



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND AT COURTYARD, FAWLEY
COURT, MARLOW ROAD,
HENLEY-ON-THAMES RG9 3AE**

NGR 476493 184325

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On behalf of

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services concluded an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of a new development at Courtyard, Fawley Court, Henley-on-Thames (SU 764 853). Four trenches, totalling approximately 41.5 metres in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. The earliest feature was Ditch 3/11 orientated on a north-south alignment sealed beneath a deposit containing 18th Century bricks. The fill of this ditch contained a well preserved wooden stake. A second shallow gully recorded in Trench 1 was undated but was probably of post-medieval date. Trench 2 revealed a chalk floor/yard surface dated to the 19th Century AD, which was probably a yard surface not recorded on any historic maps. The latest features included two modern red brick walls, which may have once formed part of garden buildings such as greenhouses or garden walls.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Geology (Figure 1)

The site is located at Courtyard, Fawley Court, Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3AE (NGR: Site centre: 476493 184325) and is currently occupied by agricultural buildings and areas of grass and hard standings. The site lies at c. 33m AOD and the underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey is Gravel Terracing (First Terrace) surrounded by alluvial deposits. As a result of the trench excavation the geology was seen to be gravel mixed with sands and silt.

1.2 Planning Background

Plans are being considered for a programme of restoration and redevelopment at Fawley Court, Buckinghamshire. Due to the potential of archaeological remains thought to be present the Planning Archaeologist for Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) advised that a pre-determination programme of archaeological work should be carried out.

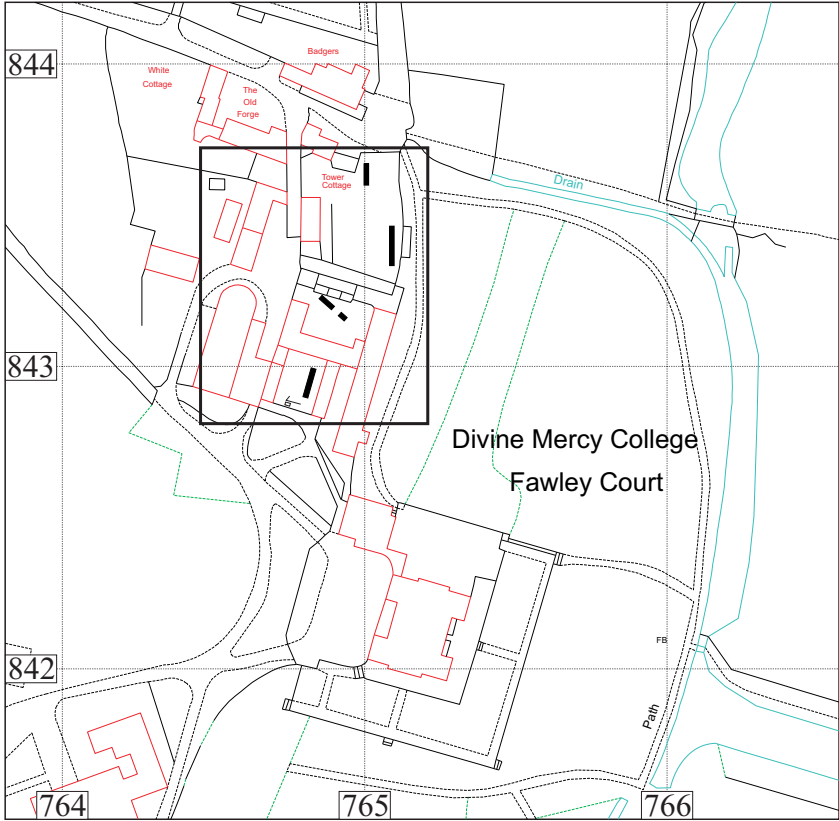
John Moore Heritage Services has already undertaken a Desk Based Assessment of the site, which highlighted the high archaeological potential of the area (JMHS 2009).

The Planning Archaeologist at BCAS issued a Brief for archaeological evaluation by machine cut trenches. John Moore Heritage Services prepared a *Written Scheme of Investigation* which proposed a method to satisfy the requirements of the Brief, and which was agreed with BCAS.

