



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**26 HORSE FAIR,**

**BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR SP453404**

*On behalf of*

*Horsefair Property Management Ltd*

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**REPORT FOR** Horsefair Property Management Ltd  
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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 26 Horse Fair, Banbury (NGR SP453404) between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Ground works consisted of ground reduction and footings trench excavation. A series of features were recorded relating to a period of domestic activity starting in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, possibly associated with the creation and expansion of the planned town in the late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site is located to the rear of 26 Horse Fair, Banbury, at approximately 98m AOD (NGR SP453404). The underlying geology consists of Charmouth Mudstone Formation – a sedimentary Mudstone.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Cherwell District Council granted planning permission (14/02107/F) for the erection of a one and half storey extension to form two flats within the curtilage of 26 Horse Fair, Banbury - re-submission of 13/01841/F. Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site. This was in line with NPPF and Local Planning policies.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site is located within the medieval core of the town, immediately south of the site of the 12<sup>th</sup> century church demolished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and within the medieval road system. An evaluation to the south-east of the site identified medieval features, and a post-medieval well was recorded during a watching brief to the south.

## **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 archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record any evidence relating to the demolished 12<sup>th</sup> century church.

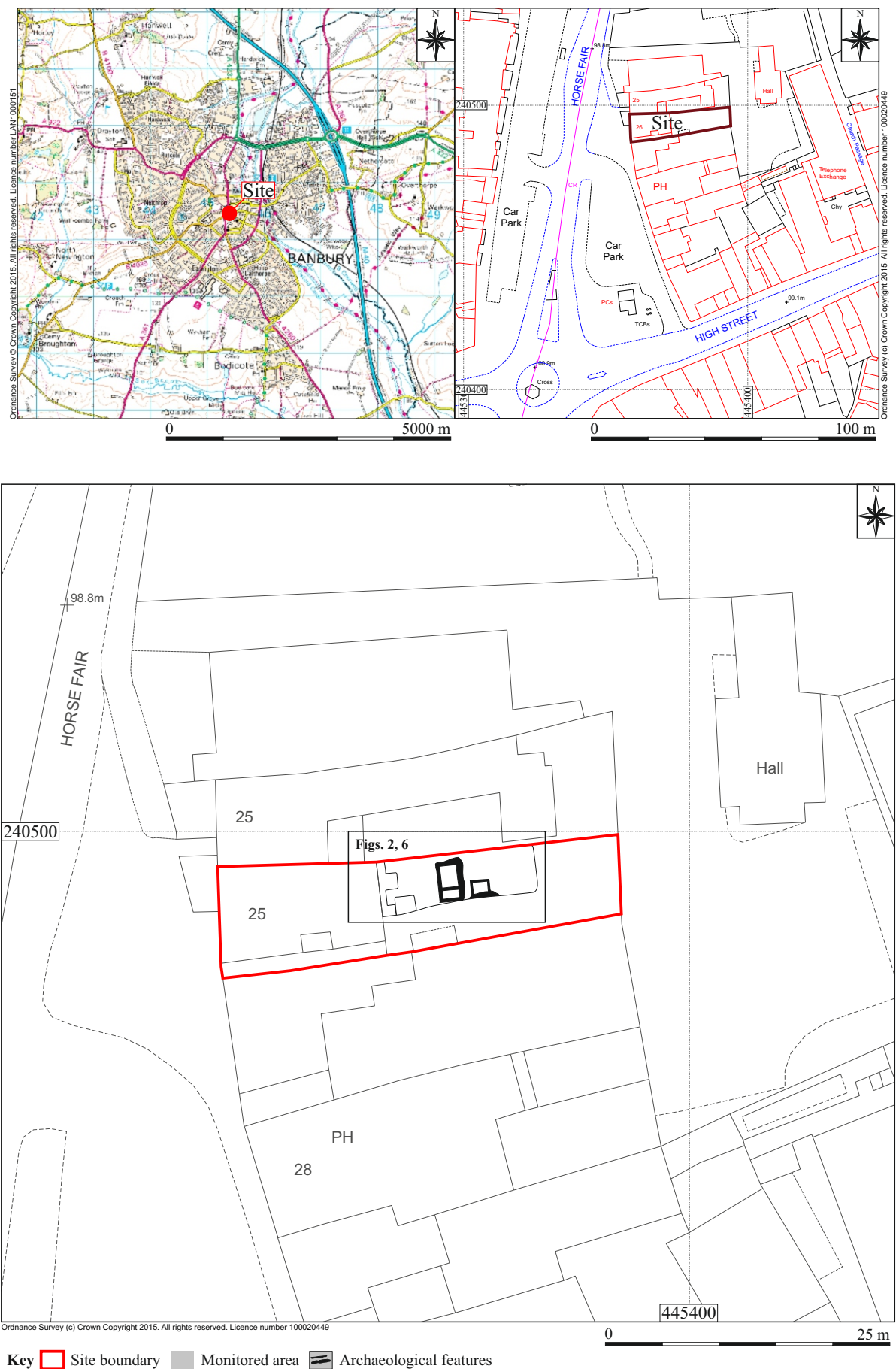


Figure 1: Site location

### **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, the archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

Two phases of work were monitored: the first consisted of the reduction of the overburden within the footprint of the proposed building and the second consisted of the excavation of footings trenches. Initial excavation of the overburden was undertaken by a tracked excavator fitted with a 1m bladed bucket, while the excavation of footings trenches was undertaken with a 0.5m toothed bucket.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand, recorded and excavated appropriately. 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. A photographic record was also produced.

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

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the medieval period.

### **4 RESULTS**

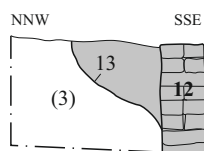
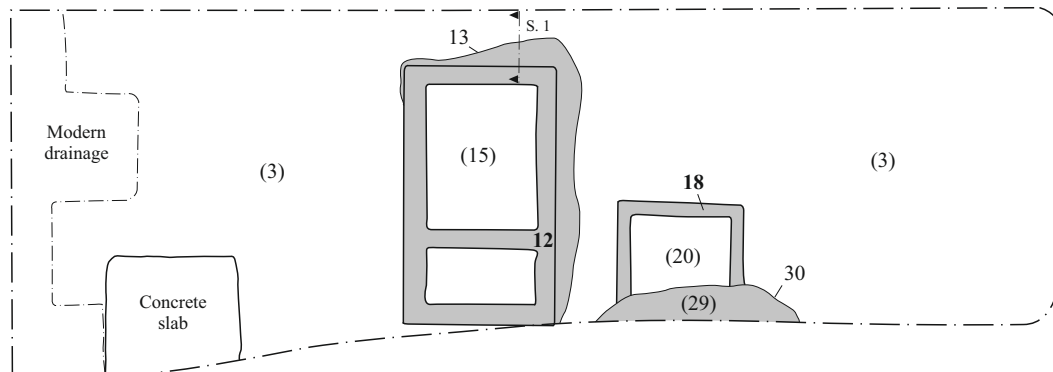
All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

Ground reduction was undertaken within the footprint of the proposed building; an area of 16.5m in length by 4.5m in width. The overburden was reduced by approximately 0.6m; ground reduction was halted when a series of archaeological features and deposits were encountered while they were investigated and recorded. Footings trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7m and a width of 0.6m.

