

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**1 CRISPIN PLACE,
WALLINGFORD, OXFORDSHIRE**

SU 6053 8924

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

On behalf of

Mrs A Chambers

AUGUST 2014

REPORT FOR Mrs A Chambers
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 1 Crispin Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, during the excavation of foundation trenches for a building extension. The excavation revealed services, modern brick soakaways and the remains of a garden pond filled with bricks and concrete. No other features of archaeological interest were identified and no finds were identified during the excavations.

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

The site of the proposed development is located to the west of Goldsmiths Lane in the centre of Wallingford (NGR SU60538924). The site lies at approximately 45m OD and the geology is 1st (Flood Plain) Terrace Deposits. The site currently is in use as a garden.

1.2 Planning Background

South Oxfordshire District Council has granted planning permission for part two storey, part single storey side and rear extensions (P13/S1835/HH). Due to the potential for the work to disturb archaeological deposits planning conditions have been attached to the permission requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief with the requirement that the appointed archaeologist is present during excavations. This is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Oxfordshire Historic and Natural Environment Team (OHaNET) have produced a Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief and a Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2014) outlines 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 building concerned lies within an area of some archaeological interest located within the defended Saxon town. Parts of the Saxon town and defences are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 182 & SM 234) which is located 40m to the west of this site. Medieval pits were recorded during a watching brief 57m to the NW (PRN 26219) and an excavation recorded a medieval building within the Kine Croft in 2008 (PRN 26346). Medieval burials have also been recorded 100m SE of the site (PRN 7805) which are thought to relate to the lost St Rumbold's Church (PRN 7805) thought to be located in an area 150m to the SE of this proposal. Despite the small scale of the development it is possible that medieval and possibly Saxon remains could survive on the site which may hold important evidence for the development of the town.

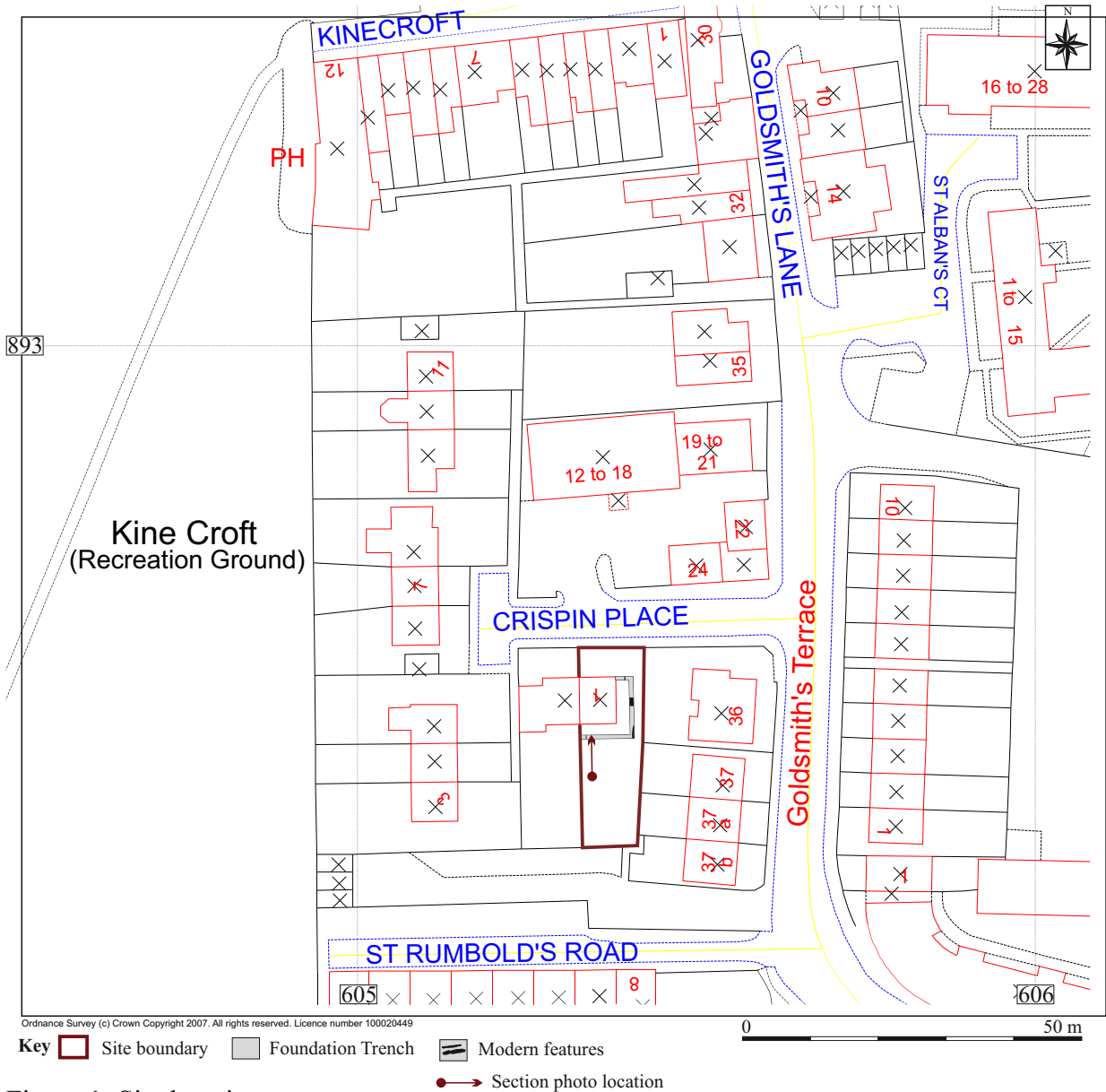
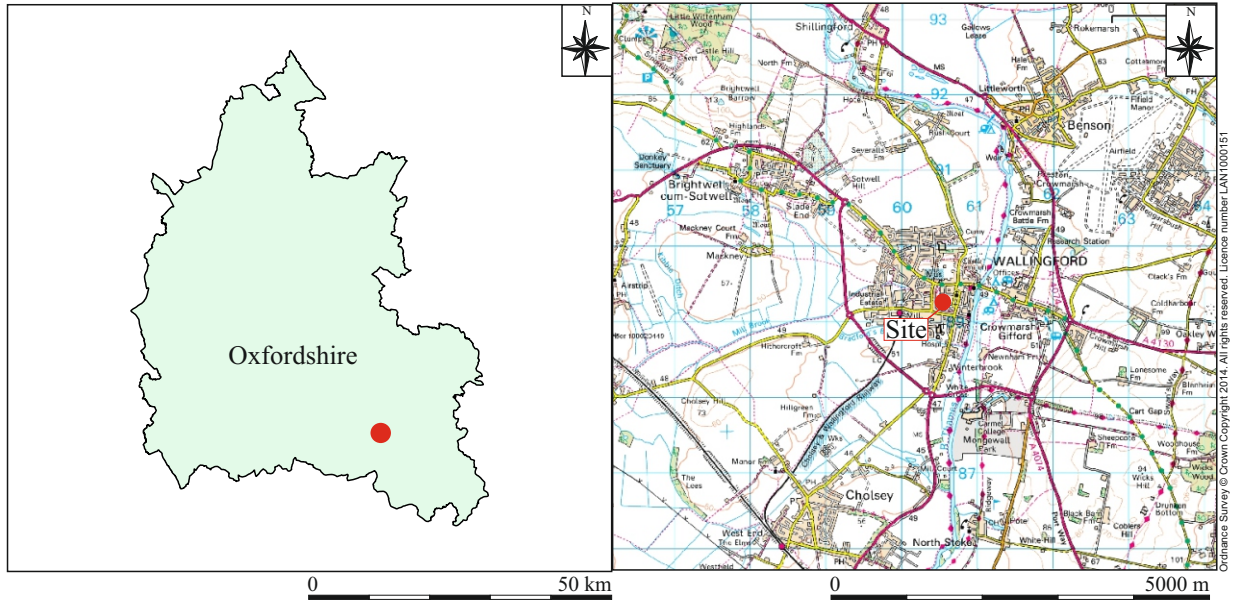