1.3 Archaeological Background

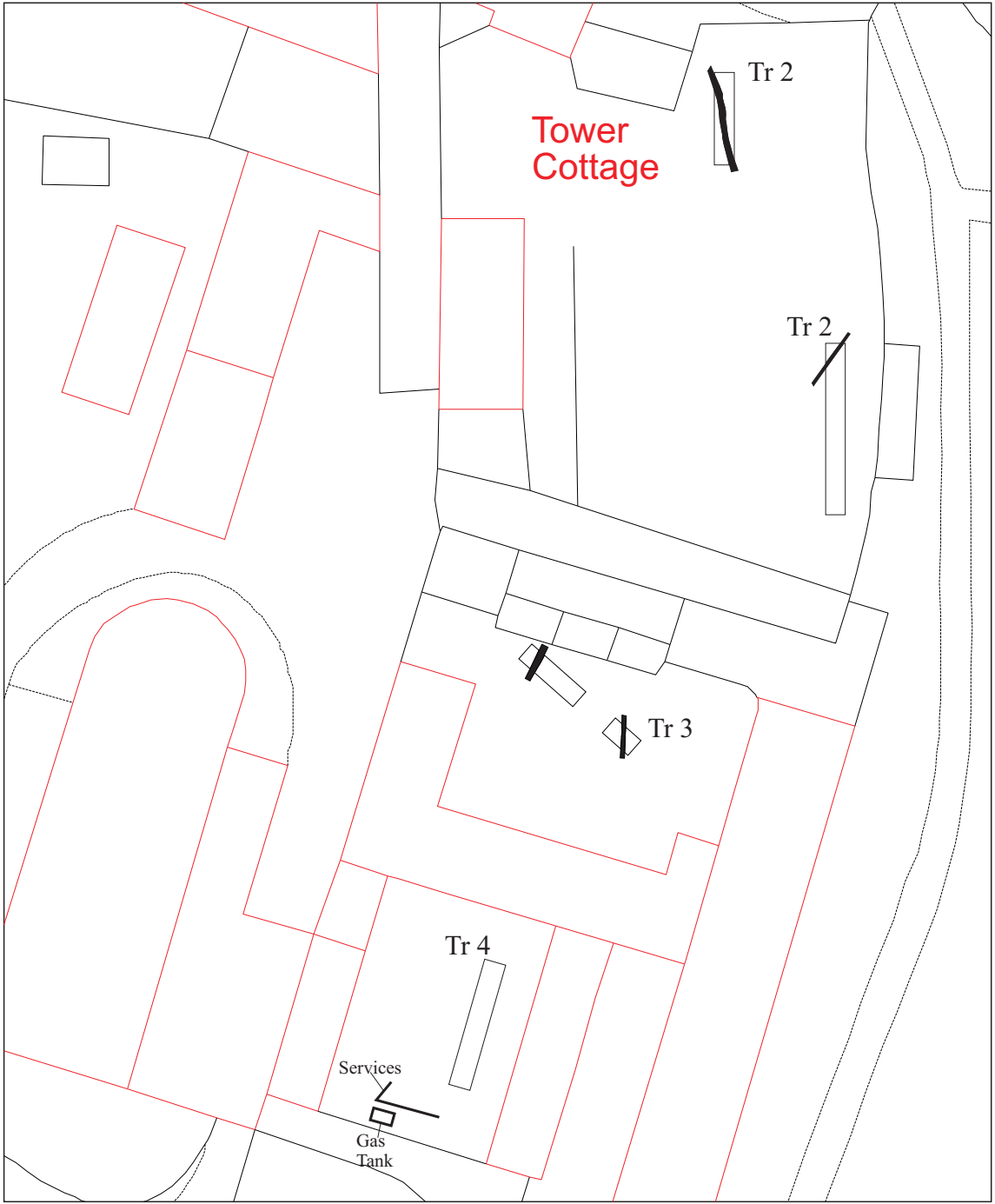
The site was identified as being of archaeological potential, due to a number of sites noted on the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Records for this area and the high potential highlighted in the Desk Based Assessment (JMHS 2010).

For a full and detailed archaeological background to the site the DBA should be consulted. The full archaeological background produced for the DBA is not going to be repeated here except to say that the site lies close to the banks of the river Thames, an area well known for archaeological finds. Flint artefacts of the Lower Palaeolithic (500000BC to 150000BC) and



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0 100 m



0 25 m

Figure 1. Site location

Neolithic (4000BC to 2200BC) have been found within and in close proximity to the Thames (JMHS 2003).

The Buckinghamshire HER listed prehistoric finds such as a flint scatter (SU 7650 8477 – 7661 8474) in topsoil of 125 worked flint artefacts, with a date range from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. Artefacts include microliths, blades, flakes, cores and scrapers. Also found in the subsoil was possible Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery (County HER Record: CASS 05313).

