

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AT COLTHORN FARM  
OXFORD ROAD  
OLD MARSTON  
OXFORD**

**SP 5272 0855**

*On behalf of*

*Gina Carver*

**July 2014**

**REPORT FOR** Gina Carver  
Colthorn Farm  
Oxford Road  
Old Marston  
Oxford  
OX3 0PQ

**PREPARED BY** Gavin Davis

**EDITED BY** John Moore

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Gavin Davis

**FIELDWORK** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014

**REPORT ISSUED** 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

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

Tel/Fax 01865 358300  
Email: [info@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto:info@jmheritageservices.co.uk)

**Site Code** July 2014  
**JMHS Project No:** 2964  
**Archive Location** The archive is currently held at John Moore Heritage Services and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service. Accession No. OXCMS:2014.4

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>	
<b><i>SUMMARY</i></b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>	
1.1 Site Location	1	
1.2 Planning Background	1	
1.3 Archaeological Background	1	
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>3</b>	
3.1 Research Design	3	
3.2 Methodology	3	
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>5 FINDS REMAINS</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>7 ARCHIVE</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>6</b>	
 <b>FIGURES</b>		
Figure 1	Site location	2
Figure 2	Trenches and Sections	4
Plate 1	Trench 1. East view	6
Plate 2	Trench 2. West view	6
Plate 3	Section 2.1	6
Plate 4	Section 2.2	6
Plate 5	Section 2.3	7

## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation following a building survey and subsequent demolition of farm outbuildings at Colthorn Farm, Oxford Road, Old Marston, Oxford. Two trenches were excavated and revealed recent demolition layers overlying natural clay, with some surviving topsoil and subsoil. There were several drainage pipes but no other archaeological features were identified.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site is located at Colthorn Farm, on the west side of Oxford Road, Old Marston (NGR SP 5272 0855). The underlying geology is Oxford Clay close to the junction with 2<sup>nd</sup> (Summertown-Radley) Terrace Deposits.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Oxford City Council granted planning permission for demolition of two barns and erection of two new dwellings. Conditions of the permission state that a programme of archaeological work should be carried out in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation. This includes a building recording of the barns prior to demolition followed by an archaeological evaluation.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

Colthorn Farm is located within what would have been the core of the medieval settlement. Prior to the demolition of several farm outbuildings, a level 2 building survey was carried out (JMHS 2014). The survey identified buildings of 19<sup>th</sup> century date with later additions in the Inter War period and during the 1960s and 1970s.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

- 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.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- In particular to establish whether remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement exist on the site.

