

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
44 GATEHAMPTON ROAD,  
GORING-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE**

**(NGR SU 6046380272).**

*On behalf of*

*Mr M Tull*

**JUNE 2015**

**REPORT FOR** Mr M Tull  
44 Gatehampton Road  
Goring-on-Thames  
Oxfordshire  
RG8 0EP

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**FIELDWORK** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015

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**Site Code** GOGR 15  
**JMHS Project No:** 3287

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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief on behalf of Mr M Tull, at 44 Gatehampton Road, Goring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The work was carried out in two visits, between the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Groundworks consisted of the demolition and removal of the previous dwelling and its associated footings, prior to the excavation of footings trenches for a new dwelling. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site lies west of Gatehampton Road, Goring-on-Thames at approximately 51m AOD (NGR SU 6046380272). The geology is Taplow Gravel.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) granted planning permission for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement of 1.5 storey dwelling with associated landscaping and parking (P14/S0611/FUL & P14/S0613/FUL). Due to the possible presence of archaeological features a condition was attached requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the period of ground works. This was in line with the NPPF and Local Plan policies. Oxfordshire Historic and Natural Environment Team (OHaNET), as advisors to SODC, had advised on the scope of work required

A Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS, 2015) was submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council and OHaNET outlining the method by which the watching brief would be carried out in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance or aid the location of future developments.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The area concerned lies within an area of some archaeological interest located 490m NW of the site of a Roman Villa (PRN 15019.04). Excavations initially revealed a corndrier, constructed of tile, flint and chalk. Later excavations have revealed materials indicative of a high status building including hypocaust tiles, mortar floor, opus signinum and tegulae. A Roman coin has been recovered from 130m north of the site (PRN 26241). The site is also located to the north of an area of multi period settlement and ritual site identified from aerial photographs and excavation (PRN 15019). This is an extensive cropmarked and excavated complex, consisting of a Palaeolithic butchering site (PRN 15019.01), Neolithic causewayed enclosure and settlement site (15019.02) and a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (PRN 15019.03). Saxon occupation has also been recorded within the general area (PRN 15019.05). The archaeological background has been taken from OHaNET's advice note.