Other prehistoric finds include a flint Scatter (SU 7661 8474 – 7676 8471) within topsoil scatter of 227 worked flint artefacts, with a date range from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age. Artefacts include microliths and a leaf shaped arrowhead (CASS 05313).

A Ditch or palaeo-channel (SU 7678 8470) was located during work on the British Gas Nuffield to Ascot pipeline. Cut into the natural geology of the area and filled with peat, it was up to 2.6m wide and 3.5m deep. At least four layers of peat present; the earliest contained a microlith while the third layer contained fragments of Iron Age pottery (CASS 05313).

A medieval doorway (SU 76496 84279) of a 12th century Norman doorway, brought from a house in Henley, has been rebuilt into the Dairy building (CASS 01939).

A Post medieval bank and ditch (SU 7624 8470 – 7617 8430) runs parallel to and immediately east of the A4155. This probably represents the estate boundary or the boundary of the Deer park. Lack of mention in the Fawley's manorial history suggests the deer park is not medieval, but presumably predates the Civil War (CASS 4537). It is possible that this bank dates to the Brown period (English Heritage 2000).

The Listed buildings include Fawley Court (SU 76519 84210) Grade I listed. Built in 1684 for John Freeman from a design reputedly by Sir C. Wren, although there is no direct evidence for this (Tyack 1982). A later inscription above the door read "WREN FECIT 1684AD". It was externally refurbished and extended to the northwest in 1884 for the Mackenzie family.

Lodge House (SU 76260 84718) Grade II listed. It was built c.1814-1821 for Strickland Freeman. It is whitewashed render with a slate roof, one storey high with three bays. Its associated gates and railings (SU 76272 84711) are also Grade II listed. These are of wrought iron and constructed c.1880. Four gate piers with scrolled panels, one with stags head crest of the McKenzie family (CASS 01939).

South Lodge (SU 76249 83985) Grade II listed. A late 18th century single storey building of rendered brick with a slate roof (CASS 01939).

Barn (SU 76450 84300) Grade II listed. Barn altered c.1770 to a Menagerie with later subdivision into stables and storage space. It is a long single storey building with an apse at the north end. It is chequer brick, whitewashed at the southern end with the remainder showing traces of colourwash. It has flat eaves with a hipped slate roof and unusual shallow trusses designed to cover a wide span with only short timbers (Harris & Robinson 1984). There are attached 20th century sheds (CASS 01939).

Chapel (SU 76496 84279) Grade II listed. It is now a disused chapel that was formerly a dairy. Built in the late 18th or early 19th century with a reset 12th century doorway taken from

Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames. It is built of knapped flint, mostly roughcast and colourwashed to the south side and rear. It has a hipped slate roof (CASS 01939).

Pavilion (SU 76448 84388) Grade II listed. A house incorporating a small octagonal pavilion that was at one time used as the estate office. The building also incorporates a former schoolroom. The single storey pavilion is late 18th century, roughcast and whitewashed, with moulded wooden eaves, a slate roof and brick chimney. Attached to the north is a small single-storey 19th century link wing and early 19th century school, both of whitewashed brick with slate roofs.

Fawley Court gardens (SU7641 8403). Listed grade II* (GD 1353). An early 18th century garden and pleasure grounds surrounding the 1680's house. Lancelot "Capability" Brown landscaped the park in the 1770's, and there has been 19th and 20th century additions and planting (CASS 01939).

The Gardens lie to the north, south and east of the house. Two formal concentric terraces (listed grade II) flank the house to the south and east. The upper, stone-paved terrace may be a late 19th century reworking of a 1730's structure; the lower, grassed terrace is edged with path. Each terrace is edged with a late 19th century stone balustrade (listed grade II). A large terrace flanks the north front at a lower level than the other two.

South of the house is an open lawn, bounded on its southern side by a ha-ha. West of this lawn are ornamental trees and shrubs. East of the house a flat lawn leads to a c. 1920 rectangular canal extending 100m towards the river, flanked by an avenue of holm oaks, with water meadows beyond this. North of the terrace is a late 19th century ornamental plantation of Cypresses, designed to frame the view north across the northern park to the hills beyond. The view north-east towards Temple Island was in 1997 obscured by trees (English Heritage 2000).

The park surrounds the house and pleasure grounds. It was created from the drained flood meadow and is now pasture. To the west of the house the lawn has scattered trees planted in the 19th or 20th century as well as some 18th century trees including at least six London Planes. The 18th century planting was simple open order so as not to obstruct views.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

It was stated within the WSI that the aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site.

