

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

14 TRENCHARD CLOSE,

WALLINGFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

SU 6042 8905

On behalf of

Mr & Mrs Walton

July 2011

REPORT FOR Mr & Mrs Walton
14 Trenchard Close
Wallingford
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services on the 28th June 2011. No archaeological deposits were encountered other than a gravel quarry probably of the 20th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located at the east end, and on the northern side, of Trenchard Close, Wallingford (NGR SU 6042 8905). The development area is currently in use as part of the garden. The underlying geology is First Terrace River Gravel deposits.

1.2 Planning Background

South Oxfordshire District Council had granted planning permission for a two storey side extension at 14 Trenchard Close, Wallingford (P10/W1856). Due to the potential presence of archaeological remains a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the permission. This was due to the advice given to South Oxfordshire District Council by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS). A *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlined the method by which the watching brief would be carried out in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The development site lies within an area of archaeological interest. It is just south of the Scheduled Monument of the Saxon Burgh defences. Immediately to the north east of the site is an area of Saxon cemetery (County Historic Environment Record PRN 7791 discovered in the early 20th century during gravel extraction and which was partly excavated in the 1930s. These excavations revealed what appeared to be a substantial cemetery with east-west and north-south aligned graves along with cremations, many with grave goods. It appears that the cemetery dates from the 6th century onwards from the grave goods found. The exact extent of the cemetery is unknown but early reports suggest that several skeletons were found during the building of the school in 1910 (Berkshire Archaeological Journal 1938). It is therefore possible that further aspects of the cemetery could be encountered during this development.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- 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 associated with the Saxon cemetery.