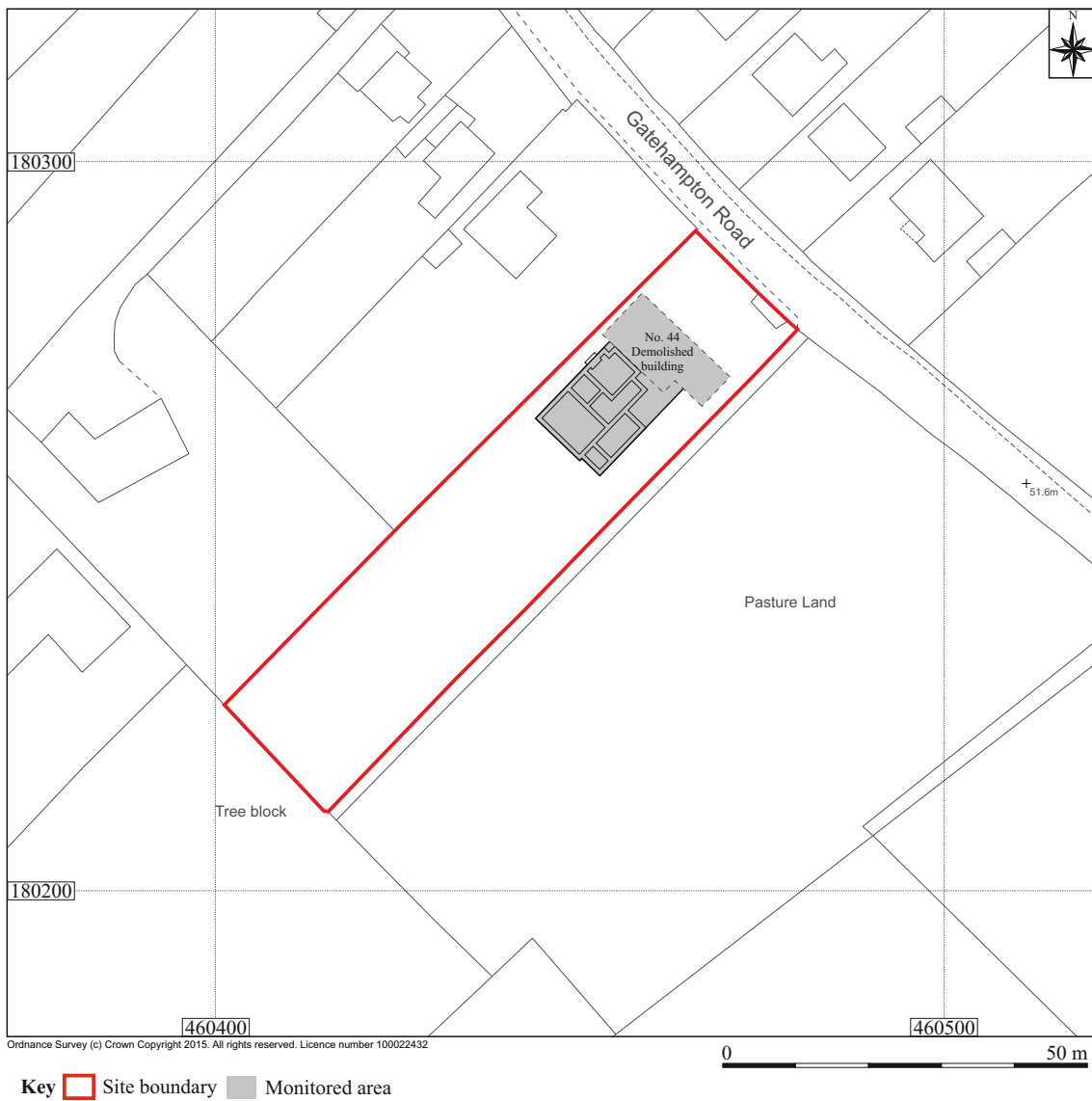
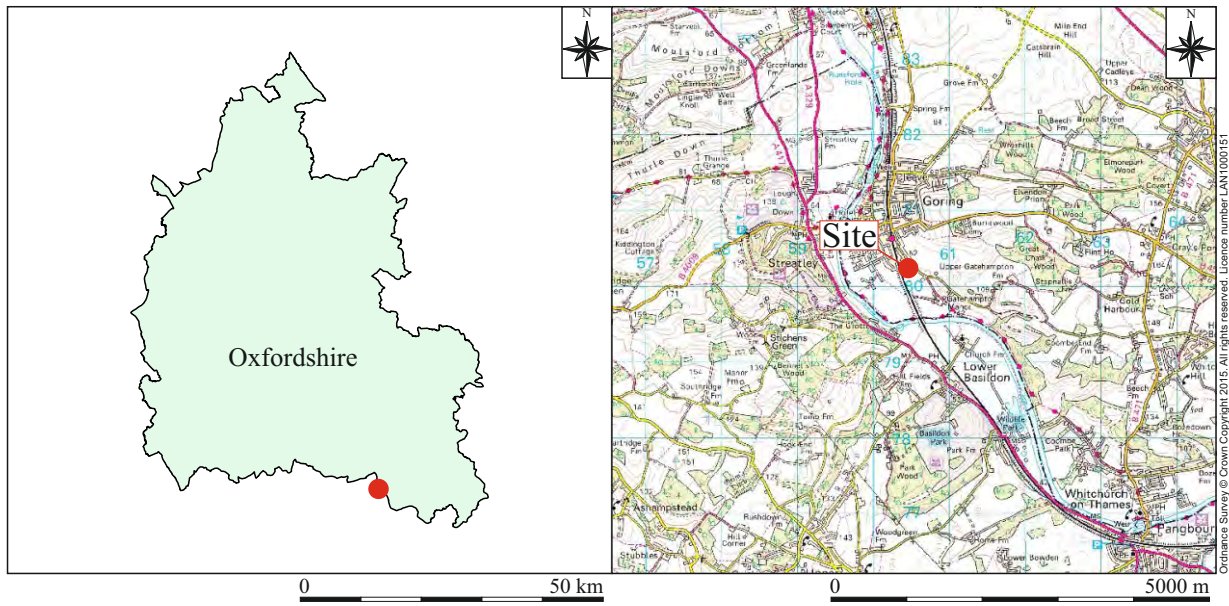


Figure 1: Site location

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were:

- 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 potential features relating to the prehistoric to medieval periods and any later activity in the area. In addition the results would aid the location and methodology for any future applications in the area.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

An archaeologist was to be present on site during the course of all groundwork associated with the development that could potentially impact archaeological remains: including surface stripping, excavation for new foundations and services and test pits.

Archaeological features or other remains i.e. concentrations of artefacts, were to be recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. All artefacts were to be collected and retained except for concentrations of building material, post medieval and later ceramics where a representative sample was to be kept.

### **3.2 Methodology**

An archaeologist was present for the removal of foundations for the now demolished dwelling and the excavation of footings trenches for the new dwelling. The work was carried out with a 13T tracked excavator.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to Pre-historic, Roman and Saxon activity.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014).

## **4 RESULTS**

The geological horizon (3) was observed at a depth of *c.* 0.6m and consisted of mid brown, sandy silt with 15% rounded pebbles.

Overlying the geological horizon was a firm mid dark reddish brown sandy silt, with 20% sub-angular flint and rounded pebbles (5). The deposit varied between 0.2 to 0.3m in thickness, and was found across the whole site. This deposit is interpreted as a naturally accumulated subsoil horizon.

The natural subsoil was overlain by up to 0.3m of mid-dark brown sandy silt (2). This deposit was homogenous in nature and likely to represent an agricultural ploughsoil.

This deposit was overlain by the topsoil (1), a soft dark grey sandy silt loam that varied in thickness between 0.25 to 0.3m. The topsoil was present across the whole site, with the exception of the footprint of the removed dwelling.

A small area of modern made ground (4) was present in the area of the former dwelling, overlying the topsoil.

## **5 FINDS**

No archaeologically significant finds were observed or retained during the course of the watching brief. The upper horizon of deposit (2), and deposit (4) contained frequent brick and tile of modern date.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief. The conditions were dry and the visibility adequate.

The soil depth across the site varied between 0.6 to 0.9m, whilst the geological horizon was sealed by naturally derived subsoil with a maximum depth of 0.3m. This indicates that there is good potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in the immediate area.

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