



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

AT

LAND ADJACENT TO BARTON MANOR,

7 BARTON VILLAGE ROAD, BARTON,

OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 5507 0783

SEPTEMBER 2020

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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out several phases of archaeological investigation at land adjacent to 7 Barton Village Road, enabling evidence relating to the development of medieval and post-medieval Barton to be recognised. A programme of historic building recording identified two separate structures, both with possible medieval origins. Archaeological evaluation recorded a boundary ditch along the north western boundary of the site, considered likely to have been the medieval property boundary. A supplementary watching brief revealed this to be a substantial boundary

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Site Location (Figure 1)

This report is a summary of several phases of archaeological investigation undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services at 7 Barton Village Road, Barton between 2013 and 2020.

The site is located at 7 Barton Village Road, Barton, Oxford (NGR SP 5507 0783). Topographically the site is located on the northern slopes of Headington Hill at an Ordnance Datum of between 94m and 96m. The hill-slope runs down to the Bayswater Brook. Prior to development the site was a disused garden.

The underlying geology is Beckley Sand Member, a sandstone band of sedimentary rock formed 154 to 159 million years ago in the Jurassic period. The site is close to the interface with an underlying deposit of the Temple Cowley Member a series of interbedded sandstone and siltstone deposits also considered to be laid down 154 to 159 million years ago in the Jurassic period.

