



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
HEYFORD MANOR, CHURCH LANE,
LOWER HEYFORD, OXFORDSHIRE**

SP 4844 2486

On behalf of

Victoria Macnamara

JANUARY 2014

REPORT FOR Victoria Macnamara
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Church Lane
Lower Heyford
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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 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
4 RESULTS	3
6 DISCUSSION	5
7 ARCHIVE	5
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
 FIGURES	
Figure 1 Site location	2
 PLATES	
Plate 1 Western view of outbuilding	3
Plate 2 Eastern view of western foundation trench	4
Plate 3 Eastern view of site	4

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services conducted a watching brief during excavation of foundation trenches within the footprint of a new extension at Heyford Manor, Church Lane, Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire. No archaeological finds or features were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

Heyford Manor (NGR SP 4844 2486) is located on Church Lane adjacent to the 13th century Parish Church (County Historic Environment Record Number PRN 4684) The extension that was monitored is on the North Wing of the building. The underlying geology is clay, silt and limestone.

1.2 Planning Background

Cherwell District Council has granted planning permission for a new two storey extension to the North Wing, leading through to garden and providing link between existing and new structures and minor alterations, including relocation of existing lightweight partition walls and new openings as well as the removal of chimney (12/016277/F). Due to the potential presence of significant archaeological remains a condition was attached for an archaeological watching brief which was conducted during the groundworks.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located in an area of archaeological potential adjacent to the 13th century Parish Church (County Historic Environment Record Number PRN 4684) and the site of the medieval manor house (PRN 5955). The current house is a grade II listed building and was built in 1669 by William and Elizabeth Bruce and replaced an earlier manor house on the same site (PRN5956). The earlier house is shown on the 1606 map of Lower Heyford by Langdon. This house is shown having three wings to the south, east and west and a larger separate house to the north. It is possible that this development, although small scale, could disturb surviving aspects of the medieval manor.

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, paying particular attention to the possibility of the earlier manor house being present.

