

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**OF THE**

**LAND TO THE NORTH OF PENNYBUCKLE COTTAGE,  
NEAR CHURCH CLOSE, GREAT BOURTON**

**SP 456 455**

*On behalf of*

*Mr. R. Telford*

**FEBRUARY 2006**

**REPORT FOR** Mr. R. Telford  
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## **Summary**

*A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the ground work for building work on land north of Pennybuckle Cottage, near Church Close, Great Bourton. The investigation revealed numerous garden and natural features, but no archaeological remains.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The proposed development site lies in the centre of the village of Great Bourton just to the north of All Saints Church (NGR SP 456 455). The site lies at about 145m OD and the underlying geology is Marlstone.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Cherwell District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a two storey, four bedroom dwelling with garaging and access via shared access off Church Close (04/01036/F). Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition was attached requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the period of groundworks. This is in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan Policies.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The development site lies within the historic core of Great Bourton. A settlement known as 'Burton' of 'tun by a burgh' is mentioned in 1209-12, with the first reference to Great Bourton in 1265. There is no separate survey of Great Bourton in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but it is thought to have been part of the Bishop of Lincoln's Cropredy Manor. As the site is located in the centre of the village it is considered that it is likely to have acted as a focus for the development of the early settlement.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record any evidence of early medieval and later settlement activity.

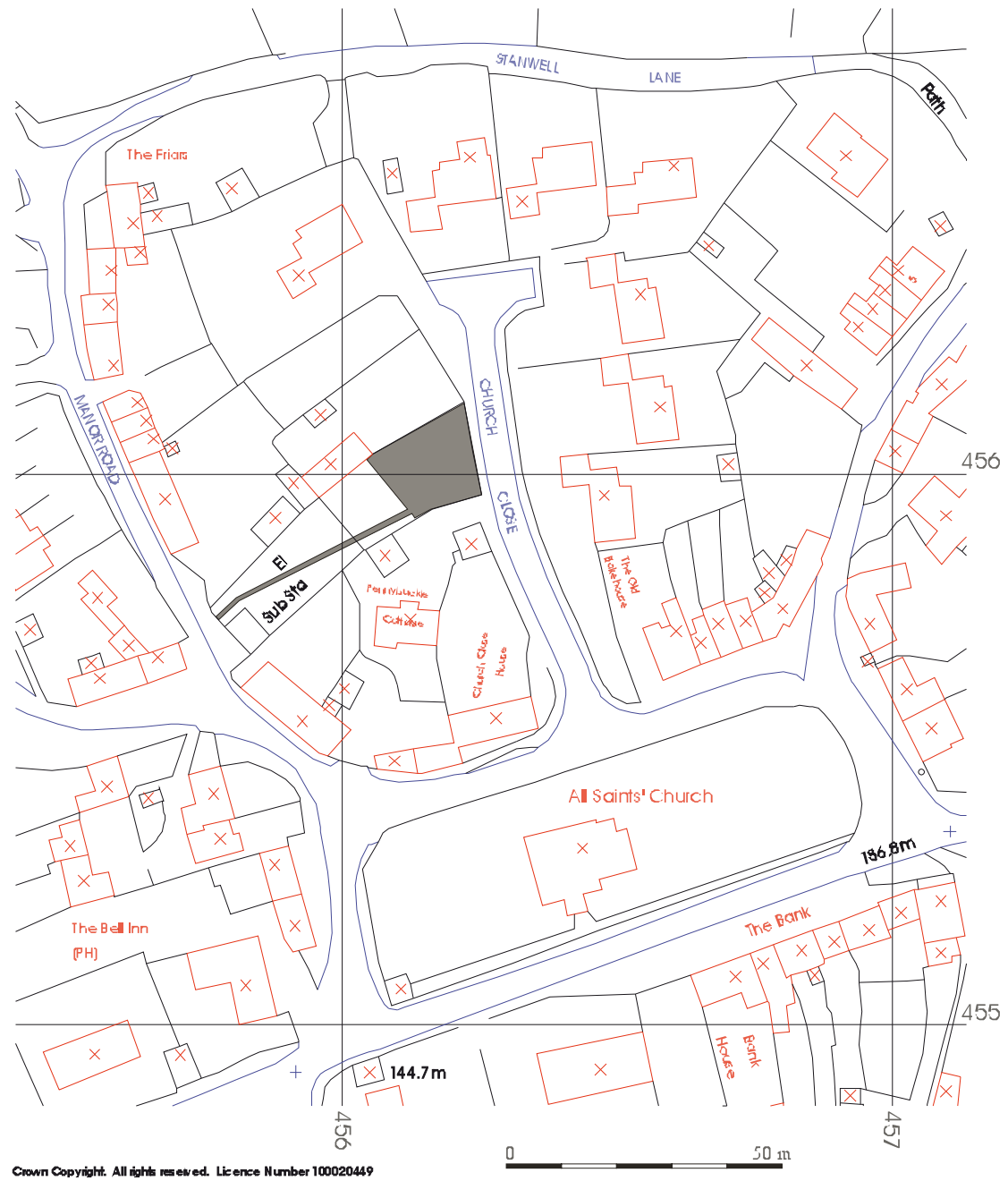


Figure 1. Site location.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services. 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 of Field Archaeologists (1994).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The ground reduction and excavation of the foundation and service trenches was monitored. This work was conducted using a 6 ton tracked 360° excavator.