Particular objectives were to:

- gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the proposal area:
- Establish the potential for remains of the medieval and late-medieval manor house or associated buildings/structures to survive in the area.
- Establish the potential for remains of earlier planned landscapes.
- Establish the potential for a remains dated to the Civil War

- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

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 (1999) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of four trenches (1.5m wide).

The trenches were excavated by a 360° type tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant surfaces were cleaned by hand where necessary prior to hand excavation of the potential archaeological deposits and features.

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.

The Planning Archaeologist for BCAS monitored the work.

4 RESULTS

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.

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 2)

The trenches were set out within the footprint of the proposed new buildings. The lowest deposit noted within the trenches consisted of natural sands and gravels, which was reached between varying heights of 31.51m to 31.97m AOD.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 2; Figure 5)

Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 7m (1.5m wide) and to varying depths of between 31.97m AOD at the southern end and 31.86m at the northern end. Ditch 1/05 was cut through layer (1/07) (32.44m AOD) and recorded at this level. The trench was then excavated down to the natural gravels and no further features were encountered.

Table 1: Summary of contexts within Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 1							
1/01	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m	Tr.	Tr.	Not retained	Modern
1/02	Layer	Dark brown silty clay with common chalk	0.12m	Tr.	Tr.	Not retained	
1/03	Layer	Compact brick and chalk.	0.15m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
1/04	Layer	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay	0.30m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
1/05	Cut	Cut of ditch NW-SE	0.14m	0.05m	6m	None	
1/06	Fill	Fill of 1/05	0.14m	0.05m	6m	None	
1/07	Layer	Brick, chalk & mortar	0.10m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
1/08	Cut	Cut of ditch NW-SE	0.05m	0.40m	6m	None	
1/09	Layer	Highly compact flint and gravel with silt	0.05m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
1/10	Cut	Modern pile	0.20m	0.40m	0.35m	None	
1/11	fill	Fill of 1/10	0.20m	0.40m	0.35m	None	
1/12	Layer	Highly compact chalk layer	0.02-0.14m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
1/13	Layer	Natural- interface	0.25m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
1/14	Layer	Natural gravels	/	Tr.	Tr.	None	

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest) (Fig 2; S: 1.1). The natural gravels with silty patches and lighter areas of banding were seen at the base of the trench (1/14). Overlying these were more weathered gravels (1/13) which had mixing with the overlying chalk layer above them (1/12). A 0.10m thick crushed brick, chalk and mortar layer (1/07) was overlain by mid yellow brown compact silt and gravels (1/04). A 0.15m thick chalk layer with brick fragments throughout (1/03) was overlain by compact dark brown silty clay with flint and chalk inclusions (1/02). The latest deposit was dark grey-brown silty clay (1/01).

Linear Features

One gully had two sections hand excavated across it: 1/05 and 1/08. The gully was cut through layer (1/07). Ditch section 1/05 (32.44m AOD) was representative of the shape and form of this feature. It had concave sides and an irregular base filled by compact mid yellow-brown clay with flint and gravel inclusions (1/06) (Fig. 2; S. 1.2) with no finds but thought to be of post- medieval date.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figure 2; Figure 3)

Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 13m and to varying depths of between 31.51m AOD at the northern end and 31.74m AOD at the southern end of the trench.

Table 2: Summary of contexts within Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 2							
2/01	Layer	Dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil	0.40m	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	Modern
2/02	Layer	Loose chalk (90%), flint & CBM (10%)	0.50m	Tr.	11m	None	
2/03	Layer	Mid orange brown clay silt	0.10m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
2/04	Layer	Mid orange brown gritty clay silt with frequent bricks & CBM	0.40m	Tr.	11m	CBM	Post med
2/05	Layer	Dark brownish grey silty clay	0.10m	Tr.	11m	CBM	Post med
2/06	Layer	Compact chalk, stone, CBM, gravel and mortar	0.05-0.15m	Tr.	11m	Pottery	Post med
2/07	Layer	Compact/firm mid orange brown silty clay	0.40m	Tr.	2m	None	
2/08	Layer	Light cream brown silty clay with freq. Chalk and gravels	0.20m	Tr.	2m	None	
2/09	Layer	Fairly compact chalk blocks- not dressed	0.20m	Tr.	2m	None	
2/10	Layer	Natural clay with gravels throughout	/	Tr.	2m	None	
2/11	Masonry	Brick wall	0.20m	0.20m	2.4m	None	
2/12	Cut	Large pit- seen in section only	1m	Tr.	11m	None	
2/13	Deposit	Dark blue grey gravel silt	/	Tr.	/	None	

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following contexts (earliest to latest) (Fig 2; S. 2.2). At the southern end of the trench the natural gravels were observed at the base of the trench (2/10) (31.74m AOD). Directly above the natural were undressed fairly compact chalk blocks (<0.10-0.20m) 0.20m thick (2/09) thought to be a layer of dumped building material. Overlying this was a c. 0.20m thick light cream brown silty clay dumped levelling deposit with chalk flecks and gravel inclusions (2/08). This was followed by compact/firm mid orange-brown silty clay with flint, chalk and ceramic building material (CBM) inclusions (2/07). The latest layer was dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (2/01).