Figure 1: Site location

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 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 relating to medieval and possible Saxon remains known in this part of Wallingford.

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 photographs, 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 remains.

Any archaeological deposits and features revealed were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan before being excavated and recorded at an appropriate level. Any archaeological features or other remains i.e. concentrations of artefacts, were recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. Where archaeological features were exposed during any ground reduction but otherwise were to remain unaffected they were to be recorded only by plan and written description with any surface finds collected. Where remains were to be impacted on then they were sample excavated. All artefacts were to be collected and retained except for concentrations of building material where a representative sample were to be kept.

4 RESULTS (Plate 1)

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in brackets () show feature fills or deposits of material.

The lowest layer was a natural, coarse, mid-orange sand with frequent, small sub angular stones (04). Above (04) was a firm, 0.2m thick mid to dark grey, sandy silty loam with moderate sub angular stone (03). Deposited above context (03) was a 0.5m thick layer of dark grey to black, sandy silty loam (02). Context (02) was a firm layer containing moderate amounts of small sub angular stone. The topsoil (01) was a 0.2m thick, loose, grey loamy silt with moderate small angular stone. Several services and

modern brick rubble soakaways were noted during the excavations. The remains of a garden pond which had been filled with rubble and concrete were identified in the south east corner of the foundation trench. No other features or artefacts were identified.

Plate 1. Section 1



5 FINDS

The topsoil contained a few fragments of brick but no other finds were recovered from any of the contexts.

6 DISCUSSION

There were a number of service pipes and soakaways, and the remains of a garden pond identified during the excavation of the foundation trenches but the excavations did not reveal any features of archaeological interest. No finds of archaeological importance were identified and the only material recovered from the topsoil was a few brick fragments.

7 ARCHIVE

The records will be maintained by John Moore Heritage Services.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

John Moore Heritage Services 2014.P13/S18535/HH-1 *Crispin Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Watching Brief. Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub JMHS document. 3066.