



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**BROOK FARM, BLUNSDON,**

**WILTSHIRE.**

**FINAL REPORT**

**NGR SU 1687 9100**

*On behalf of*

*P. Holt*

**FEBRUARY 2010**

<b>REPORT FOR</b>	P. Holt Brook Farm, Blunsdon, Swindon Wiltshire
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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b><i>SUMMARY</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Watching Brief Results	3
4.2 Reliability of Results and Techniques	3
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 ARCHIVE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>4</b>
 <b>FIGURES</b>	
<b>Figure 1</b> Site and foundation trench location	<b>2</b>

## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief at Brook Farm, Blunsdon. No archaeological remains were encountered.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The development site is at Brook Farm, Broad Blunsdon, east of the village and south of the B4019 (SU 1687 9100). The geology is Oxford Clay at the junction with Lower Corallian silt and sand.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) granted planning permission for the erection of a single dwelling under planning reference S/06/2653/STHE. A condition (No. 4) was attached requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. This was due to the potential of the proposed development site to contain archaeological remains. The SBC archaeological advisor to SBC indicated that the archaeological work should involve a watching brief during ground-works associated with this development.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

Neolithic flint tools have been found 900m SE of the proposed development site (Wilts Sites and Monuments Record SU19SE101; NGR SU17489023) while a Bronze Age palstave has been found at Upper Burytown Farm (SU19SE150; SU16329116) 550m NW of the site. The Castle Hill Iron Age hillfort lies 500m to the WNW.

A corner of a Roman building along with a coin and pottery (SU19SE303; SU16869107) has been found approximately 100m immediately north of the site. Further north are two Romano British building sites, one excavated in 1934, 700m N (SU19SE307; 16999168). Roman pottery, tile and clay building material of Romano British date (SU19SE304; SU16409078) lie 500mWSW of the site. A suspected Roman road lies 900m NNE (SU19SE323; SU17339182). Further Roman pottery has been found 700m to the S (SU19SE302; SU17159030) with further Roman pottery and a building 1km to the SE (SU19SE326; SU17489023).

Late medieval settlement is known at Burytown Farms (SU19SE452; SU16059136) 900m NW. An undated enclosure lies 600m to the SE (SU19SE640; SU17309053) with an undated track-way (SU19SE636; SU16069081) 800m W.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation were as follows:

- to record any archaeological remains encountered during the course of the work



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0 50 m

Figure 1 Site and Foundation Trench Location

- to record any evidence relating to the relatively high density Roman occupation in the area.
- to provide a report and ordered archive on the investigation.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to the standards required by the Swindon Borough Council Archaeological Adviser. 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 and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994) and Wiltshire Council.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

An archaeologist monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new build. The trench depth varied between 1.5m and 2m. The work was carried out as two stages. Stage 1 consisted of a length of foundation trench 5.5m long (JMHS 2010). The rest of the foundation trenches were excavated as Stage 2.

### **4 RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Watching Brief Results**

All features were assigned individual context numbers. This number covered both the feature cut and the fill for pits, unless the feature was sample excavated by hand. Context numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material.

The lowest deposit recorded was a compact mid-pale green-brown clay with small flecks of chalk (03) that was related to the Oxford Clay know to the area. Above this was a 0.2m thick subsoil of mid green-brown sandy clay (02). The uppermost layer was topsoil composed of firm dark brown silty loam (01) up to 0.3m thick.

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

The Stage 1 work was conducted during a period of heavy rain showers after a period of snow this caused some instability to trench edges. However, the results are considered to be unaffected by this. Stage 2 work was carried out in good weather.

### **5 FINDS**

The spoil was examined and no artefacts were present from any of the layers. No environmental samples were taken due to the nature of the deposits encountered.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

No archaeological features or remains were encountered. The subsoil (02) was considered to be the weathered top of the Oxford Clay.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

The archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

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