

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**WHITE COTTAGE, TURVILLE**

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**SU 7643 9104**

*On behalf of*

*Mr & Mrs Thompson*

**JUNE 2010**

**REPORT FOR** Mr & Mrs Thompson  
White Cottage  
Turville Valley Road  
Turville  
Buckinghamshire  
RG9 6QU

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## **Summary**

*A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the excavation of footings for an extension of the property. An 18<sup>th</sup> century garden soil horizon with a later posthole and a demolition/construction layer were observed.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site was located at Turville Valley Road (NGR SU 7643 9104). The trench for the footings was dug in the back yard of White Cottage, a 17<sup>th</sup> century building in the central part of the village. The underlying geology is Middle Chalk with overlying deposits of undifferentiated head.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

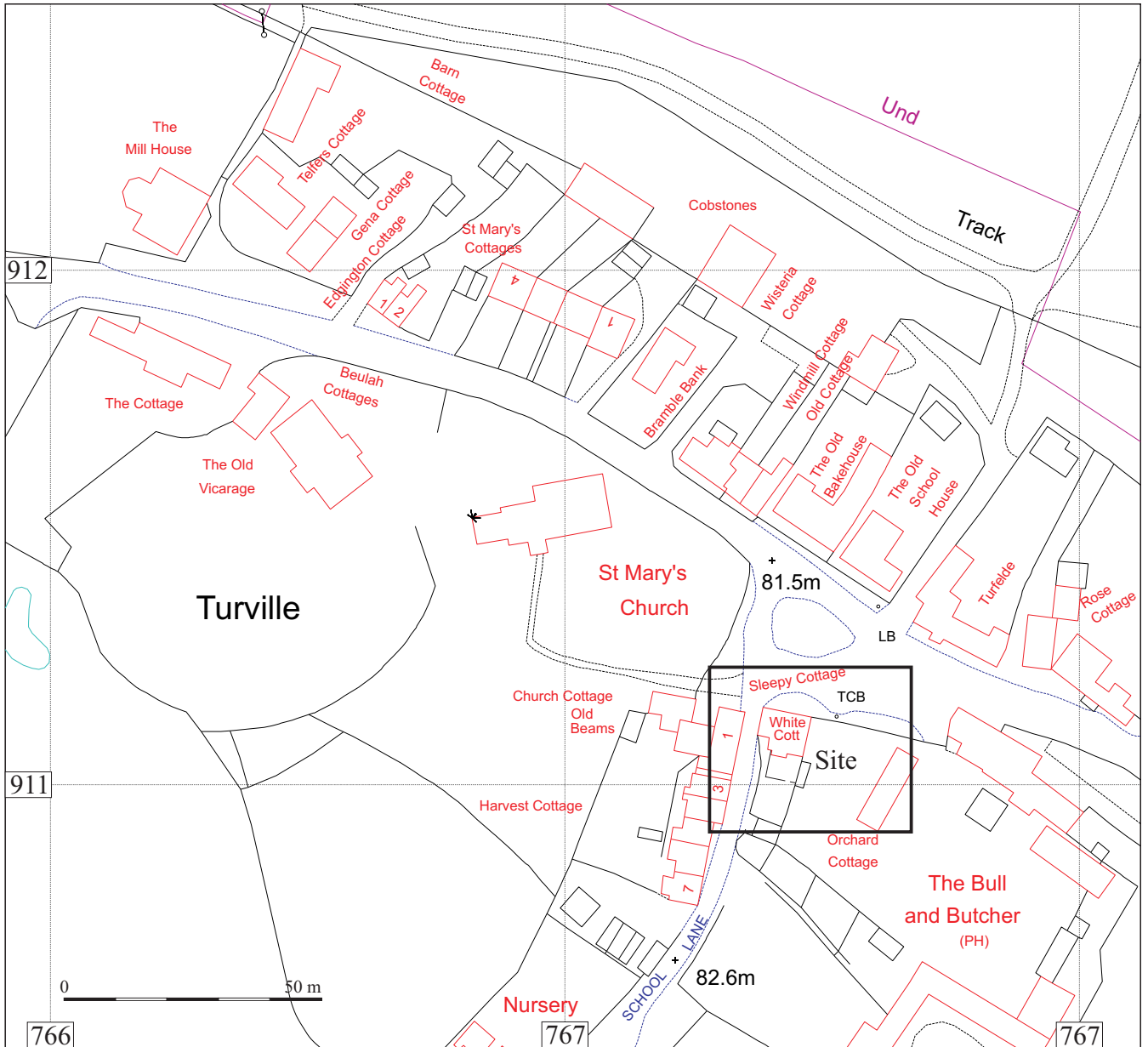
Wycombe District Council has granted planning permission for a single storey extension of the property (08/07558/FUL). Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains a condition has been attached to the permission for a programme of archaeological work to be carried out according to a written scheme of approval submitted to and approved by the LPA. This was in line with Planning Policy Guidance 16 (Archaeology and Planning) (DoE 1990), relevant at the time of the decision.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site is of archaeological interest because the proposed development area lies within the historic core of the village of Turville, although it is human occupation in the parish dates from the Mesolithic (Reed 1979, 32). The flint deposits in a field 300 m south of the village (HER 4530 (SU 76800 90900) & HER 4531 (SU 76700 90900)) have been identified as Neolithic (4000-2350 BC), while further scatters have been identified to the East (HER 4527, 4528, 4511, 5973).