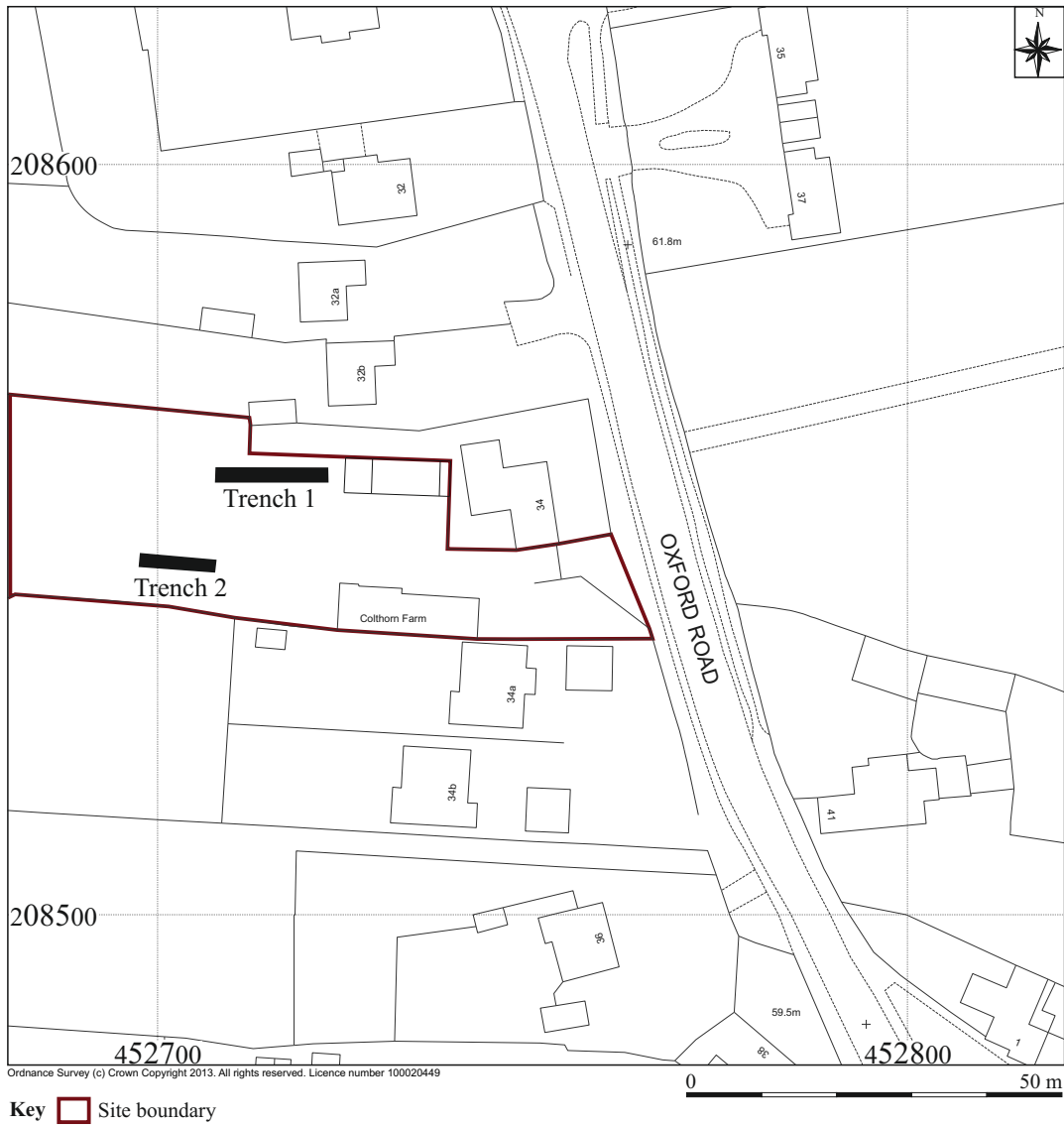
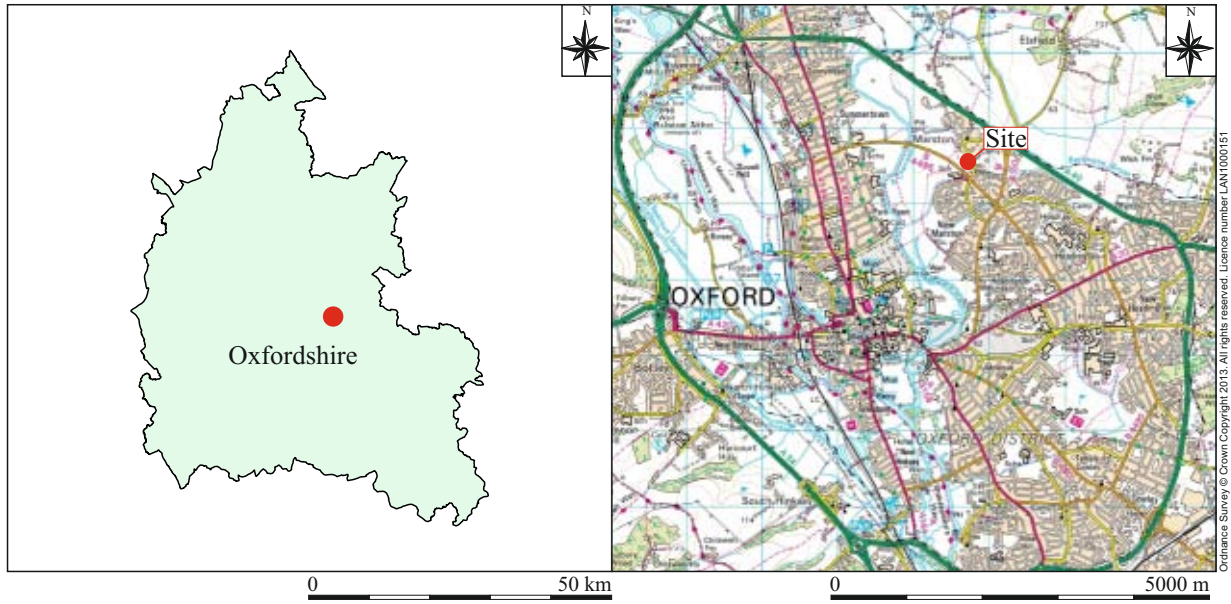


Figure 1: Site location

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxford City Council. 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**

The field evaluation was carried out with the mechanical excavation of two trenches following the demolition of the outbuildings. One trench was 10m long by 1.6m wide and the other 15m long by 1.6m wide.