At the northern end of the trench the following stratigraphy was observed (earliest to latest) (Fig 2; S. 2.1). At the base of the trench was dark blue-grey gravel silt (2/12) assumed to be the natural gravel terrace deposit. Overlying this was a compact chalk deposit with stone, gravel, mortar and CBM inclusions (2/06) with one pottery sherd recovered dating from the 19th Century AD. This was overlain by c. 0.10m thick occupation soil of dark brown-grey silty clay (2/05) with three pottery sherds (collected as a sample from a whole broken vessel) dated to the 19th Century AD. The next layer was c. 0.40m thick mid orange-brown gritty clay silt with frequent hand made bricks, CBM and slate interpreted as a deposit created by the demolition of the building known to have existed at this location (2/04). Overlying this was 0.10m thick mid orange-brown clay silt with frequent chalk and CBM throughout (2/03). A

0.50m thick layer of compacted chalk followed (2/03) with occasional flint nodules and CBM, interpreted as a made ground levelling deposit (2/02). The latest deposit was the dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil seen across the entire trench (2/01).

A wall 2/11 was seen orientated on a north-east south-west alignment at the northern end of the trench (Figure 2) cut through layer (2/03). It was constructed of hand made unfrogged red bricks (*c.* <0.10m x 0.22m x 0.07m) two courses wide and deep bonded by a cement mortar.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figure 2; Figure 4)

This trench was excavated to a length of 11.50m (1.5m wide) and to varying depths of between 31.53m AOD at the south-eastern end and 31.54m AOD at the northern end. The trench was excavated in two parts due to the presence of services.

Table 3: Summary of contexts within Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 3							
3/01	Layer	Concrete	0.15m	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	Modern
3/02	Layer	Brick rubble	0.15m	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	
3/03	Layer	Dark grey brown silty clay	0.20m	Tr.	Tr.	none	
3/04	Layer	Mid grey yellow silty clay with chalk inclusions	0.25m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
3/05	Masonry	Brick wall with silty yellow mortar	0.25m	0.30m	1.8m	None	
3/06	Layer	Compact clay and chalk	0.10m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
3/07	Layer	Orange brown silty clay	0.10m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
3/08	Layer	Compact chalk silty clay mottled yellow clay	0.30m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
3/09	Layer	Chalk rubble with grey mottling	0.40m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
3/10	Layer	Compact dark brown silty clay with brick inclusions	0.15m	Tr.	Tr.	None	
3/11	Cut	North south gully	0.30m	0.80m	Tr.	/	
3/12	Fill	Firm dark brown black with traces of fuel contamination	0.30m	0.80m	Tr.	Wood	Post med?
3/13	Layer	Natural gravels	/	Tr.	Tr.	/	

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following contexts (earliest to latest) (Fig 2; S. 3.2). The natural gravels were encountered at the base of the trench (3/13) which were stained with traces of oil and other modern contamination. Overlying the natural was 0.15m thick very compact dark brown-black silty clay with hand made bricks seen throughout and

traces of contamination (3/10). This layer could have been the remains of a demolished building that once occupied the site near this area. Overlying (3/10) was *c.* 0.40m thick compact chalk with grey silt mottling (3/09) thought to be dumped chalk used for raising ground levels. Next in the sequence was dumped and levelled high compact and firm chalk with yellow-grey mottling (3/08). This was overlain by a band of orange-brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments (3/07). A *c.* 0.10m thick levelling clay chalk layer (3/06) was overlain by firm mid grey-yellow common chalk (3/04) interpreted as made ground. Overlying this was dark grey-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions (3/03), followed by a 0.15m thick layer of crushed brick (3/02). The final layer was the current concrete hard standing (3/01).

Linear features

A gully/ditch was seen at the north-western end of the trench cutting natural gravels and sealed by layer (3/10). This ditch 3/11 was 0.80m in width and 0.30m deep with concave sides and a rounded base. It was filled by firm dark brown-black clay silt with traces of contamination throughout.