In the field called the Malt House Close (SU 769 909) aerial photographs show marks of unknown origins (RC8-HH, Bucks County Survey 137), while the village morphology around the Old Vicarage and Churchyard (200 m and adjacent to the site) may demarcate earlier enclosures. Pre-medieval finds from the village include an Iron-Age coin (HER 0894 (SU 76700 91100)). The second manor of Turville (Turville Saint Albans) was granted to the abbey in AD 796 (VCH 1925, 103), which was probably located near the village church and rectory. The present church has parts dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and is grade II listed (RCHME 1912, 297-298).

The present village originally lay in the parishes of Turville (South Side) and Ibstone (North Side) until boundary alterations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Meanwhile, a map attached to the Epiphany Quarter Session now in the County Record Office (Bucks Rec Off Q/H/59) indicates that the main road through the village of Turville was re-routed in 1822.



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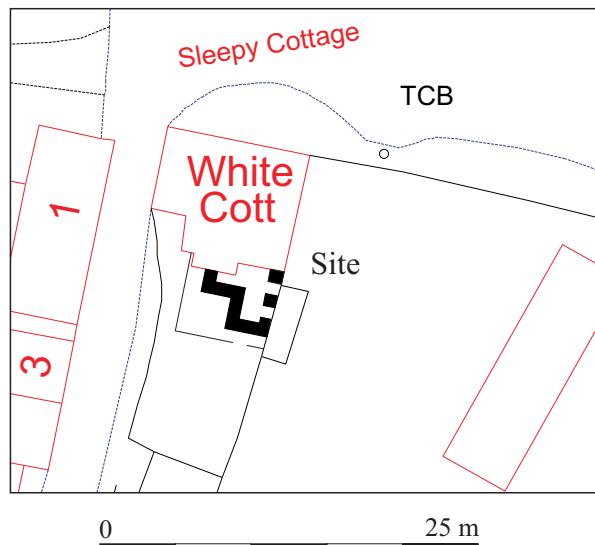


Figure 1. Site location

The course of the old road ran past the front of the White Cottage and around the curving south boundary of the Churchyard and to the north of the Old Vicarage. The location of this road could be associated with any medieval settlement (potentially under White Cottage).

The present group of houses the North Side (ranging from 100-500 m from the site) and South Side (adjacent to the site) lie in a conservation area due to the number and significance of the surviving 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings (SBC 23284). There are a number of scheduled buildings on the North Side and eight further listed buildings on the South side, of which the most important is the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century vicarage (Grade II). White Cottage (HER 13104 (SU 76742 91110)) is a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber framed building with colour-washed brick infill. There is a single storey 19<sup>th</sup> century extension and the rear gable has been rebuilt (RCHME 1912, 299).

## **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 that will be impacted on by the development.
- In particular to record the potential for medieval and post medieval features relating to the farm and village.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) issued a generic brief for the work, which John Moore Heritage Services carried out to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with BCAS, on behalf of the local planning authority.

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, services 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 sections drawings compiled where appropriate.

## **4 RESULTS (Figure 2)**

### **4.1 Field Results**

The natural chalk (05) was seen at a depth of 1.1 m below the present ground surface. Overlying this was a 0.44m thick layer of dark brown clay-loam (04).

A possible posthole 07 was cut into layer (04). It was 0.44m deep and approximately 0.25m in diameter. The northerly side was vertical while the southerly side appeared to undercut, unusually making it wider at the base. It was filled with a grey-brown silt-clay (06) that contained chalk fragments.

Sealing this was a 0.18m thick layer consisting of broken bricks and mortar (03) that stretched up to 3m away from the wall of the building.

Above this was a dark brown-black humic loam (02) that was on average 0.22m thick. This contained modern material including beer cans and plastic. The uppermost layer (01) consisted of stone slabs and brick tiles set in a 0.05m thick layer of mortar.

### **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**

### **5.1 Pottery**

The pottery assemblage consisted of seven shreds of pottery all came from the upper garden soil (02). The assemblage was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994).

One sherd of stoneware (PM28) 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century

Two sherds of lead-glazed earthenware (PM8) c. 17<sup>th</sup> century +

Four sherds of red earthenware (TLMS 12) c. 16<sup>th</sup> century +

### **5.2 Stone**

A stone artefact, possible a part of a pestle was also found in context (02)

### **5.3 Clay pipe**

A fragmentary bowl of a clay pipe was recovered from context (04). It has two stamps one reading "NORW-" on one side and "-TON" on the other side. These two stamps are probably from the pipe manufacturer and could indicate that the pipe was made in Norwich in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Oswald 1975).

