

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**ON**

**LAND AT BRYNARD'S HILL, WOOTTON BASSETT,**

**WILTSHIRE: PHASE 2**

**NGR 407800 181850**  
**(SITE CENTROID)**

*On behalf of  
CgMs Consulting*

**JULY 2010**

**REPORT FOR** CgMs Consulting Ltd  
Burlington House  
Lypiatt Road  
Cheltenham  
GL50 2SY

**PREPARED BY** Gwilym Williams

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Eoin Fitzsimmons

**REPORT ISSUED** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**ENQUIRES TO** John Moore Heritage Services  
Hill View  
Woodperry Road  
Beckley  
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ  
  
Tel/Fax 01865 358300  
Email: [info@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto:info@jmheritageservices.co.uk)

**Site Code** WBBH 10  
**JMHS Project No:** 2239  
**Archive Location** The archive will be held at JMHS until an Accession Code is assigned prior to deposition.

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
SUMMARY	1
<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>3</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	4
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 Excavation Results	4
4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results	4
<b>5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Environmental Remains	4
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>FIGURES</b>	
Figure 1      Trench location plan	2

## **SUMMARY**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a second phase of evaluation trenching on land at Brynard's Hill, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. Seven trenches were excavated, one of which revealed remains of a modern hedgeline shown on OS maps between 1887 and 1960.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site is located on land at Brynard's Hill, southeast of Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire and covers an area of c.35ha. The site is centred at NGR 407800 181850, and is in the parish of Wootton Bassett. The geology is Kimmeridge Clay.

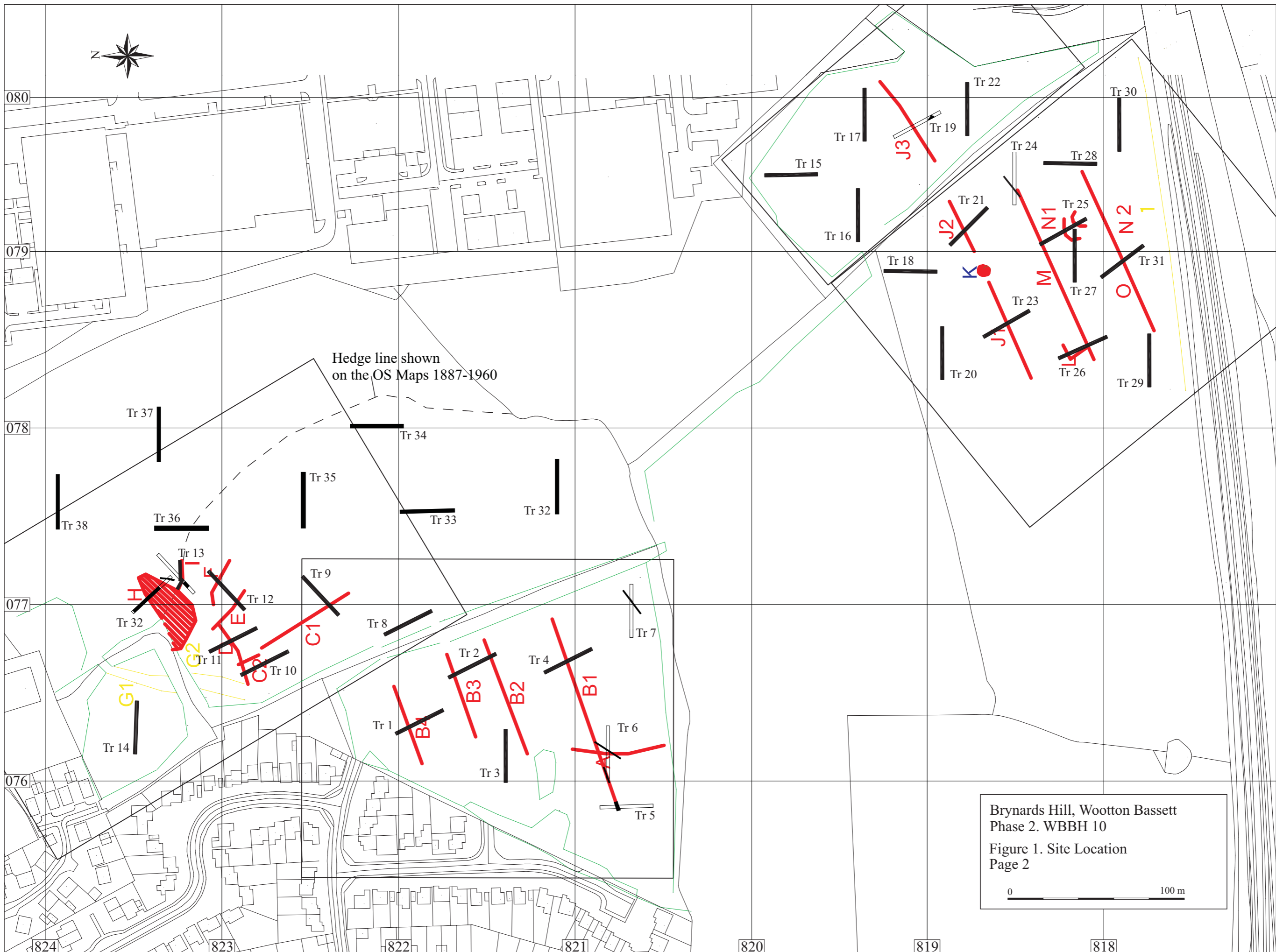
### **1.2 Planning Background**

Following the preparation of an archaeological desk-based assessment (CGMS 2009) and geophysical survey (Sitiescan 2009), planning permission for a mixed scheme of housing, employment and a country park was granted by Wiltshire Council (App. No. N/09/00871/OUT) after appeal (APP/Y3940/A/09/2115332/NWF). Only a small percentage of the site is subject to construction development. Site A comprises residential development of approximately 100 dwellings, while Site B is a proposed 4.9ha extension to the Interface Business Park in the south-west of the study site. Condition 10 attached to the Appeal Decision required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, which comprised 31 trenches (JMHS 2010). Planning permission for an additional 50 units to the permitted development, to be located to the east of the previous evaluation area, is to be sought. Further trenching was proposed to evaluate this area. This was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation*, agreed with the county Local Planning Authority (LPA), which proposed a method to satisfy the requirements of the Brief.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

According to The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and National Monuments Record (NMR) no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or archaeological features occur on the study site. Seven archaeological features occur within 1km of the study site, two of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The site was identified as having a low potential for prehistoric, Roman and Saxon/Early Medieval period remains.