Walls

A wall was seen orientated on a north south alignment at the south eastern end of the trench. Wall 3/05 was constructed of red bricks (<0.09x 0.20m) set in a light yellow mortar and was of recent/Victorian date.

4.5 Trench 4 (Figure 2; Figure 6)

This trench was excavated to a length of 10m and to varying depths of between 31.97m at the northern end and 32.35m at the southern end at which point the natural gravels were encountered and excavation ceased.

Table 4: Summary of contexts within Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Findings	Date
Trench 4							
4/01	Layer	Dark black brown humic silty clay topsoil	0.20m	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	modern
4/02	Layer	Light brown silt with chalk inclusions	0.30m	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	modern
4/03	Layer	Compact white chalk with rare brick inclusions	0.70m	Tr.	Tr.	None retained	modern
4/04	Layer	Light orange brown silty natural gravels	/	Tr.	Tr.	none	/

The stratigraphy within the trench consisted of the following contexts (earliest to latest) (Fig 2; S. 4.1 & 4.2). The natural light orange-brown silty gravels were encountered at the base of the trench (4/04). Directly overlying the natural was a thick layer of compact white chalk with rare ceramic building material and charcoal flecking (4/03). This was overlain by light brown silt with frequent chalk, charcoal flecks and gravels throughout (4/02). The final layer was dark black-brown humic silt with charcoal flecking throughout (4/01).

