



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**LONG HOUSE, ARDLEY, OXFORDSHIRE**

**SP 5425 2757**

**ADDENDUM**

*On behalf of*

*Wells Developments Ltd.*

**FEBRUARY 2007**

**REPORT FOR** Wells Developments Ltd.  
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## **Summary**

*A Watching Brief was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services at The Long House, Ardley, Oxon. during the excavation of footings for a new house. No archaeological remains were observed during the ground works.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The development site is located on the south side of Ardley Road, west of the junction with Station Road, Ardley (NGR SP 4525 2757). Previously John Moore Heritage Services had conducted a watching brief on the north-western three-quarters of the plot, in April 2006. No archaeological remains were observed during the earlier phase of works. The plot is situate at 118m OD. The underlying geology is Middle Jurassic Limestone.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Cherwell District Council granted planning permission under application number 04/02550/OUT for the demolition of the pre-existing dwelling and the erection of five new dwellings on this site. A condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a watching brief during groundworks. The first phase of this was carried out in April 2006, the second was undertaken on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared a *Brief* for the work. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was submitted by John Moore Heritage Services detailing how the requirements of the *Brief* would be met.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Investigations at the Corner Garage south of the site revealed a sunken roadway and ditches (SP 5427 2751) related to the shrunken medieval village (Event EOX 1369/HBSMR 16826). Extensive earthworks (SP 542 275) are also visible to the south of the site (HBSMR 1159 & 9015). Roman finds (HBSMR 2525) have been recovered from a nearby garden (SP 5434 2748).

## **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 remains associated with the medieval settlement

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with OCAS. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record throughout, 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) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored. The work was undertaken by a JCB excavator using a 700mm bucket to dig the footings.

### **4 RESULTS**

As no archaeology was observed and the topsoil, subsoil and natural were as seen in the first phase of excavations the context numbers for these have been retained, and can referred to in the original watching brief report.

Topsoil (1) covered the site, measuring a depth of c. 0.3m. This overlay the sandy clay (2), 0.2m thick, which in turn sealed the natural (3). This was observed in all the trenches of the building, and in the two soakaways excavated to the rear of the plot. The foundation trenches measured approximately 0.7m wide and 0.7m deep. They extended 7.5m across the front of the property and 9.5m deep.

### **5 DISCUSSION**

The second phase of watching brief carried out at The Long House failed to reveal any further archaeological remains.

### **6 Bibliography**

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* Revised September 1999