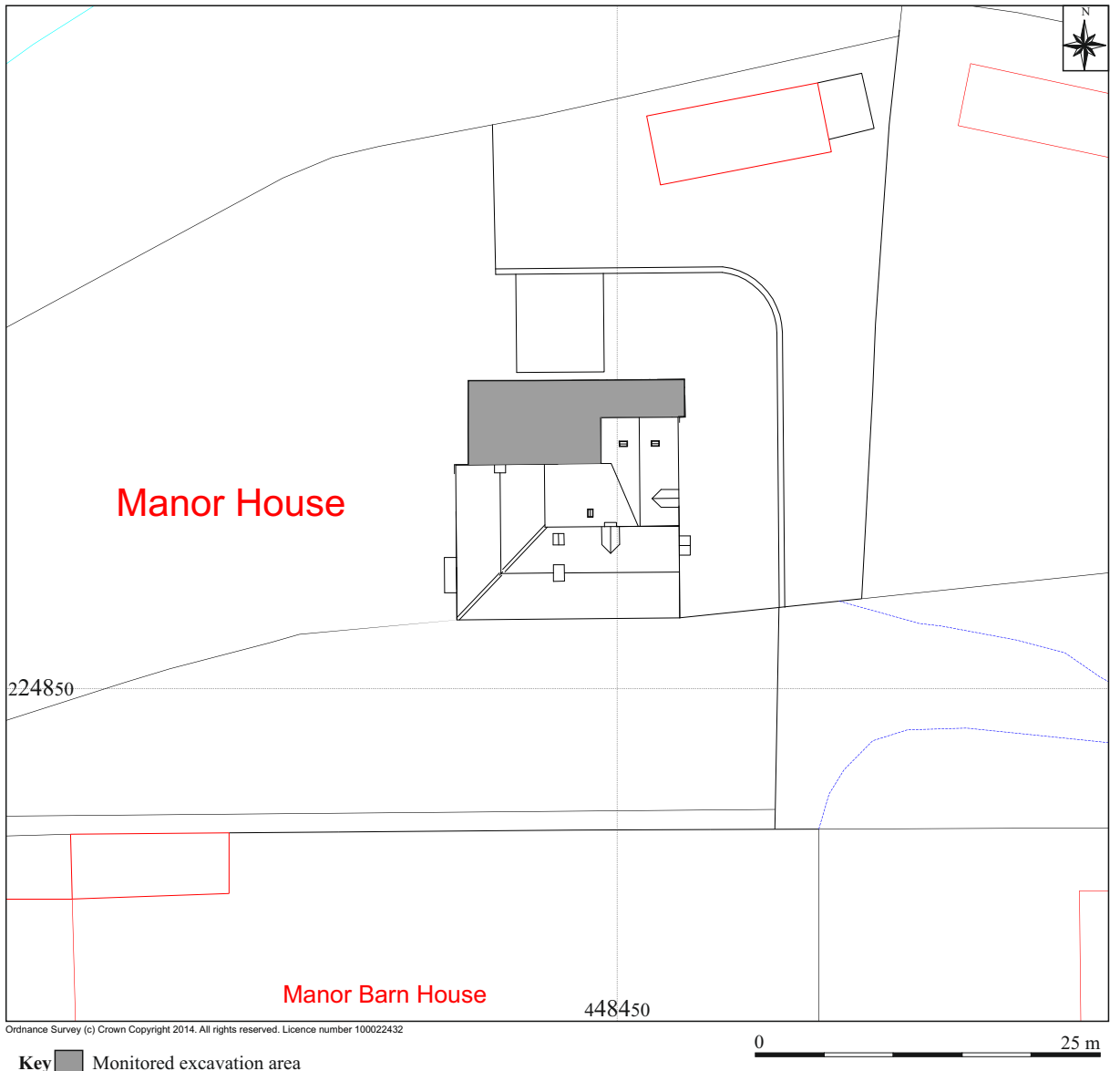
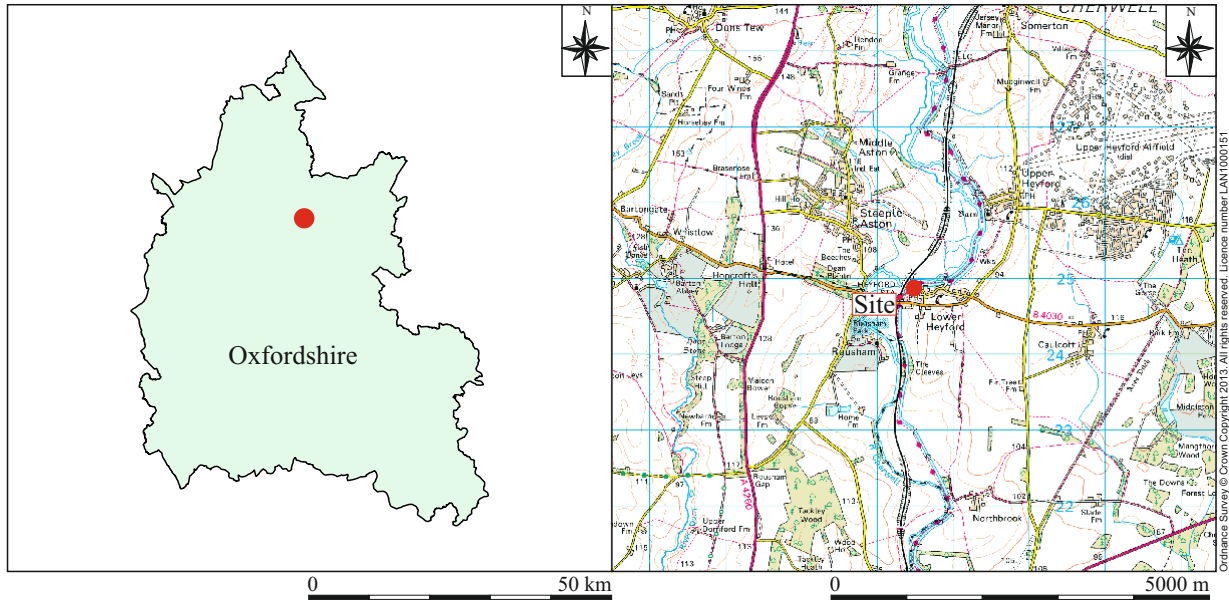


Figure 1: Site location

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the County Archaeological Services (OCAS). 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 for Archaeologists (2008).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of any groundwork that had the potential to reveal or disturb archaeological or historic building remains. This included any ground, excavation for new foundations and any other significant invasive works.

4 RESULTS

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



Plate 1: Western view of outbuilding



Plate 2: Eastern view of western foundation trench

Prior to the excavations an outhouse of 19th or 20th Century date had been demolished along with some garden walls (Plate 1). Topsoil was then removed down to the top of the subsoil. Following the stripping of the area, excavation of foundation trenches was carried out to a depth of up to 0.8m. Towards the west of the site the uppermost context (01) was a silty, slightly loamy mid brown garden soil that was 0.1m thick. This overlaid a subsoil layer (03) an orange brown sandy silty loam with frequent limestone inclusions that was 0.2 to 0.4m thick (Plates 2 and 3). Towards the eastern end of the site (03) was overlaid by layer (02), an ashen layer of dark grey and brown sandy silty loam with frequent limestone and cinder inclusions (Plate 3). Below context (03) context (04) was a natural layer of very hard orange sandy clay with an abundance of limestone (Plate 4). A stone slab was found in western foundation trench near the surface and was probably part of the recently demolished outbuilding.



Plate 3: Eastern view of site

5 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features were discovered except for a limestone slab that was related to the demolished building.

6 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site records

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to Oxfordshire Museum Services with accession number OXCMS: 2013.53.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*