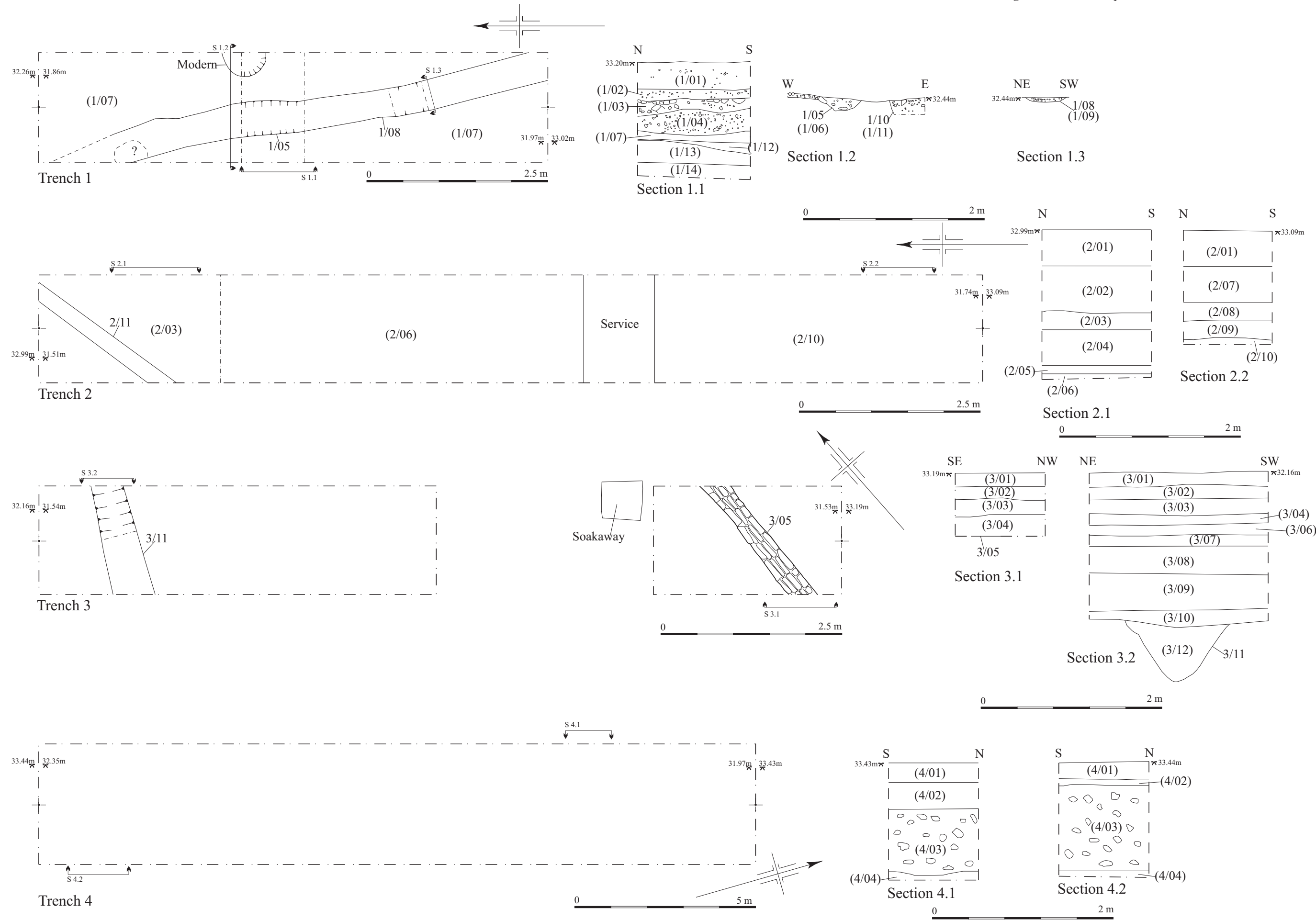


Figure 2. Trenches 1 - 4 Plans and sections

No archaeological features or finds were recovered from this trench.

4.5 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trenches took place in favourable weather conditions.

5 FINDS

5.1 Brick by Gwilym Williams

An assessment of the assemblage was carried out; descriptions and dating are included in the table below.

Table 5: Summary of Brick finds

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Dimensions (l × b × h mm)	Brief description	Assessment
(3/10)	1	2000+	220 × 110 × 68	F1; upper face smoothed, rough base, no frog; some mortar traces	Post-medieval; late 18 th C probably

Fabric 1: orange in colour slightly sandy clay with some small ironstone inclusions

The brick recovered from the deposit (3/10) dated from after the late 18th century. Traces of two different types of mortar were apparent on the brick, indicating that it had been reused.

5.2 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised of four sherds with a total weight of 449g. It entirely comprised 19th Century unglazed earthenwares, all fragments of large flower pots. Three sherds (415g) occurred in Trench 2, (2/04) with one other sherd in Trench 2 (2/06). The sherds from context (2/04) all appear to be from the same vessel. They are typical of the period and common finds.

5.3 Environmental remains by D S YOUNG

Introduction

This report summarises the findings arising out of the environmental archaeological assessment undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) in conjunction with John Moore Heritage Services of a sample from Fawley Court, Henley-on-Thames (site code: FAFC10). The sample was taken from the fill of a ditch (context 3/12) containing a well-preserved, unburnt wooden stake, preliminarily identified as post medieval.

The overall aims of the assessment were to evaluate the potential of the sample for reconstructing the general environmental context of the ditch fill, and for providing information on the economy and diet of the past inhabitants. In order to achieve this aim, the environmental archaeological assessment consisted of an assessment of the preservation and concentration of macroscopic plant, insect and Mollusca remains in the sample.

Table 6: Macrofossil assessment, context (3/12), Fawley Court, Henley-on-Thames

Sample No.	Context No.	Volume sampled (l)	Size of context sampled (%)	Volume processed (l)	Volume remaining	Fraction (e.g. flot, residue, >300µm)	Flot weight (gm)	Flot volume (ml)	Charred					Waterlogged		Mollusca		Bone					
									Charcoal (>4mm)	Charcoal (2-4mm)	Charcoal (<2mm)	Seeds	Chaff	Wood	Seeds	Whole	Fragments	Large	Small	Fragments			
-	(3/12)	6	N/A	6	0	Flot	40	90	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

Key: 0 = Estimated Minimum Number of Specimens (MNS) = 0; 1 = 1 to 25; 2 = 26 to 50; 3 = 51 to 75; 4 = 76 to 100; 5 = 101+

Methods

Macrofossil assessment

A six litre bulk sample was processed through a floatation tank (using 10mm and 6mm mesh sizes) by John Moore Heritage Services. The resulting flot sample was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications, and the concentration and preservation of remains was estimated for each category of macrofossil (Table 1).

Preliminary identifications of the waterlogged plant macrofossils (seeds) were made using the Quaternary Scientific reference collection and reference atlases (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Martin & Barkley, 2000). Nomenclature used follows Stace (2005). The quantities of waterlogged seeds and wood were recorded for each sample, with identifications of the main seed taxa (Table 1). Identification and interpretation of the Mollusca remains was based on modern comparative material and reference atlases (e.g. Kerney and Cameron, 1979; Kerney, 1999).

Results and discussion of the Macrofossil Assessment

The results of the assessment (Table 1) indicated that the sample from context (3/12) contained no charred plant remains (charcoal or seeds), bone, magnetic particles or artefacts. The sample contained moderate to high quantities of both waterlogged wood and waterlogged seeds, of which the main seed taxa were (in order of abundance) *Ranunculus* sp. (e.g. creeping buttercup), *Polygonum aviculare* (common knotgrass) and Poaceae (grass family). These taxa are indicative of open disturbed ground/grassland in the vicinity of the ditch during the accumulation of context (3/12). Low numbers of insect fragments and Mollusca (whole and fragments) were present in the sample, including the land snail Hygromiidae cf. *Candidula/Ceriuella* sp., which is also indicative of grassland in the vicinity of the ditch.

