



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION ON LAND OFF SCHOOL LANE,
CROPREDY, OXFORDSHIRE**

NGR: 4681 4604

On behalf of

Mr Stuart King

JUNE 2012

REPORT FOR Mr Stewart King

PREPARED BY Paul Riccoboni AIFA

EDITED BY John Moore MIFA

ILLUSTRATION BY Andrej Čelovský

FIELDWORK 6th- 7th June 2012

REPORT ISSUED 14th June 2012

ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

Site Code CRSL 12

JMHS Project No: 2642

Archive Location The archive is currently held by JMHS and will be deposited with Oxford Museum Services in due course with Accession Number: awaited

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	1
3 STRATEGY	3
3.1 Methodology	3
4 RESULTS	3
4.1 Excavation Results	3
4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results	5
5 FINDS	5
6 DISCUSSION	5
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
Table 1; Summary of Excavation Results	6
Table 2; Trench co-ordinates	6
FIGURES	
Figure 1 Trench location	2
Figure 2 Trench 1- looking east	6

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a marina on land off School Lane, Cropredy, Oxfordshire (Planning Ref: 11/01069/F). Seven trenches, totalling approximately 210 metres in length were excavated to the underlying natural geology. There were no archaeological features or deposits in any of the trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location and Geology (Figure 1)

The site is located to the south of Cropredy, east of the Railway and on the western Bank of the Canal (SP 4681 4604). The land is currently undeveloped and the geology is shown as White Limestone Formation. The site lies at approximately 102m above OD.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new marina at Cropredy. The permission has been granted with a condition requiring a staged programme of archaeological investigation. This is in line with the NPPF and Local Plan Policies. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared a *Brief* for the first stage of the programme of archaeological work, namely field evaluation. This was followed by a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS 2012), which outlined the method by which the work was carried out in order to achieve the aims of the evaluation.

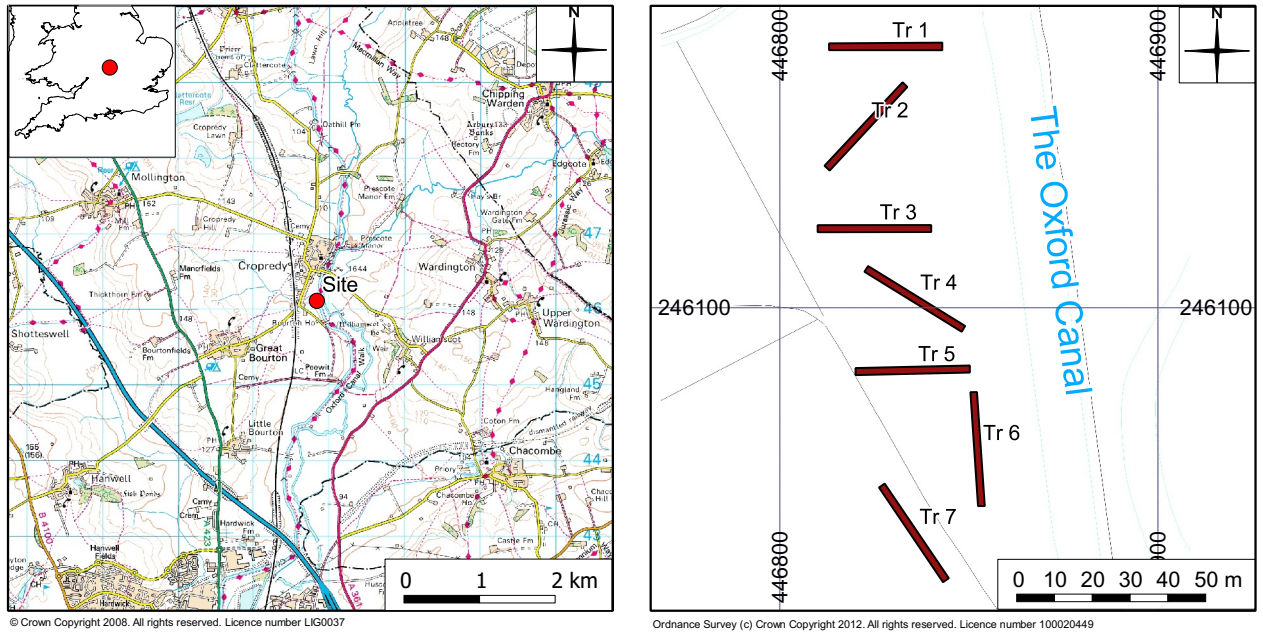
1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located in an area where little archaeological research has been carried out. The site is 400m east of the site of an undated enclosure recorded as a cropmark (PRN 10574). The cropmark is partly masked by later ridge and furrow which can also be seen in the surrounding fields and could therefore mask further cropmarks in the area. The site is also located approximately 80m SW of the registered battlefield of Cropredy Bridge. The Battle of Cropredy Bridge was a battle of the English Civil Wars, fought on 29 June 1644 between a parliamentary army under Sir William Waller and the Royalist army of King Charles. After a Parliamentarian attack on the Royalist rearguard was repulsed, Waller's army became demoralised and ineffective, allowing the King to retrieve the Royalists' fortunes after other defeats during the earlier part of the year.