1.2 Planning Background

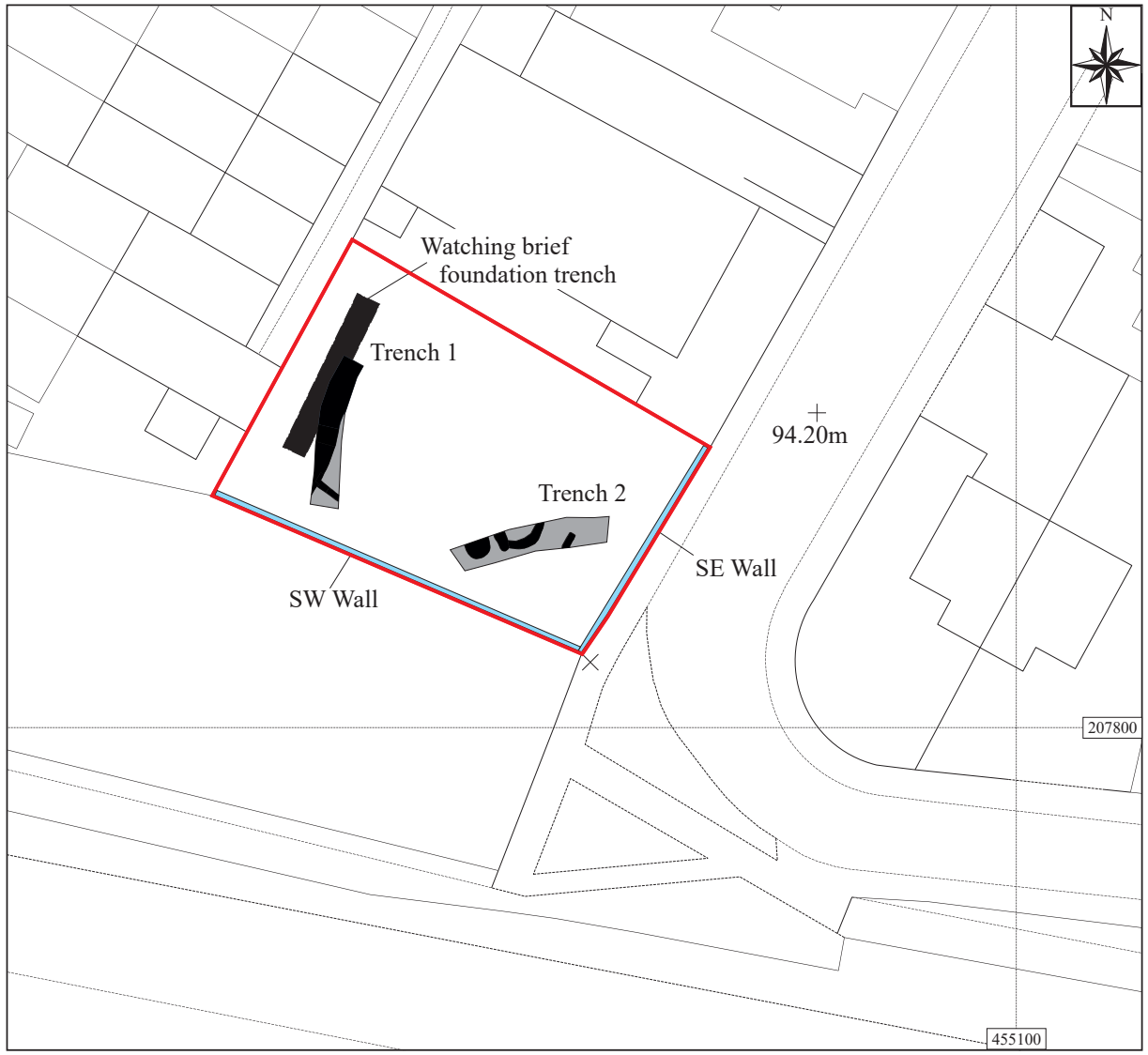
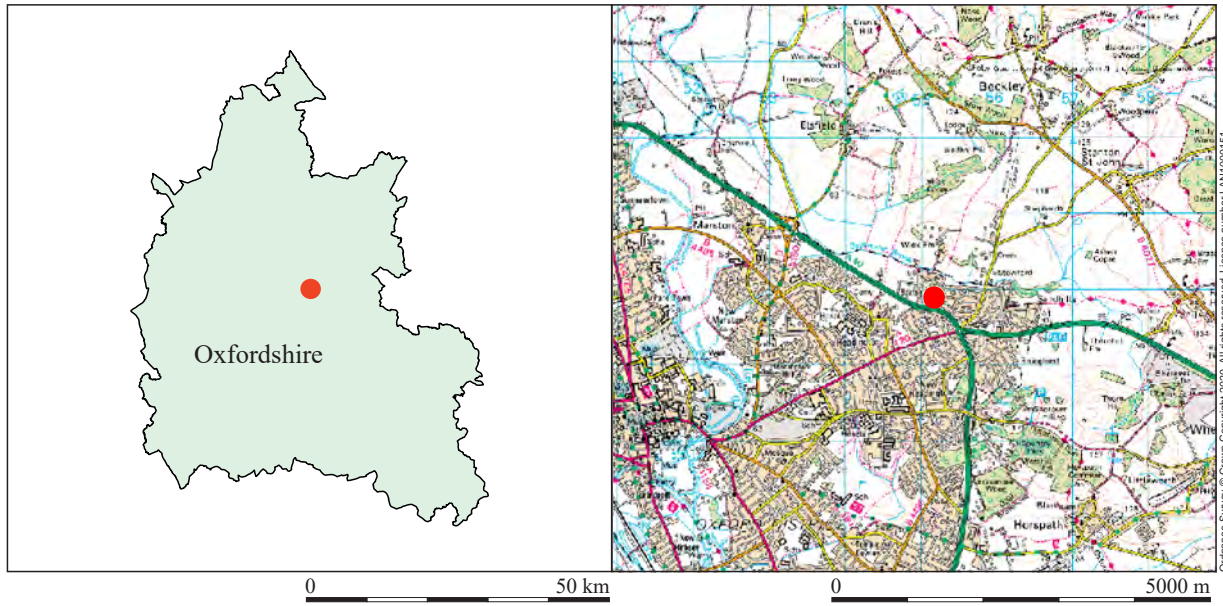
Oxford City Council granted planning permission for *Part removal and retention and repair of existing stone boundary wall (17/01835/LBC) and Erection of 2 x 2 bed dwelling house (Use Class C3), Provision of private amenity space, bin and cycle storage and car parking (17/01834/FUL)*. The following conditions were attached to protect the cultural heritage of the site:

(17/01835/LBC)

2 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of historic buildings recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.

Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, including the removal and or alteration of surviving post-medieval building fabric in accordance with policy HE4 of the Adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016.

3 No development (including site clearance) shall take place until a detailed specification and a method statement for the removal of inappropriate infill, repair



Key Site boundary Historic Wall Archaeological Features

1:500

Figure 1: Site location

and rebuilding of the surviving stone wall along the front (Barton Village Road) side of the development site has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. The method statement shall be expressed in terms that commit the developer to compliance unless otherwise agreed in writing by the planning authority.

Reason: Because the surviving wall has known and suspected elements that are significant to the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, including in accordance with policy HE2 of the Adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016.

9 No development shall commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives:

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording (including trial trenching followed by further mitigation if required) and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works;*
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI*

Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, including Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains (Local Plan Policy HE.2).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation and historic building recording was submitted by JMHS, covering condition 2 of 17/01835/LBC and condition 9 of 17/01834/FUL. In accordance with this WSI historic building recording and archaeological evaluation were undertaken in 2019.