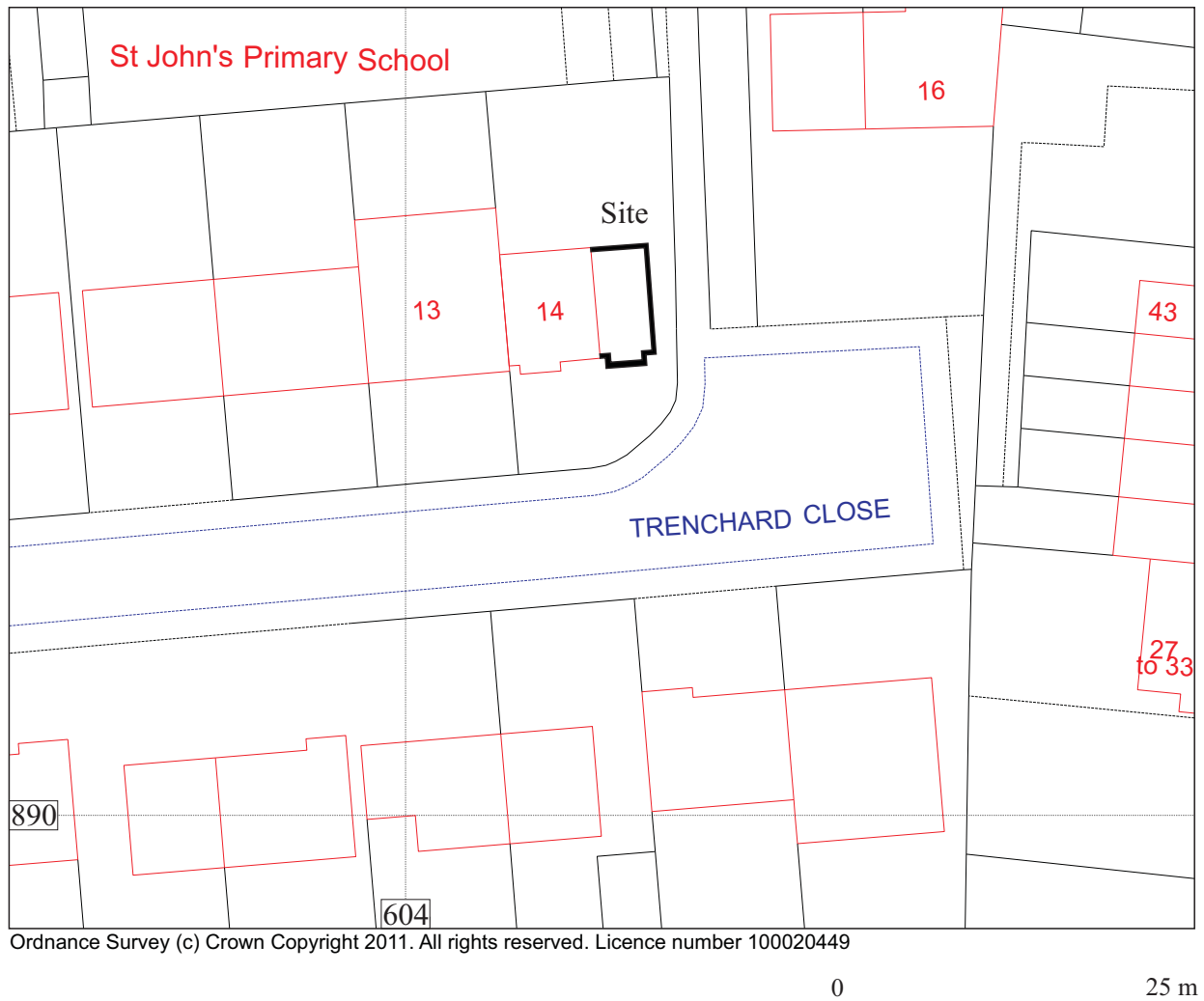
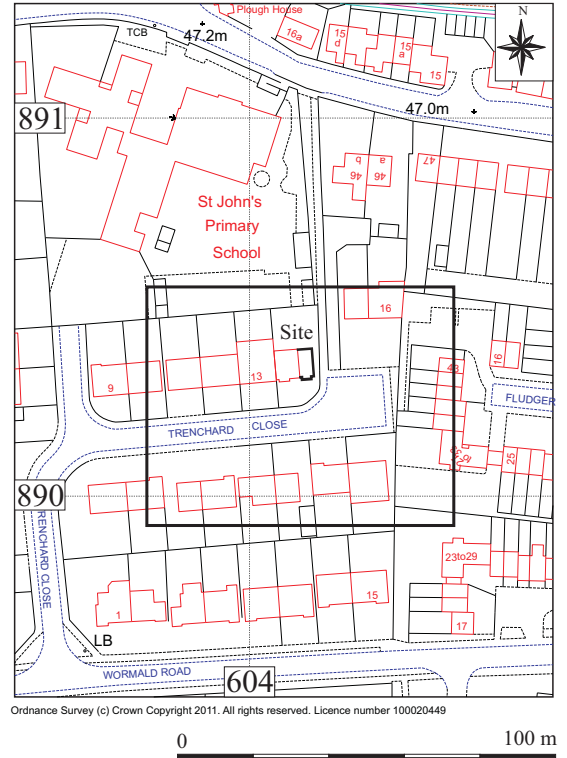
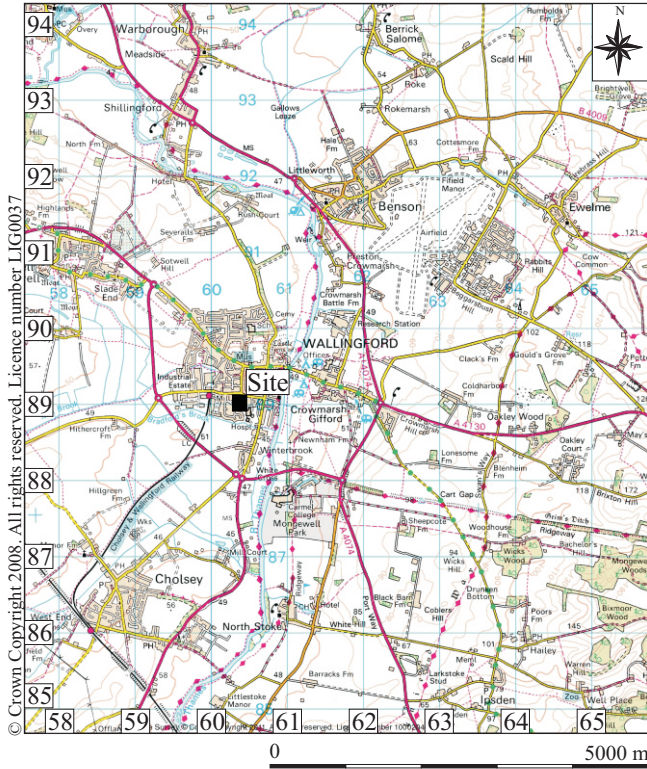


Figure 1. Site location

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994), the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service prepared *Brief* and John Moore Heritage Services *Written Scheme of Investigation* (JMHS 2010).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was on site to observe the excavation of the footings for the new extension.

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.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field Results

(01) was a very compact quarry fill layer, and consisted of a light brown grey clay, containing around 10% brick and 15% stone no larger than 0.10m. It reached a depth of 1.15m and was present across the area observed. No cut to the quarry was seen, although (01) did appear to run under the current house. Underlying (01) was natural (02), the first river terrace gravels. The gravel was no larger than 0.05m and seen across site.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was carried out in good conditions with excellent co-operation from the contractor carrying out the groundworks.

5 FINDS

5.1 Finds

No finds were uncovered.

5.2 Environmental Remains

No features were considered to warrant environmental sampling.

6 DISCUSSION

No archaeological remains or artefacts were uncovered, only the remains of a quarry probably of 20th century origin. Quarry fill layer (01) was seen to run under 14 Trenchard Close, and was most likely used for gravel extraction.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute for Archaeologists. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.