2.0 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

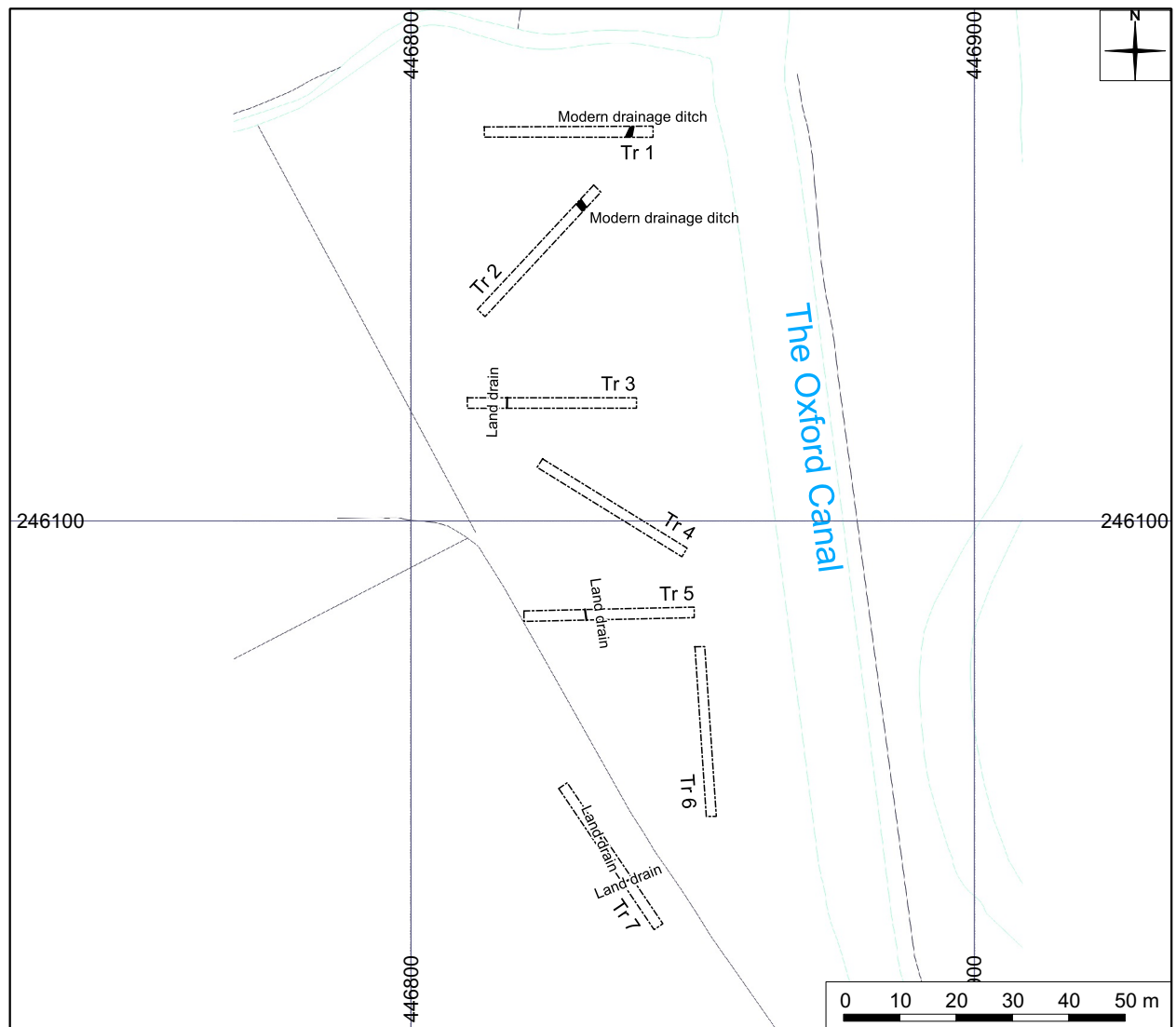
The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered



© Crown Copyright 2008. All rights reserved. Licence number LIG0037

Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449



Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449

Figure 1. Site location

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

In particular the aim was to:

- To establish whether features relating to the known cropmark activity in the area extend onto this site

3 STRATEGY

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).

