



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

6 WHITNASH ROAD, LEAMINGTON SPA,

WARWICKSHIRE

SP 3268 6346

On behalf of

Mr A McCormick

JULY 2010

REPORT FOR Mr A McCormick
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the excavation for footings for the new property. The trench was fully documented, but no features or deposits of archaeological interest were found during the ground works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site was centred on national grid reference SP 3268 6346, in the parish of Whitnash. The new dwelling is to be to the rear of 6 Whitnash Road, in the garden, with access into Golf Lane.

1.2 Planning Background

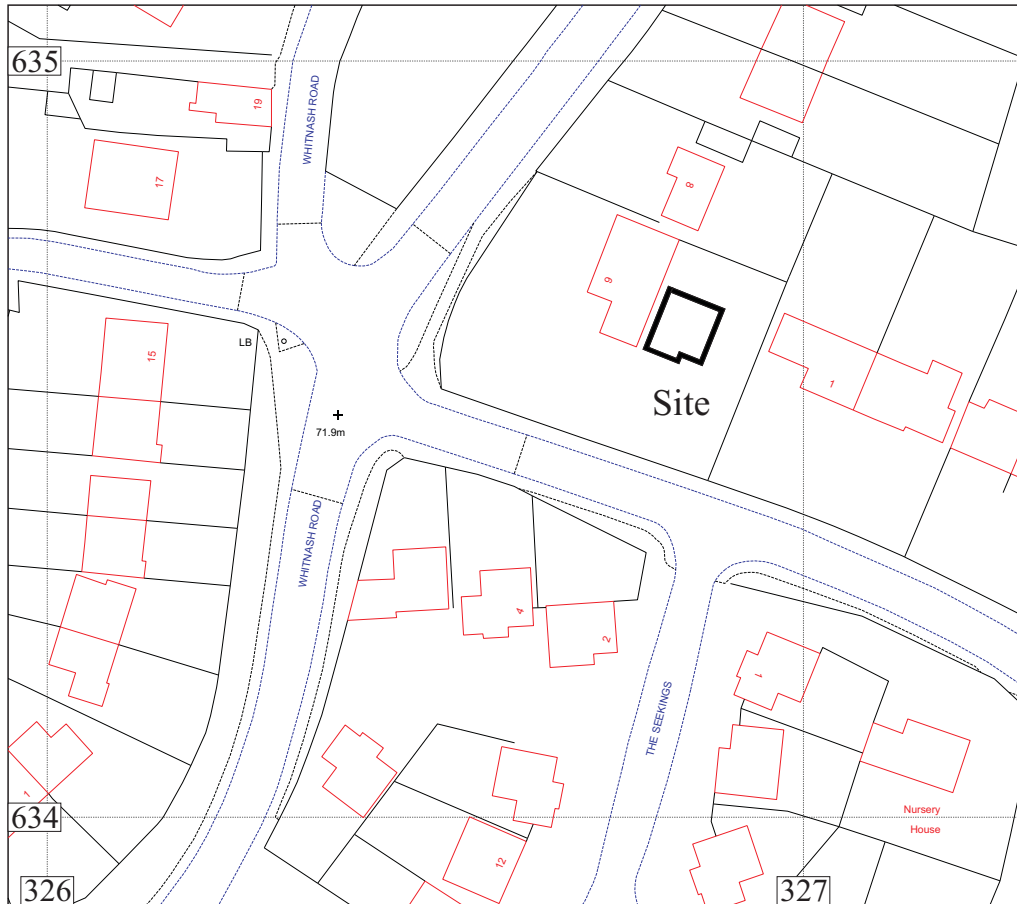
Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for the erection of a new dwelling house on land at 6 Whitnash Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa (ref. W09/1232/FUL). The Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist has advised the local planning authority that there is potential for archaeological remains to exist on the site. Accordingly a condition was attached to the permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. The Planning Archaeologist also prepared a Brief for the work. *John Moore Heritage Services'* standards and general procedures were applied throughout the project.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Whitnash, a 2-hide vill, was in 1086 held by Humfrey of Hasculf Musard. The pre-Conquest tenant had been Alured. The overlordship of Robert Musard as to two fees in Leamington (Hastings), Whitnash, and Haseley was recognized in 1235–6, and as late as 1503 the manor of Whitnash was stated to have been held of him. The manor was sold in 1604 to Robert Wale. It was a very late-inclosed parish, the Act, relating to 1,090 acres, not being obtained till 1847 or the award till 1851 (VCH 1951).