A number of heritage assets from the medieval periods were, however, identified within and near the site. A review of aerial photography from the site showed evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks, land drains and previous field boundaries indicative of an area of agricultural activity. A windmill mound is located towards the centre of the site, as identified by the Wiltshire HER. Although nothing remains of this above ground, its location is clear from the topography. The windmill base was excavated in 1866 and produced pottery sherds from the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century, as well as fragments of quern and iron. A second windmill (SAM31641) lies 200m to the west



Brynards Hill, Wootton Bassett  
 Phase 2. WBBH 10  
 Figure 1. Site Location  
 Page 2

of the northern part of the site. This is believed to be of a similar date. The deserted Medieval settlement of Woodshaw is located 170m east of the study site. It comprises a single large platform surrounded by a series of small enclosures and ridge and furrow. It is a Scheduled Monument (SAM28999).

Geophysical survey of the site revealed further evidence of agricultural activity. Two curvilinear features of a possible prehistoric origin were also recorded in Site B.

The trial trenching comprised thirty-two trenches., which revealed a possible Roman ditch with a remnant bank in the northeast of the residential development, which is immediately adjacent to the north-western part of the proposed additional development area. Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity is noted in the area as evidenced by the residual pottery in this ditch. The ditch continues eastwards into proposed additional development area.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The objectives of the investigation as laid out in the Specification were as follows:

- To further elucidate the results of the previous archaeological work;
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological deposits not identified by the geophysical study and thereby confirm the validity of the results of this work;
- To establish the date, condition, extent and depth of the archaeological features within the site.

The specific aims of the evaluation as laid out in the Specification were:

- o To determine whether the Roman bank and ditch continues into the proposed additional development area;
- o To determine whether there is any other activity associated with the ditch and bank within the proposed additional development area;
- o To enable an informed decision to be made on the planning application.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In response to the Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Services' (WCCAS) request a scheme of investigation was designed by CgMs and agreed with WCCAS and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS and involved the excavation of trial trenches across the site (Fig. 1).

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 for Archaeologists (1994) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

### **3.2 Methodology**

The trenching sample required was achieved by excavation of seven trenches. All were 30m in length and 2m wide. These were excavated by a 14 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand prior to limited hand excavation of any identified archaeological deposits.

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. The trenches were backfilled after recording.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Field Results** (*Figures 2 and 3*)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material. All contexts numbers are preceded by trench number and /.

#### **All Trenches**

All trenches revealed the natural Kimmeridge Clay – (Tr/03) in trenches 32-38. This was sealed by reworked clay containing occasional comminuted CBM, which represents a deposit of subsoil – (Tr/02) in Trenches 32-38. In Trench 36 the subsoil – as well as the natural – was disturbed by the line of a former modern hedge; rooting associated with the hedge was visible in plan and in section. Topsoil sealed all trenches – (Tr/01) in Trenches 32-38.

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

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological evaluation took place during fine weather conditions, with occasional light rain.

## **5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**

### **5.1 Environmental Remains**

Due to the lack of archaeological features and limited potential, no samples were taken.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

Seven trenches were opened during the second phase of evaluation. No features, with the exception of a modern hedgeline, were observed; this was observed on OS maps

between 1887 (1<sup>st</sup> Ed.) and 1960 (CgMs 2009, Figs. 5-7), and can be associated with cut 13/05 observed in the Phase 1 evaluation. No significant depths of colluvial activity were observed, moreover, in any of the trenches. In Trench 37 the subsoil was a little bit thicker than else where, and Trenches 33, 35 and 36 evidenced a thinner deposit of subsoil.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CgMs 2009 *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Land at Brynard's Hill, Wootton Bassett* (unpublished client report)

CgMs 2010 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation. Land at Brynard's Hill, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire* (unpublished client report)

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

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

Institute for Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

JMHS 2010 *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Brynard's Hill, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire* (unpublished client report)



**Appendix 1: Archaeological Context Inventory**

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Interpretation
Trench 32							
(32/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.2	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(32/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.25	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
(32/03)	Layer	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural
Trench 33							
(33/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.2	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(33/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.10	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
(33/03)	Layer	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural
Trench 34							
(34/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.2	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(34/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.2	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
(34/03)	Layer	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural
Trench 35							
(35/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.25	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(35/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.2	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
(35/03)	Layer	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural
Trench 36							
(36/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.2	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(36/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.1	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
(36/03)	Layer	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural
Trench 37							
(37/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.25	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(37/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.25	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
37/03	Cut	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural
Trench 38							
(38/01)	Layer	Firm, dark brown clay loam, mod flint	0.2	>2	>30	No	Topsoil
(38/02)	Layer	Firm yellow brown slightly silt clay, mod flint, frq CBM frags	0.2	>2	>30	No	Subsoil
(38/03)	Fill	Firm light yellow clay	Unk.	>2	>30	No	Natural