3.1 Methodology

The trenching sample required was achieved through the excavation of seven trenches (1.8m 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 levelled in relation to a spot height of 102m on station road and backfilled after recording.

The Planning Archaeologist Richard Oram for OCC monitored the work.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Excavation Results (Figure 1; Figure 2)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material.

The excavation produced no archaeological features or finds and the stratigraphic sequence in each trench was very similar with natural clay at the base of the trench overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits. All of the trenches were 30m in length and 1.8m wide. A summary of results is given in Tables 1 and 2 after the Bibliography.

Trench 1 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.52m (102.10m OD) at the eastern end and 0.42m (102.16m OD) at the western end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was c. 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks.

The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.48m (102.03m OD) at the north-eastern end and 0.36m (102.15m OD) at the south-western end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was *c.* 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks. The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

Trench 3 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.46m (102.09m OD) at the eastern end and 0.42m (102.09m OD) at the western end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was *c.* 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks. The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

Trench 4 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.38m (102.13m OD) at the north-western end and 0.41m (102.02m OD) at the south-eastern end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was *c.* 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks. The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

Trench 5 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.61m (102.11m OD) at the eastern end and 0.45m (102.13m OD) at the western end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was *c.* 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks. The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

Trench 6 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.39m (102.05m OD) at the northern end and 0.39m (102.01m OD) at the southern end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was *c.* 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks. The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

Trench 7 (Fig 1)

This trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.56m (102.15m OD) at the north-western end and 0.57m (102.02m OD) at the south eastern end. The earliest deposit encountered was the light brownish yellow clay silt natural clay with rare gravels (03). Overlying the natural was *c.* 0.20m thick light brownish grey sandy silt (02) with occasional charcoal flecks. The latest deposit was *c.* 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (01). There were no archaeological features or deposits in this trench.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The excavation of the trench took place in favourable weather conditions, which turned inclement on day two.

5 FINDS

There were no finds of archaeological interest recovered from the excavations. Only modern finds of early 20th century date were observed in topsoil connected with the dredging of the canal. These were not retained.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

The depth of overburden was as expected and preservation of the underlying natural geology was relatively undisturbed. The results of the evaluation suggest that not much modern disturbance has taken place on the land, with only field drains present. There were no archaeological features identified across the entirety of the new development site and there was no evidence of the civil war battle for Cropredy Bridge. There was a bank created from upcast from the canal and this had spread into the area of Trench 6 apparent in the topsoil. Some modern finds of early 20th date were photographed but not retained.

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 Written Scheme of Investigation. A confidence rating is high that the best possible results were achieved.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1994. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Revised 1999*

John Moore Heritage Services 2012 *Land off School Lane, Cropredy, Oxfordshire; Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*. Author Dave Gilbert

OCC 2012 Land off School Lane, Cropredy Revised Brief Design; Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Author Richard Oram.

Table 1; Summary of Excavation Results

Trench	Topsoil (depth in metres) (01)	Subsoil (depth in metres) (02)	Features	Date
1	0.10-0.20	0.20	Field Drain	Modern
2	0.20	0.32	None	/
3	0.25	0.25	None	/
4	0.21	0.22	None	/
5	0.20	0.20	Field Drain	Modern
6	0.25	0.25	None	/
7	0.20	0.20	None	/

Table 2; List of trench co-ordinates

Trench No.	End of trench	Coordinates	End of trench	Coordinates
1	West	E46813 N46169	East	E46843 N46169
2	Northeast	E46833 N46159	Southwest	E46813 N46137
3	West	E46810 N46121	East	E46840 N46121
4	Northwest	E46822 N46110	Southeast	E46848 N46094
5	West	E46820 N46083	East	E46850 N46084
6	North	E46852 N46077	South	E46852 N46047
7	Northwest	E46827 N46053	Southeast	E46844 N46028

Figure 2; Trench 1 General shot looking east.