Following the results of the evaluation the Oxford City Archaeologist indicated that further archaeological investigation in the form of a strip, map and sample exercise should be carried out, in line with the WSI. However, the development, including construction of the proposed dwelling and rebuilding of the historic wall proceeded without archaeological monitoring.

In order to mitigate the loss of the sites cultural heritage, further work was requested, comprising:

- Monitor any further ground works with impact below 450mm from existing ground surface.
- The northern face of the south western perimeter wall should be subject to photogrammetric recording.
- An information leaflet be produced on the interest of the site in mitigation of the loss of evidence.

In 2020 the south western perimeter wall was recorded and a watching brief was carried out during the remaining groundworks. A report was subsequently produced

which combined the results of the historic building recording of both the south east and south west walls while the results of the watching brief are included below.

1.3 Report Structure

This report is a brief summary of all phases of archaeological investigation undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services at 7 Barton Village Road.

2 RESULTS

2.1 Historic Building Recording

Assessments were made of two walls, both of which survived as boundary walls, but which originated as part of two separate buildings. These comprised the south eastern and south western boundary walls of the site; the south eastern wall was rebuilt in order to accommodate the development, while the southern wall was retained. Both walls contained a range of architectural features of note.

The following represents a brief summary of the results of this investigation; for further detail see *Historic Building Record on 7 Barton Village Road*, JMHS 2020.

The south western 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-20th century shows that the wall formed part of a building that extended to the south, the eastern wall of which contained a Gothic arch, indicative of a 13th to 15th century date. The south eastern wall formed the front façade of two small cottages, also depicted on the photograph in the above report. These are seen as two 1 ½ storey cottages with a thatched roof; architectural elements of these buildings were recorded, including blocked doorways and windows. The rear foundation wall for the south cottage appears to have been constructed in stone and was encountered during the archaeological evaluation (see 2.2.1). The date of this cottage was not certain, however based on structural evidence it is likely to have been constructed at a later date than the southern structure.

2.2 Archaeological Investigation

Two phases of archaeological investigation, comprising an evaluation and a watching brief, were undertaken.

2.2.1 Archaeological Evaluation

The initial phase of archaeological work comprised an evaluation, undertaken in July 2019 (JMHS 2019). The aim of the evaluation was to characterise any archaeological remains present within the site, in particular to determine whether any Saxon, medieval or post-medieval remains were present.

Two trenches, 10m in length by 1.6m in width, were excavated within the site. A series of features were recorded relating to the medieval and post-medieval use of the site. The most substantial feature in Trench 1 was a probable linear boundary ditch, situated towards the western boundary of the site and aligned north – south. This

appeared to form the historic western boundary of site and was butted perpendicularly by a smaller gully.

In Trench 2, situated within the area of the former building, a series of features were recorded that were likely to be related to the structure. These included a robbed foundation trench that likely formed the rear wall of the post-medieval cottages. A well was also identified; this corresponds to the position of a pump marked on the Ordnance Survey County Series map of 1899.

2.2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

Following construction of the development without notification of JMHS or Oxford City Council a watching brief was instigated in order to ensure any remaining archaeology was suitably recorded.

A footings trench for a retaining wall, 12m in length by 1.7m in width and 1.7m in depth, was excavated along the north western boundary of the site (Figure 1). This trench encountered the boundary ditch recorded during the evaluation in Trench 1; where encountered it was labelled as 102. Seen within the trench, ditch 102 was up to 1.6m in depth and at least 12m in length, extending beyond the limit of excavation to the north and south. Little could be noted regarding the profile as the trench was excavated along its length, though the ditch was seen to be at least 1.7m in width during this work. Thus, when combined with the evaluation, a width of at least 3m can be ascribed. The ditch was filled by (103) a firm mid grey brown silty clay; this was truncated by a modern soakaway cut 104, which was filled by rubble deposit (105). Fill (105) was overlain by topsoil (100).

No artefactual material was found during the watching brief.