Excavation was undertaken by a 5 tonne excavator using a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the uppermost archaeological horizon or the natural, whichever was encountered first. Any features and deposits were sample excavated by hand in order to meet the aims as defined above. All archaeological features were recorded by written, drawn and photographic record and all deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers.

### **4 RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2; Plate 1)**

The lowest layer identified in Trench 1 was a grey brown natural clay (1/04). Deposited above this layer but only at the very far east of the trench was context (1/03) a deposit of sub rounded limestone that was 0.14m thick and extended in section for 2m east to west. Deposited above this was a layer of grey brown clay (1/02) containing a small amount of rounded and sub rounded limestone. The layer was 0.25m thick and was identified as redeposited natural clay. Layer (1/02) extended for approximately 3m east to west. Deposited above (1/02) and directly above the natural (1/04) over the majority of the excavated area was a demolition layer (1/01). Context (1/01) was 0.16 m thick and contained a large amount of brick and concrete rubble (Fig 2, Section 1.1). At 7.4m along the trench from east to west a drainage pipe trench was identified cut in N-S direction.

#### **4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 2; Plate 2)**

The lowest layer identified in trench 2 was a natural grey and yellow brown clay (2/03). Deposited above this for 6m at the east end was a 0.04m to 0.1m thick layer of yellow brown clayey loam (2/06). This layer was identified as a truncated subsoil

