

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**SWINBROOK ROAD, CARTERTON, OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR SP 27619 08535**

*On behalf of*

*CgMs Consulting*

**NOVEMBER 2014**

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**Site Code:** CASR14  
**JMHS Project No:** 3147

**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>
4.1 Evaluation Results	3
4.2 Reliability of Results and Techniques	4
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FIGURES</b>	
<b>Figure 1</b> Site and Trench locations	2
<b>Figure 2</b> Trench Plans and sections	5
<b>PLATES</b>	
<b>Plate 1</b> <i>View to South across Trench 3</i>	4
<b>Plate 2</b> <i>Section Showing Ditch in Trench 3</i>	4

## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services undertook an archaeological evaluation on the 22-23rd October 2014. Seven evaluation trenches were excavated by machine revealing one linear ditch of presumed post-medieval date. No significant archaeological features or finds were recorded.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The archaeological evaluation site is located on the northwest edge of the settlement at Carterton (centred on NGR SP 27619 08535). The site is currently in grass.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning permission for residential development and associated infrastructure works has been granted by West Oxfordshire District Council on Land at Swinbrook Road, Carterton (App No. 13/1752/P/FP). A condition of the permission required a programme of archaeological work. This evaluation formed the first stage of archaeological investigation.

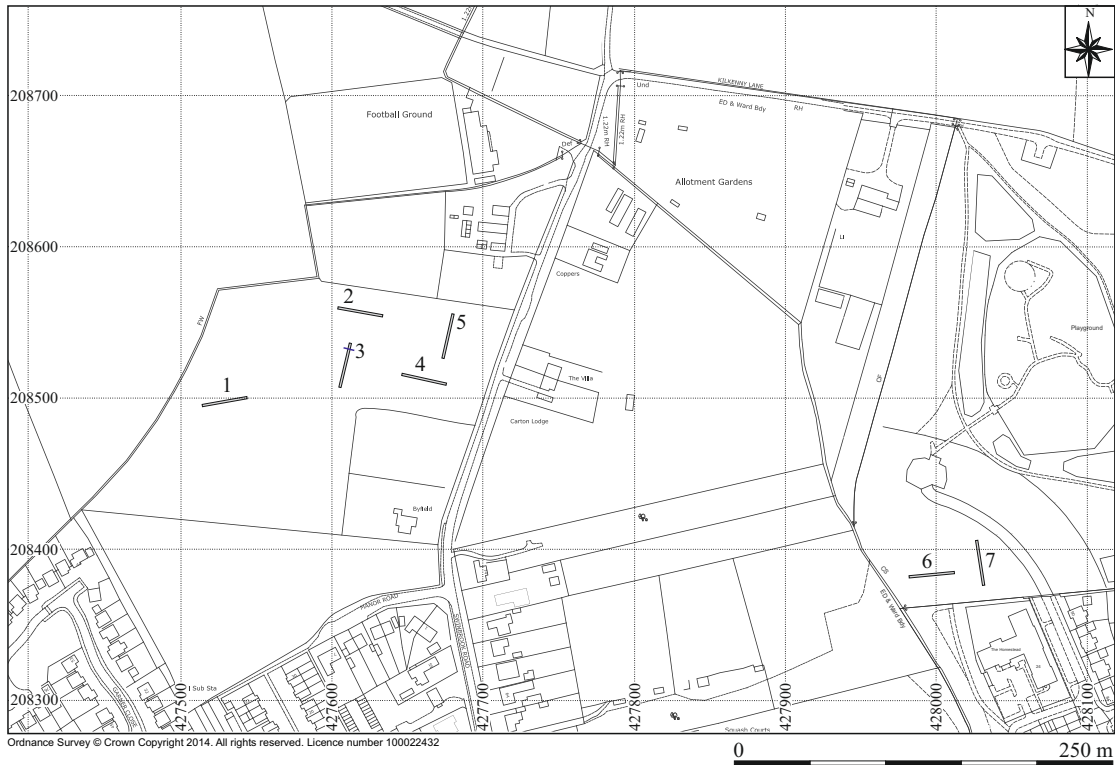
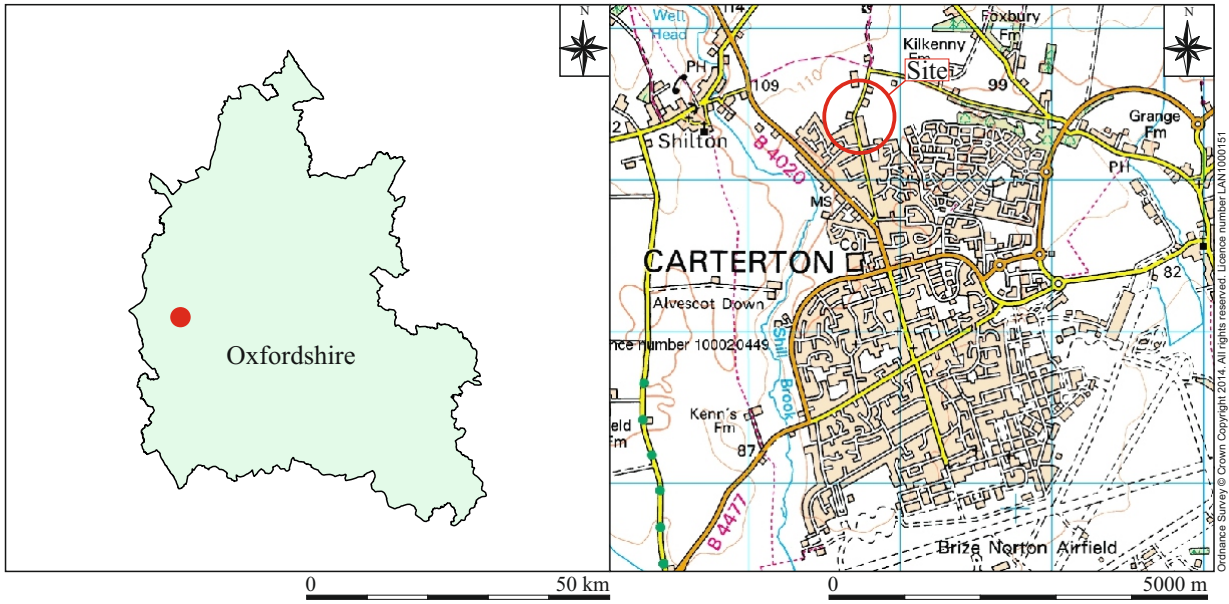
### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