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

All features were assigned individual context numbers. This number covered both the feature cut and the fill for pits, unless the feature was sample excavated by hand. Context numbers in [ ] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material. A general description of the feature fills is given.

The upper layer consisted of a yellowish brown silty loam with some (10%) stone and brick (1). This was up to 0.15m thick and contained material of a modern date with finds of rubber, plastic and 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Below this was an olive brown clay sub-soil (2) that was on average 0.5m thick. It also contained 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It was shallower towards the west of the site near the Electricity substation (Fig. 1). In patches under this layer was what appeared to be a buried soil (6), this was a dark brown-grey silty loam. It was up to 0.2m thick and filled animal burrows and tree throws and lay directly on top of the natural.

The natural in the area was yellow-brown to orange-brown sandy clay (3). In places it was banded with grey clay and at approximately 1.8m below ground surface were outcrops of rock.

A stone wall (4) was removed that ran south-east to north-west across the site. It was only 0.2 – 0.3m high. The footings of which rested upon the footing of a modern concrete wall to the north of the site. A dog burial was located just the west of this wall.

To the east of the site an elongated oval pit or short ditch [5] was located. It was 3m long and 0.6m wide and filled with a dark brown silty loam containing some pottery and brick fragments. This was cut into the sub-soil (2).

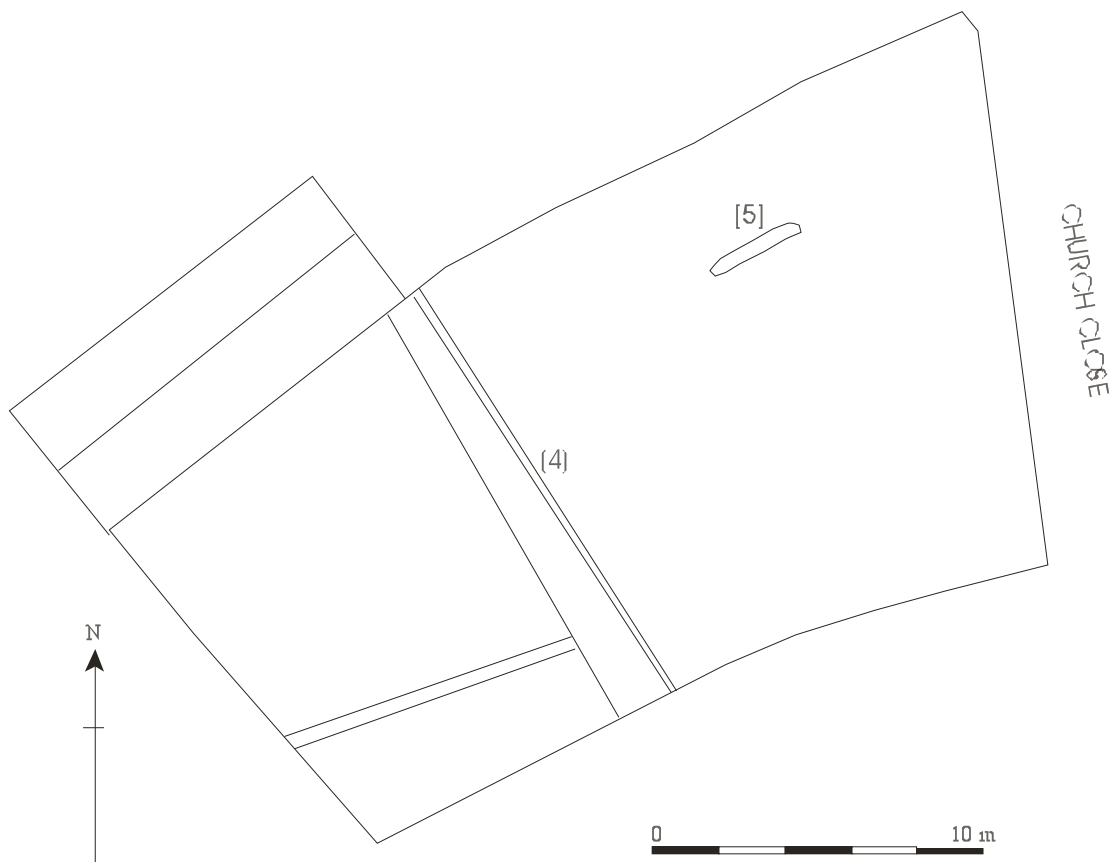


Figure 2. Plan of the eastern area.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery

Sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century white industrial wares (WHEW) were noted from (1) and (2). One residual sherd of red earthen ware (OXDR) dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards was recovered from the fill of [5]. The glaze on this sherd would suggest a later date, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century (Mellor 1984; 1994). No sherds were retained.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The watching brief uncovered no archaeological features. The only features located were modern, including a garden wall (4), pit [5] and a dog burial.

The buried soil (6) is likely to be associated with either a garden or common ground. The presence of animal burrows suggests it was not subject to too much human activity.

## 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

Finds contents list

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services, before being deposited with the Oxfordshire County Council Museums Resource Centre.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Revised Sept 1999

Mellor, M, 1984 A summary of the key assemblages. A study of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other finds from fourteen pits, dating from the 16th to the 19th century in TG Hassall, CE Halpin and M Mellor, Excavations at St Ebbe's *Oxoniensia* **49**, 181-219

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