Towards the middle of the trench a possible feature identified was investigated and found to be very irregular and likely to be the result of animal burrowing.

Overlying natural (06) was a mid orange-brown silty loam with very frequent flint gravel inclusions (05) measuring 0.18m in thickness. Covering this was a dark grey-brown silty, sandy loam also with very frequent gravel inclusions (04) also 0.18m in thickness. Cutting through deposit (04) in the NW corner of the trench was construction cut 07 with steep, straight sides at least 0.40m deep for well (09). Well (09) was circular in shape with an approximate diameter of c. 0.90m. It was constructed using bricks that were tapered inwards at the top and capped with a circular stone 0.50m in diameter and 0.09m thick. This stone had a central hole roughly rectangular in shape that was 0.06m by 0.08m. The bricks forming the dome were bonded with cement and roughly rendered using a creamy mortar. The cap was removed by the applicant and the well was found to have an internal diameter of 0.70m and a depth of c.2.70m before an apparent base was reached. No obvious bonding material was noted on the bricks forming the actual wall of the well itself. A lead pipe observed within the well that is likely to have assisted in pumping water out of the feature.

Following the construction of the well, the gap left between the construction cut and the well was backfilled with a dark brown-grey sandy-silty loam with moderate gravel inclusions containing frequent fragments of brick (08). This was not bottomed during the evaluation.



Section 1.1



Section 1.2

Figure 2. Plan and sections



Above deposit (08) was a dark grey-brown sandy-silty loam with occasional to moderate gravel inclusions (03) 0.14m thick which appeared to butt up against the well but not overlay it, although this was difficult to see.

Overlaying deposit (03) was a mid grey-brown silty-sandy loam with frequent chalk flecking and moderate small fragments of ceramic building materials (CBM) and occasional charcoal flecking (02) with a maximum thickness of 0.13m, which appeared to peter out close to the well itself. This in turn was sealed by a dark grey-brown clayey-silty loam topsoil with moderate gravel inclusions (01) that was typically 0.32m thick but with a maximum thickness of 0.48m over well (09) itself. A shallow brick wall representing the edge of a patio bedded on a light yellow sandy mortar was observed in the west facing section which appeared to have been partially cut into topsoil (01).

#### **4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results**

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trenches took place under a marquee in overcast conditions with occasional light rain.

### **5 FINDS**

No finds were retained during the evaluation

### **6 DISCUSSION**

The evaluation was successful in locating a late post-medieval well with an associated construction cut that is likely to have served the former public house. A lead pipe seen within the well would have been used to help pump water directly from the source. No earlier archaeological finds or features were identified despite a continuous archaeological presence.

The information gathered from this small scale evaluation suggests it is unlikely that the development will have an impact on any further archaeological remains earlier than those encountered.

### **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1994. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations.*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Trench 1</b>								
1/01	Deposit	Dark grey-brown clayey-silty loam. Moderate gravel inclusions.	0.48m (max)	Tr.	Tr.		Topsoil	
1/02	Deposit	Mid grey-brown silty-sandy loam. Frequent chalk flecking. Moderate CBM and gravel inclusions.	0.13m	Tr.	Tr.		Layer	
1/03	Deposit	Dark grey-brown sandy-silty loam. Occasional to moderate gravel inclusions.	0.14m	Tr.	Tr.		Layer	
1/04	Deposit	Dark grey-brown silty-sandy loam. Very frequent gravel inclusions.	0.18m	Tr.	Tr.		Layer	
1/05	Deposit	Mid orangey grey-brown. Silty-clayey loam. Very frequent flint gravel inclusions.	0.18m	Tr.	Tr.		Layer	
1/06	Deposit	Mid orange-yellow sandy gravel.	-	Tr.	Tr.		Natural geology	
1/07	Cut	Circular shape cut for well with steep, straight sides.	0.40m+	-	-		Construction cut for well	
1/08	Fill	Dark brown-grey sandy-silty loam. Moderate to frequent flint gravel inclusions. Frequent brick inclusions.	0.40m+	-	-		Backfill for construction cut following construction of well.	
1/09	Structure	Brick built well, tapering inwards near the top with stone cap.	2.70m	0.50m (as seen)	0.74m (as seen)		Well	