CgMs Consulting (2008) produced an updated Desk-based Assessment that while noting extensive cropmarks to the north and west of the site concluded that there was only moderate potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric and Roman date to be present. This conclusion was in part based on the limited findings of a 2007 evaluation (JMHS) in the area that located minimal and undated archaeological remains. An updated Heritage Statement was produced in 2013 (CgMs) reiterating this conclusion.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The following aims were laid out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation:

- 2.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- 2.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- 2.3 To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- 2.4 In particular:
  - To establish if features related to the nearby cropmarks are present in this area.





Key  Evaluation trenches  Archaeological features

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 Oxfordshire Historic and Natural Environment Team (OHaNET). 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**

The field evaluation comprised of the mechanical excavation of seven trenches, 30m in length. Excavation was by a JCB excavator equipped with a 1.60m wide ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was used to remove topsoil to the uppermost archaeological horizon or geological horizon under direct archaeological supervision. The machine excavation was used only for the removal of non-archaeologically significant material. The resulting surfaces were cleaned and excavated by hand where appropriate to achieve the objectives of the investigation.

### **4 RESULTS (Figure 2)**

All features were assigned individual context numbers. These numbers covered both the feature cut and the fill for one distinct ditch. Context numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material.

#### **4.1 Evaluation Results**

Trenches 1, 2, 5-7 contained no archaeological evidence whatsoever.

##### **Trench 3**

This trench was an N-S aligned trench. The natural geological deposit in the area was a light yellowish brown clay with abundant outcrops of natural limestone (3/02). Above the natural was a moderately compacted topsoil consisting of a dark grey silty clay with a moderate amount of angular and sub-angular small limestone inclusions (3/01). Cut into the natural deposit at the northern end of the trench was a 1.00m wide linear ditch running E-W across the entire width of the trench, 3/03. This contained a compact, reddish-brown slightly silted clay fill, with occasional small angular stone inclusions (3/04). The fill was extremely sterile in nature with a complete absence of charcoal inclusions or archaeological artefacts. This ditch was interpreted as a probable post-medieval field boundary.



