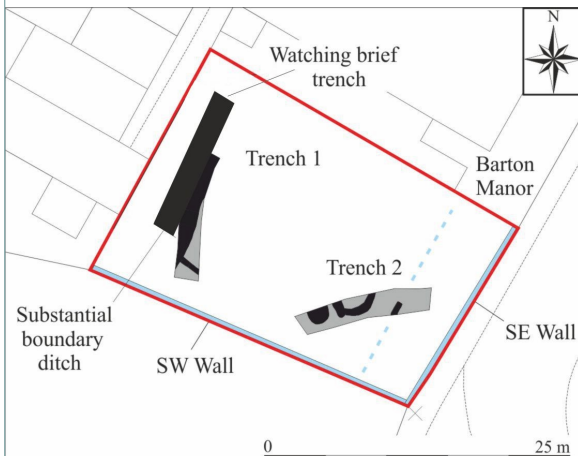


## LAND ADJACENT TO 7 BARTON VILLAGE ROAD

*This leaflet summarises archaeological work undertaken at 7 Barton Village Road between 2013 and 2020 by John Moore Heritage Services while also briefly exploring the archaeology and history of the wider area.*



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**Key**  Site boundary  Historic Wall  Archaeological Features

*The site, showing trenches, archaeological features and historic walls*

### 7 BARTON VILLAGE ROAD: HISTORIC WALLS

Two walls were investigated both of which survived as boundary walls, but had originated as part of two separate buildings. These were the south eastern and south western boundary walls of the site; after recording the SE wall was rebuilt into the new cottages, while the SW wall is still present.

The SW boundary wall contained a range of architectural details including the remains of a blocked central door with substantial quoins and two blocked windows to the west of this. A photograph taken in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century shows that the wall formed part of a building which contained a Gothic arch, indicative of a 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date (inside photo).

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*Probable medieval boundary ditch within trench 1*

Full reports on the archaeological work undertaken by JMHS on the site can be found on the Archaeological Data Service website:

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/search>

OASIS number: 385037

For further information on the archaeology and history of Barton and the wider area:

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20200/archaeology>

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway>

## 7 Barton Village Road: The archaeology and history of Barton



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The SE wall formed the front wall of two small cottages, also depicted on the photograph. These are seen as two 1 1/2 storey cottages with a thatched roof; architectural elements of these buildings were recorded, including blocked doorways and windows (see photograph below). Archaeological trial trenching within the site recorded the rear foundation wall for the cottages which was constructed in stone. The date of these cottages was not certain, however based on structural evidence they were likely to have been constructed at a later date than the southern medieval structure. The archaeological trial trenching also recorded a well that was associated with the site of a pump shown on historic mapping and a boundary ditch on the NW edge of the site. This ditch was substantial and was likely the boundary of the medieval property.

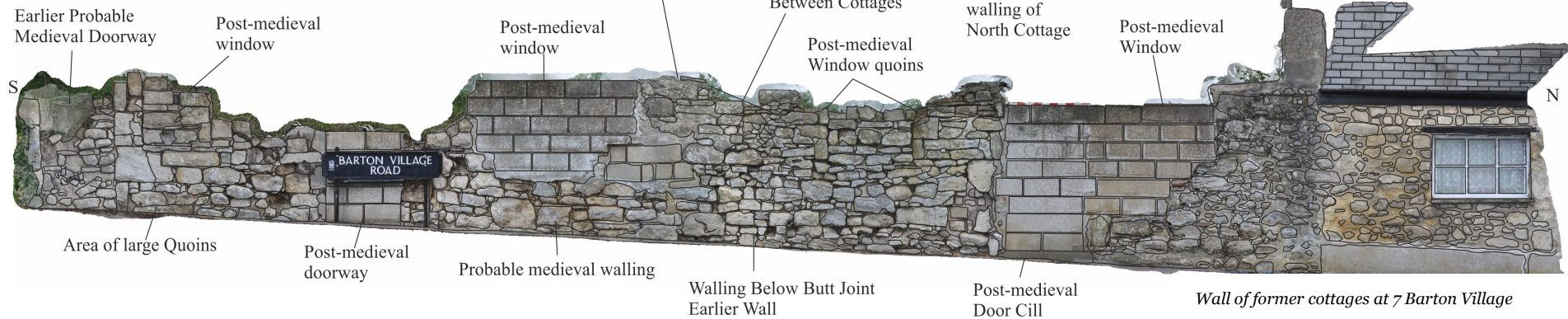
#### PREHISTORIC BARTON

##### *Neolithic Barton (4400–2500 BC)*

The first evidence for human activity within the area dates to the Neolithic period. This period marked the introduction of agriculture, increasingly sedentary societies and a rise in the creation of large monumental structures. Neolithic settlement and activity in the Oxford area appears to be poorly understood, despite a rich history of investigation elsewhere in the Thames Valley. The only evidence for Neolithic activity in the Barton area comes from chance finds of two polished stone axe heads.

##### *Bronze Age (2,500–800 BC)*

The Bronze Age in Oxfordshire is characterised by an increase in settlement and continued development of large monumental structures. There is a slight increase in activity from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Excavations in nearby Forest Hill, near the Bayswater Brook, have recorded evidence of a small settlement, including a



series of cremation burials.

##### *Iron Age (800 BC–AD 43)*

During the Iron Age settlement patterns continued to develop and increase in size. Excavations at Bernwood First School (now Sherwood Place) identified an early to middle Iron Age settlement, the first substantial evidence for settlement in the Barton area. Features included: a large enclosure ditch, postholes and crouched burials. Antiquarian accounts describe earthworks at Headington in the vicinity of this site.

##### ROMAN BARTON (AD 43 - AD 410)

During this period a Roman road that ran between the settlements of Alchester (near Bicester) and Dorchester-On-Thames crossed the Barton area roughly along the route of the current Bayswater Road. A Roman settlement was located on either side of this road in the area of the current village and to the north of Bayswater Brook; evidence of this settlement has been found on a number of occasions during construction work and includes boundary ditches, wall foundations, hearths, wells and pits. Evidence indicates that at least two cemeteries were associated with the settlement, both to the west of the Bayswater Road; the first at the base of the hill, and the other at the top of the hill. A Roman villa was also established to the north west, in the area of Wick Farm.

##### EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL BARTON (AD 410–1542)

It is probable that the Roman settlement survived in some form into the 5th century. In the 1930s an early medieval burial and house was found, while excavations at Barton

Park to the south of the site uncovered a spearhead and knife of 5th to 7th century date. Historically the settlement is recognised as a hamlet in the parish of Headington and was first documented in 1246. Documentary information available indicates that there were 11 homesteads in the hamlet. The remains of ridge and furrow nearby indicate that the surrounding landscape was farmed.



A photograph of the study buildings taken in the early 20th century. The Gothic arch of the southern building is seen on the left.

#### POST-MEDIEVAL BARTON

Barton appears to have changed little between the medieval period and the 19th century, when it was first shown in detail on historical maps. There is now little evidence of the medieval or post-medieval village besides Barton Manor, a 17th century house that is now Grade II listed and the SW wall recorded by JMHS that may represent the surviving remnant of a medieval building. Barton expanded substantially in the 20th century, in particular from 1946 to 1949, with a range of post-war prefabricated housing built to cater to an expanding population.