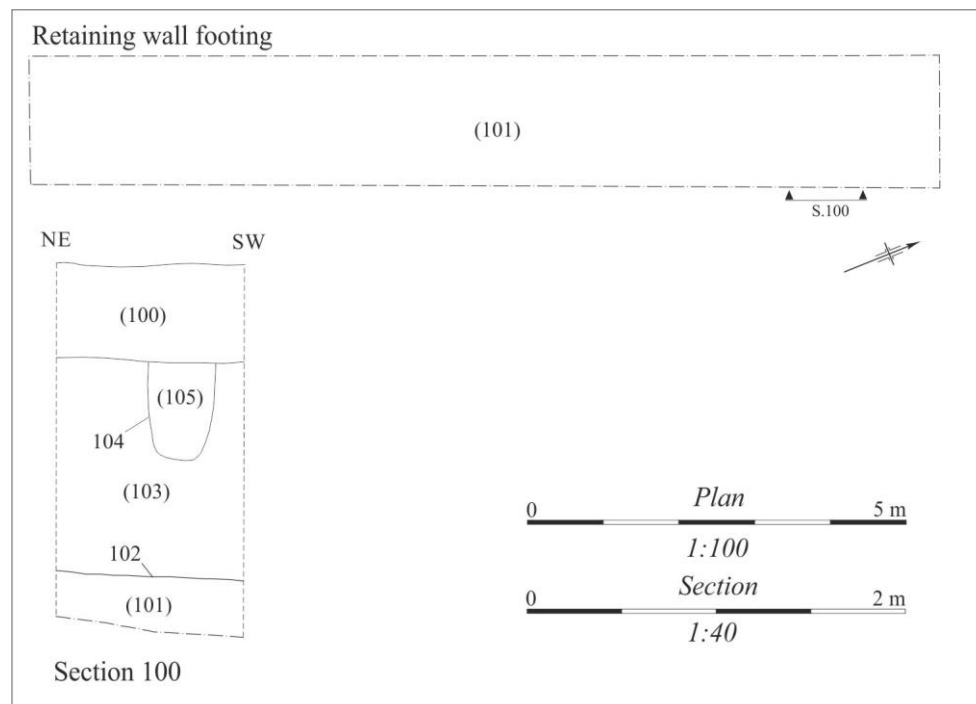


Figure 2: Watching brief area



Plate 1: Stained natural at base of boundary ditch 102, showing line of ditch. Looking south west

3 DISCUSSION

Several phases of archaeological investigation at land adjacent to 7 Barton Village Road have enabled evidence relating to the development of medieval and post-medieval Barton to be recognised.

A programme of historic building recording identified two separate structures, both with possible medieval origins. The earliest, southern, building is considered to be a structure of the 13th to 14th century AD, as indicated by surviving details from photographs. The northern building, which became two cottages, appears to have been butted up to the southern building and is therefore likely of later date. The date of this structure is uncertain, though may have initially been part of a medieval structure abutting the south structure. Archaeological evaluation recorded a boundary ditch along the western boundary of the site, considered likely to have been the medieval property boundary. A supplementary watching brief revealed this to be a substantial boundary, at least 3m in width and 1.6m in depth. Additional features recorded during the evaluation included the rear wall of the post-medieval buildings and a well, also associated with the buildings and depicted on historic mapping. There was clear potential for the presence of further archaeological remains, however further investigation was unfortunately not possible due to development within the site prior to archaeological consultation.

4 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire Museums Service with accession number OXCMS: 2019.39.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

John Moore Heritage Services 2013 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment on Barton Manor, 7 Barton Village Road, Barton, Oxford, Oxfordshire. Unpublished

John Moore Heritage Services 2013 Addendum to Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment on Barton Manor, 7 Barton Village Road, Barton, Oxford, Oxfordshire. Unpublished

John Moore Heritage Services 2019 An Archaeological Evaluation at Land Adjacent Barton Manor, 7 Barton Village Road, Oxford. Unpublished

John Moore Heritage Services 2020 Historic Building Record on 7 Barton Village Road, Barton, Oxford. Unpublished

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-403778

Project details

Project name	ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT LAND ADJACENT TO BARTON MANOR, 7 BARTON VILLAGE ROAD, BARTON, OXFORDSHIRE
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out several phases of archaeological investigation at land adjacent to 7 Barton Village Road, enabling evidence relating to the development of medieval and post-medieval Barton to be recognised. A programme of historic building recording identified two separate structures, both with possible medieval origins. Archaeological evaluation recorded a boundary ditch along the north western boundary of the site, considered likely to have been the medieval property boundary. A supplementary watching brief revealed this to be a substantial boundary.
Project dates	Start: 23-03-2020 End: 07-07-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OXBVR 19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4263 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	385037 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	245366 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	379067 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	LINEAR DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location OXFORDSHIRE OXFORD OXFORD Land Adjacent to 7 Barton Village Road
Postcode OX39LA
Study area 400 Square metres
Site coordinates SP 5507 0783 51.765984666639 -1.201893131445 51 45 57 N 001 12 06 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator Oxford City Council
Project design originator JMHS
Project director/manager John Moore
Project supervisor Christopher Whitehead
Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

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