The site lies within the boundary of the possible extent of the medieval settlement based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (MWA9577). Ten grade II listed buildings are recorded in this area, all situated on Whitnash Road and all but one to the north of the site. The majority of these are 17th century timber framed cottages (DWA4834, DWA5259, DWA5260, DWA5559, DWA5560 and DWA5760) or contemporary timber framed houses (DWA4835, DWA4836 and DWA5258). A Smithy (MWA7084) is marked on the first edition OS map on Whitnash Street approximately 100m to the north of the site. To the south of the site is the Plough and Harrow public house (DWA4833). This is a 17th century timber framed building that has been extended to the east and west.

Approximately 300m to the north of the site is the parish Church of St Margaret (DWA4835/MWA1487), a grade II listed building mostly rebuilt in the mid-late 19th century by Sir G.G. Scott, but retaining a late 15th west tower. Whitnash Manor (MWA1488) stands close to the church. Originally of 17th century origin, but rebuilt



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Figure 1. Site location

in the late 19th century. A silver penny of Edward VI (MWA1479) has been found 500m to the south of the site.

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at St Margaret's Church Centre on Whitnash Road roughly 450m to the north of the site. A medieval plough soil was recorded; the only find being a sherd of 13/14th century pottery. A random find of a Roman coin (MWA1481) was found on Church Lane.

The earliest map examined was the 1843 Tithe Map of Whitnash parish. This map shows the proposal site located in the southwest corner of a roughly square plot, bounded on all four sides by lanes; Golf Lane historically extended farther north than it does today, joining the line of the present Home Farm Crescent on the northeast corner of the historic plot. The plot comprised four fields, two of which on the west side are now bisected by Whitnash Road East. An enclosed yard and buildings are shown in this southwest corner. It is just possible that the fenceline of 6 Whitnash Road overlies the easternmost, long building – probably a barn – shown on the Tithe Map. To the east of the building are fields, probably pasture, as stripfields are shown surrounding the settlement nucleus.

The next available map is the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1886 1st Edition 6” to 1 mile. This map shows the northern extension of Golf Lane has become a field boundary, and the lane fallen into disuse. None of the buildings on the 1843 Tithe Map are in existence any longer and the proposal site is on the western side of the southeastern field of the four fields within the plot defined by Golf Lane and Whitnash Road. The map shows the village to extend along Whitnash Road in a rather long and drawn out manner, with some nucleation towards the north around the church. The OS 1906 2nd Edition 6” shows no changes on the proposal site, although Whitnash itself has undergone a degree of development as houses are shown on plots giving onto the south side of Golf Lane, and the west side of Whitnash Road. The OS 1926 6” shows no changes.

The OS 1938 6” shows Halls Close to the west of the proposal site having been laid out. No other changes are recorded. The OS 1955 1:10560 shows no further changes. The OS 1974 1:10000 shows that 6 Whitnash Road and 1 Golf Lane have been built, and that Whitnash Road East has been laid out. These house plots are those that continue in use until present day.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To record any archaeological remains in particular any relating to the medieval settlement or early post-medieval settlement.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Warwickshire Museum. 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).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of ground works associated with the development. This included observation of footings and any ground reduction. All artefacts were collected and retained except for concentrations of building material, where only a representative sample was retained.

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. A context sheet was also produced for every archaeological feature and geological layer.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2).

4.1 Field Results

The lowest deposit encountered was the yellow-orange silty-clay of the natural geological formation (04). Above this was a 0.2m thick subsoil of compacted red-orange clay (03). This was overlain by a modern layer 0.1- 0.2m thick containing pieces of broken modern bricks, concrete and mortar (02). The uppermost layer was the 0.1- 0.15m thick topsoil (01).

4.2 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was carried out in good conditions with excellent co-operation from the contractors carrying out the ground works and the results are felt to be representative of the extant archaeology.

5 FINDS

No artefacts or environmental samples were collected during the watching brief.