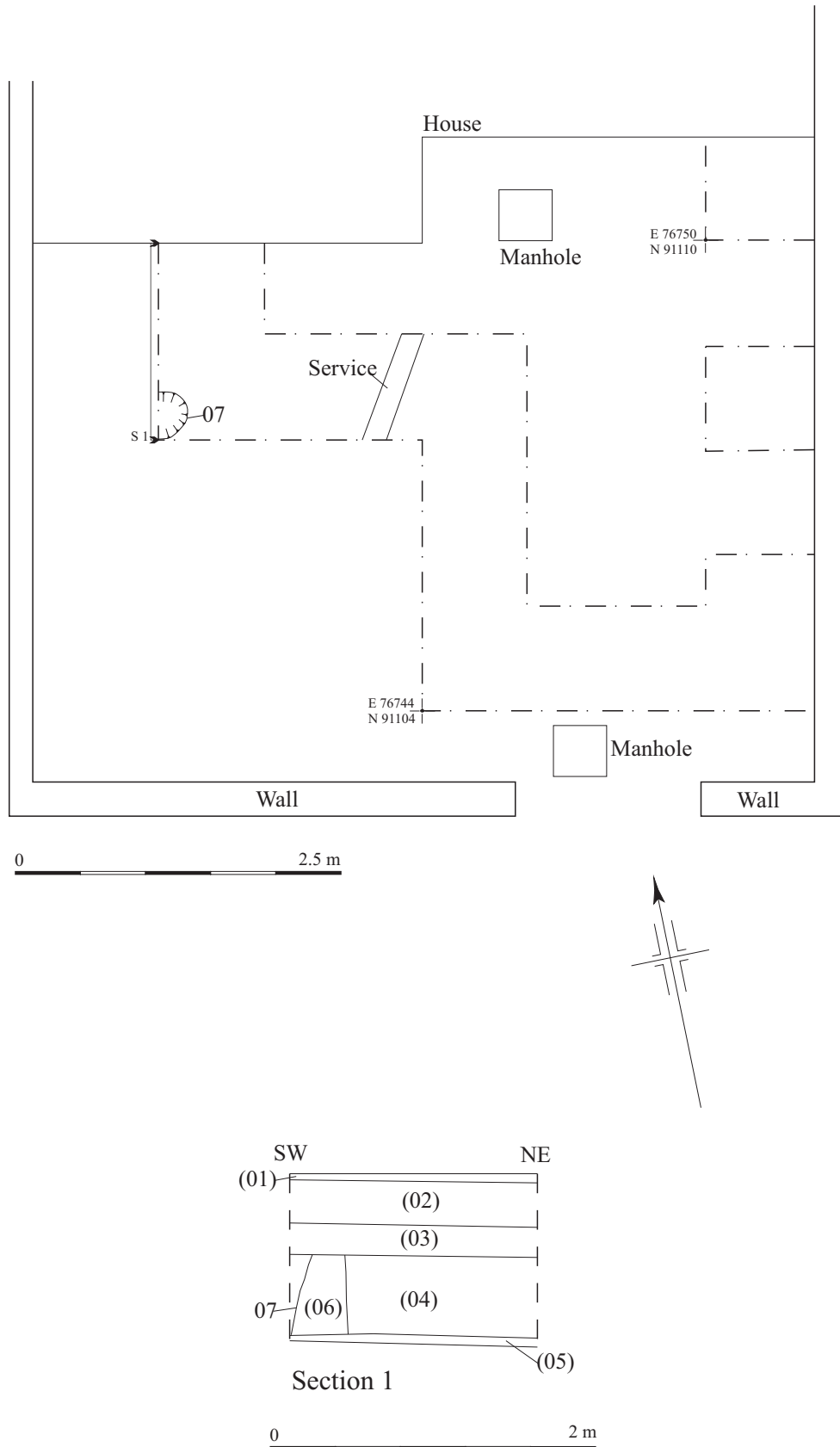


Figure 2. Plan and section



## 5.4 Environmental Remains

No features were considered to warrant environmental sampling.

## 6 DISCUSSION

Layer (04) lying directly above the natural appears to be a garden soil. The presence of the clay tobacco pipe within it would suggest it was still in use during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The posthole is obviously later than the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is likely to relate to a garden feature or perhaps washing line.

The rubble layer could possibly relate to building work conducted on the cottage in perhaps the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A modern garden soil (02) was recorded to overlie this.

## 7 ARCHIVE

### Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

#### Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

#### Physical Record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services. The archive will be transferred to:

Buckinghamshire County Museum, Technical Centre, Tring Road, Halton, Aylesbury HP22 5PJ.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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