6 DISCUSSION

The below ground archaeology in Trench 3 was thought to be the earliest feature recovered from the site. The preservation was good even though the natural gravels and layer (3/10) was contaminated by a deep oil leak, which may have derived from agricultural activity or the large soakaway seen near the centre of the trench.

The ditch seen in Trench 3 was sealed beneath layer (3/10), dated to the 18th Century AD and was cut into natural gravels. It contained a long piece of well preserved unburnt wood (stake). An environmental sample was taken to attempt to give any more information of the environmental background to the site and retrieve any possible dating evidence from the residue of the sample. As a result no dating evidence was achieved but an open grassland environment was ascertained.

The Desk Based Assessment (JMHS 2009) suggested that remains from the Civil War period could be present as Fawley Court was reduced to ruins by artillery fire from Royalist forces in the area and it is likely that Parliamentary forces were using Fawley Court as a staging point of the siege of Greenlands House.

It is possible that ditch 3/11 which contained a wooden stake formed part of the defensive entrenchments strategically positioned around the north eastern area of the house during the Civil War. Lack of dating evidence from the ditch means this theory cannot be proved.

The chalk floor surface (2/06) encountered in Trench 2 was probably a yard surface not seen on any historic Ordnance Survey maps. Pottery dating to the 19th Century was found within this surface providing a good *terminus post quem* date. No buildings are shown in this area on a late 18th Century AD plan of the riding house and service buildings (JMHS 2009b) which would suggest that this chalk floor surface was used as yard surface rather than a surface within a building.

The linear feature in Trench 1 was cut through a deposit of crushed brick, which suggests a later date for the ditch. No finds were recovered from the ditch and its original function is unknown.

The depth of overburden across the site was deeper than expected due to imported chalk and brick rubble, which was levelled across the proposed development area. The results of the evaluation suggest that large scale importation and redistribution of deposits made up the ground levels. This may have been enacted during the Civil War for defensive reasons (which were subsequently levelled) or were simply to raise the ground for protection against flooding from the nearby river. Trench 4 proved that original topsoil and subsoil must have been removed prior to dumping of chalk deposits, which would have been a substantial operation during post-medieval times. This action may have destroyed any archaeology (had it been present) in this area.

The archaeological evaluation was successful in gathering sufficient information to understand the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of archaeological remains within the area of study as set out in the JMHS WSI. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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HER Summary Form

Site Name:	
Site Address: Fawley Court, Marlow Road, Henley-on Thames, Buckinghamshire	
Summary: <i>John Moore Heritage Services concluded an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of a new development at Courtyard, Fawley Court, Henley-on-Thames (SU 764 853). Four trenches, totalling approximately 41.5 metres in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. The earliest feature was Ditch 3/11 orientated on a north-south alignment sealed beneath a deposit containing 18th Century bricks. The fill of this ditch contained a well preserved wooden stake. A second shallow gully recorded in Trench 1 was undated but was probably of Post medieval date. Trench 2 revealed a chalk floor/yard surface dated to the 19th Century AD, which was probably a yard surface not recorded on any historic maps. The latest features included two modern red brick walls, which may have once formed part of garden buildings such as greenhouses or garden walls.</i>	
District/Unitary: Oxford City	Parish:
Period(s): Post med/ Modern	
NGR (centre of site: 8 figures): SU 765 842 (centred)	
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 19 th October 2010	
Unit undertaking recording: JMHS	
Geology: Terrace Gravel	
Title and author of accompanying report: Archaeological Evaluation at Courtyard, Fawley Court, Marlow Road, Henley-on-Thames, Buckinghamshire RG9 3AE (SP 5043 0912) Prepared by Paul Riccoboni BA ARCH AIFA	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible ditch associated with defence of Fawley Court during the Civil War. • Shallow ditch of unknown date but probably Post medieval • Chalk floor surface of Post medieval date thought to be a basement floor or yard surface – building seen on OS map in 1881 • Two brick walls or 20th Century date. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds:	
Contact at Unit: : Paul Riccoboni info@jmheritageservices.co.uk	Date: October 2010



Figure 3: Trench 2 looking south



Figure 5: General shot of Trench 1



Figure 4: Trench 3: showing Ditch 3/11 pre ex



Figure 6: Trench 4 looking south