6 DISCUSSION

No deposits or features of archaeological interest were found during the watching brief.

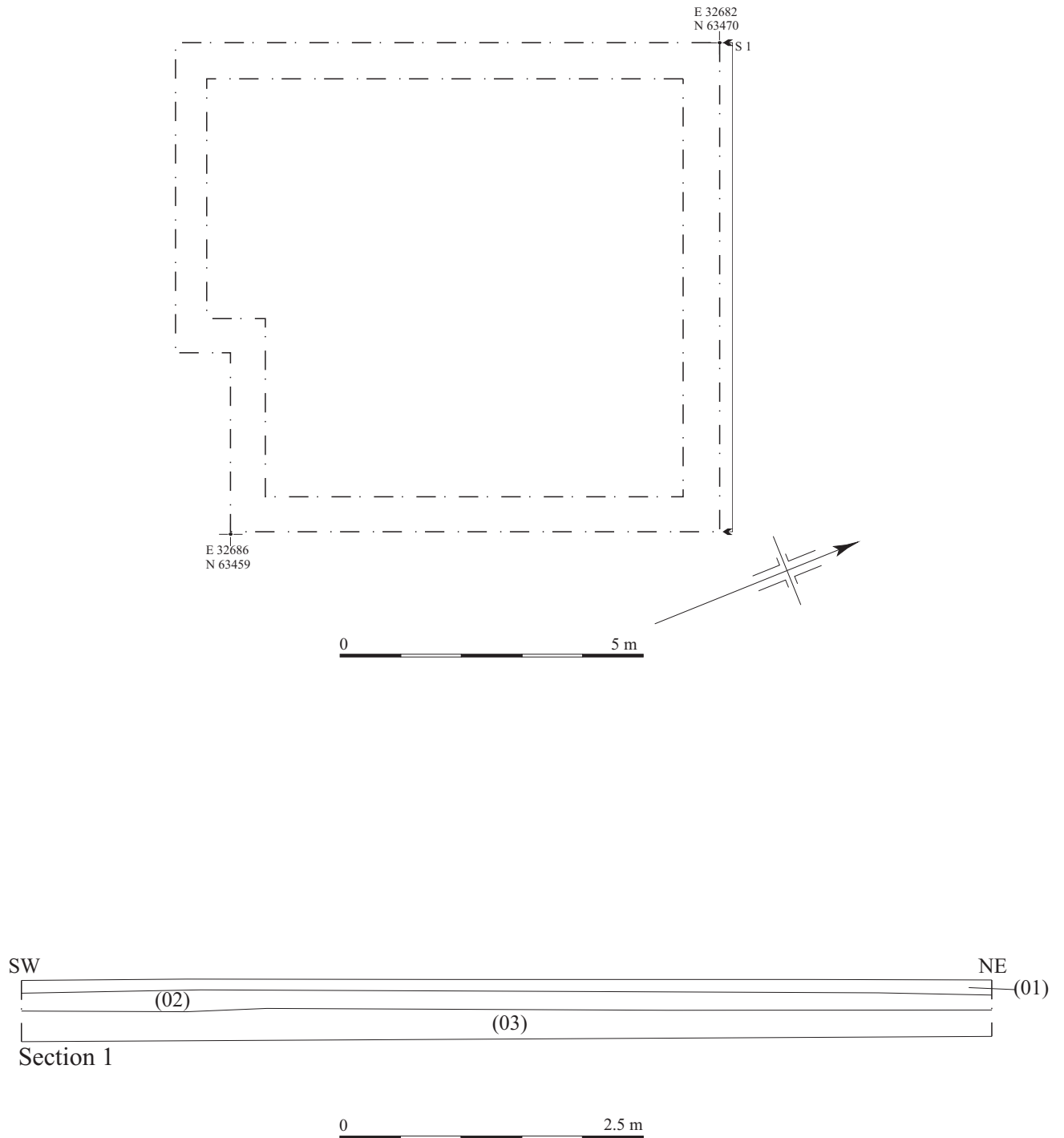


Figure 2. Plan and sections

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site records

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museums' Store.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*.

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

Institute for Archaeologists 1994 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Revised 2008.

VCH 1951 *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6: Knightlow hundred*, pp. 255-257.