**Plate 1-** *View to South across Trench 3*



**Plate 2 –** *Section Showing Ditch in Trench 3*

#### **4.2 Reliability of Results and Techniques**

Conditions were overcast and dry on the day of investigation and the obvious natural layer was easily identifiable with the single feature easily visible. The reliability of the results is considered good.

#### **5 FINDS**

No finds were recovered from any of the trenches or the feature during this investigation.

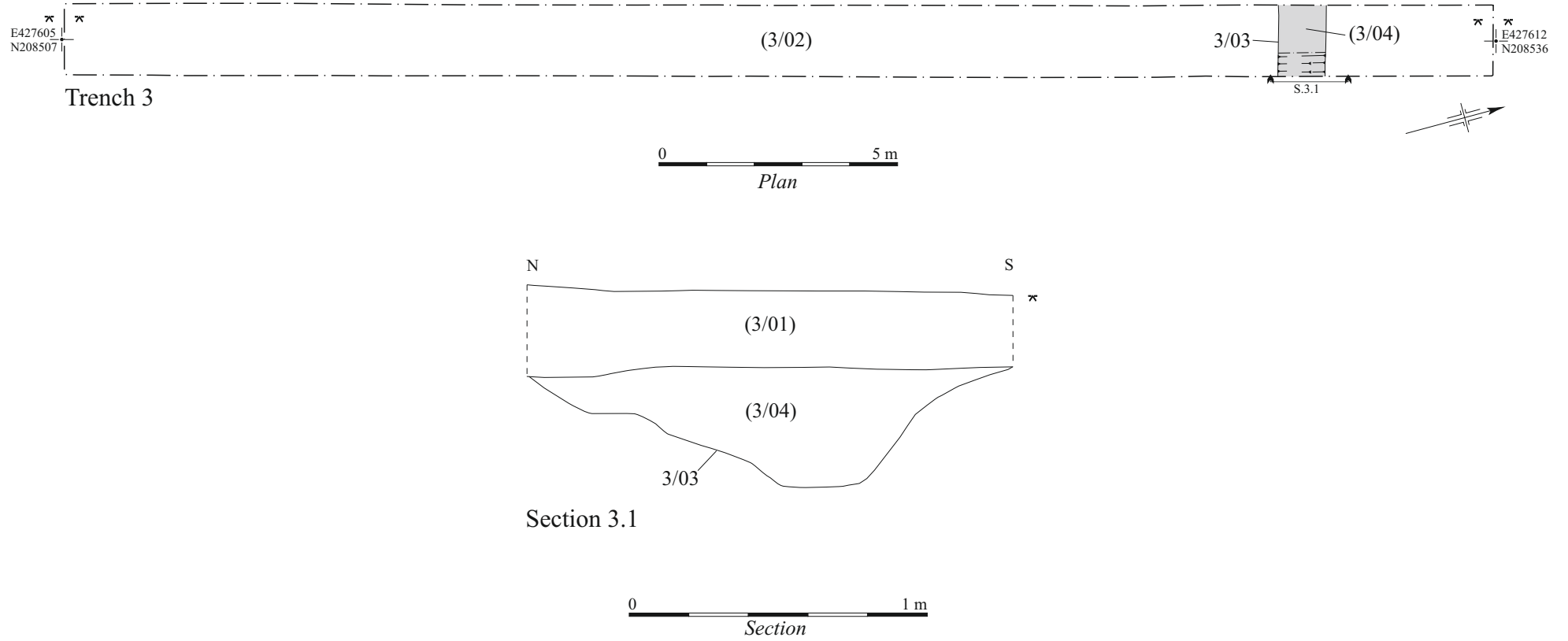


Figure 2: Trench 3 - plan and section



## 6 DISCUSSION

Despite the presumed potential for some remains within the proposed development area no evidence was discovered during this investigation other than the ditch which is of probable post-medieval date.

The impact of the development at this site should not have any adverse effect on any archaeological remains that could be considered significant.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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