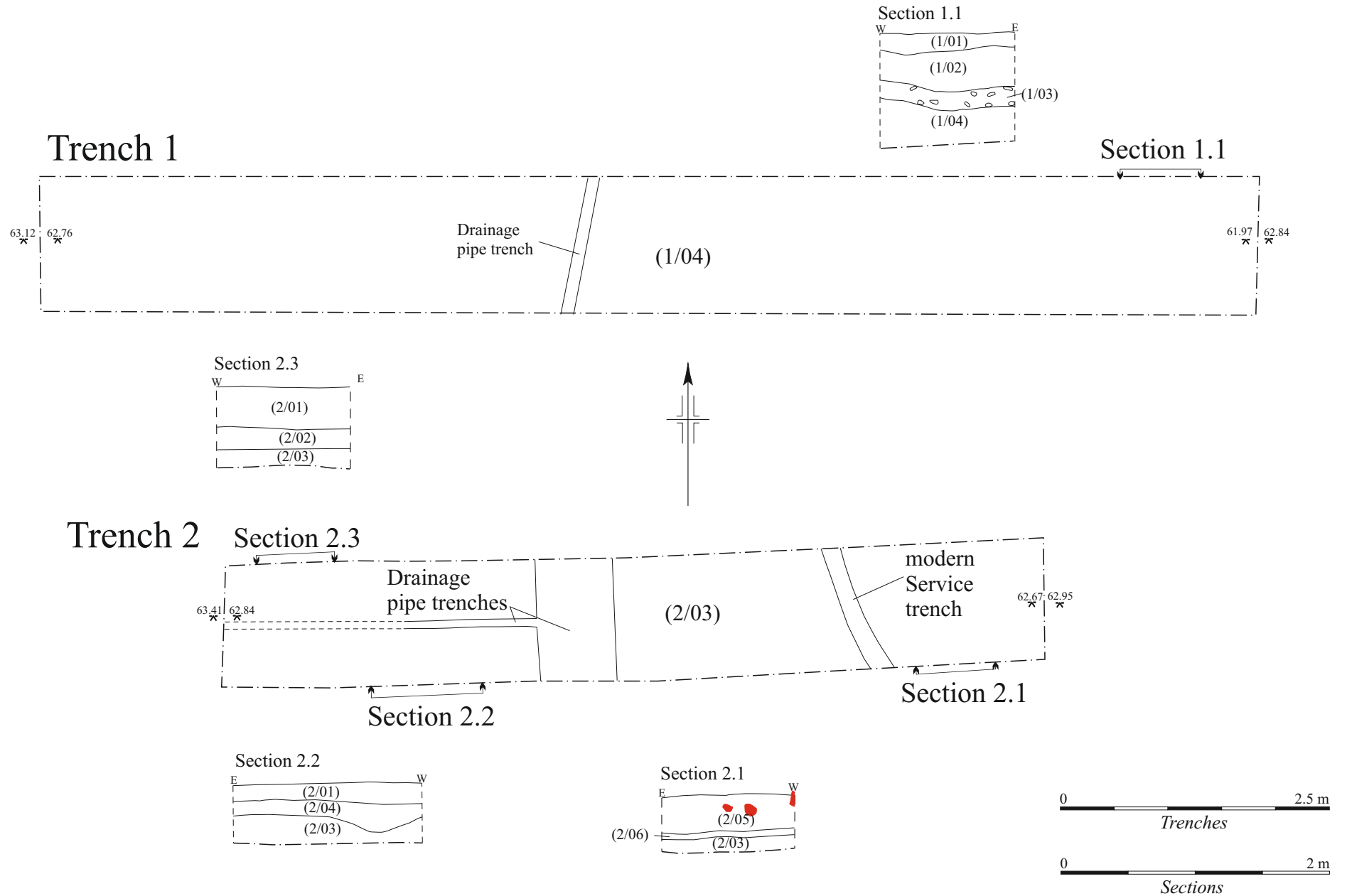


Figure 2: Evaluation trenches and sections

layer. Deposited above this layer was a 0.3m thick layer of recent demolition rubble (2/05). This layer had a high proportion of brick, mortar and concrete rubble and extended 6m from the east end of the trench (Fig 2, section 2.2; Plate 4). In the middle of the trench in the south section a possible cut 2/07 was identified (Fig 2, section 2.2, Plate 3). It was cut into the natural clay, (2/03) and it contained a dark grey gritty layer of clayey silt (2/04). This fill contained fragments of modern white ware pottery and glass. The fill extended beyond the cut forming an isolated layer that was around 1.5m long in section and 0.13m thick and 0.22m thick where it filled 2/07. In the remaining 4m of trench to the west, the natural was overlaid by a surviving subsoil layer (2/02). The layer 0.25 m thick and was composed of a yellow brown clayey soil with patchy inclusions of stone. Deposited above (2/02) was a mid grey brown silty topsoil (2/01). Layer (2/01) was friable becoming more compact towards the lower boundary and 200mm thick (Fig 2, section 2.3; Plate 5).

Several pipe cuts were noted in Trench 2. A wide drainage pipe cut was located towards the centre of the trench cut N-S and running off this was a narrow pipe cut which was cut W-E. At the east end of the trench another linear drainage pipe cut was noted. It contained a sticky dark gritty fill and with modern white ware and plastic.

## 5 FINDS

An item of Victorian stoneware, the base of a glass bottle and fragments of modern white pottery, glass and plastic were identified in the topsoil (2/01) but were not retained. Modern white ware and plastic was recovered from a pipe trench in Trench 2 and white ware and glass were identified from context (4/04). None of the material was considered worthy of retention.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The area of the two evaluation trenches revealed a layer of demolition from the recent destruction of farm outbuildings. This was deposited above a layer of heavily truncated subsoil which in some areas had been totally removed. Trench 2, which straddled the area of the demolished farm yard and the adjacent field, to the west showed a varied stratigraphy with a heavily truncated subsoil below a demolition layer towards the east of the trench and thick subsoil and topsoil at the west end of the trench. No archaeological features were identified.

The possible cut 2/07 may have been a form of field drain predating the farm outbuilding.

## 7 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 Service under accession number OXCMS 2014.4

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute for Archaeologists 2008. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*. Reading: IfA.

John Moore Heritage Services 2014 *Building Assessment on Outbuildings at Colthorn Farm, Oxford Road, Old Marston, Oxford*. Unpublished report



Plate 1. Trench 1 East view



Plate 2 Trench 2. West view



Plate 3. Section 2.1



Plate 4. Section 2.2



Plate 5. Section 2.3