#### **4.1 Geological horizon and natural subsoil**

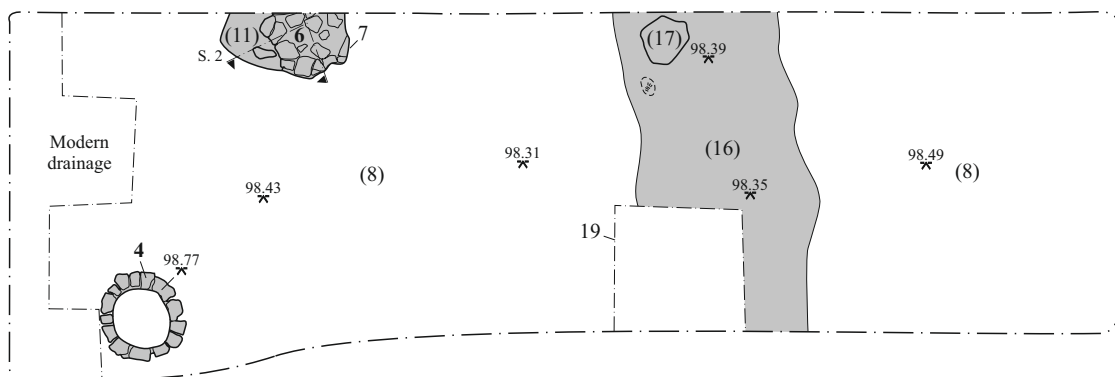
The lowest deposit encountered was (28) a stiff blueish grey clay with bands of indurated mid yellowish brown coarse sandy gravel (geological deposit). This was overlain by subsoil (27) a firm light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular stone. Both of these deposits were recorded throughout the footings trenches.

**Plan 1**



**Section 1**

**Plan 2**

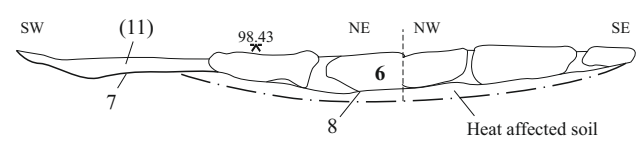
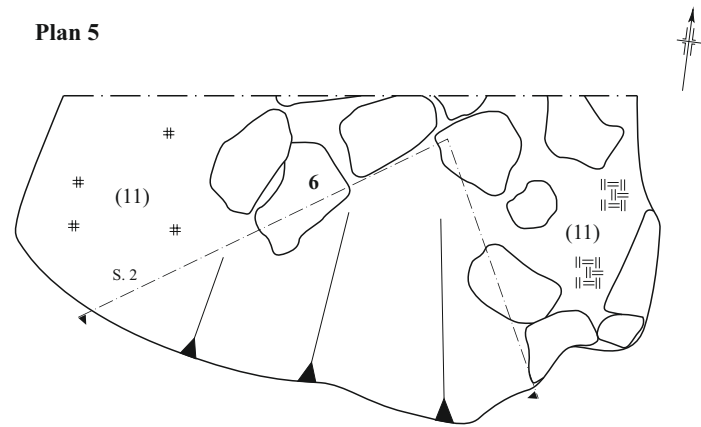
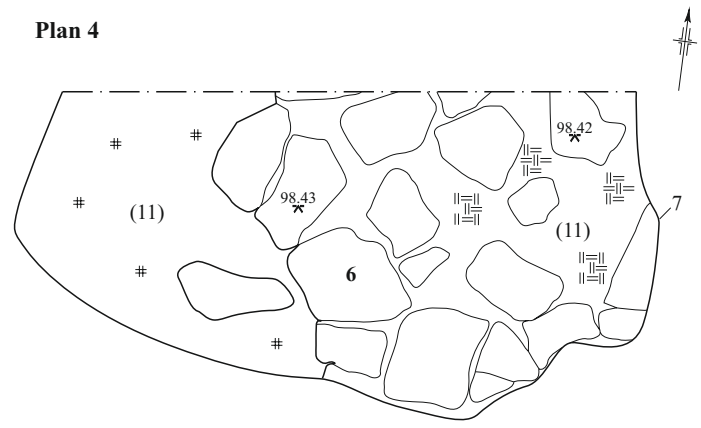


**Key** □ Limit of excavation ■ Archaeological features



Figure 2: Plans 1 and 2 with sections








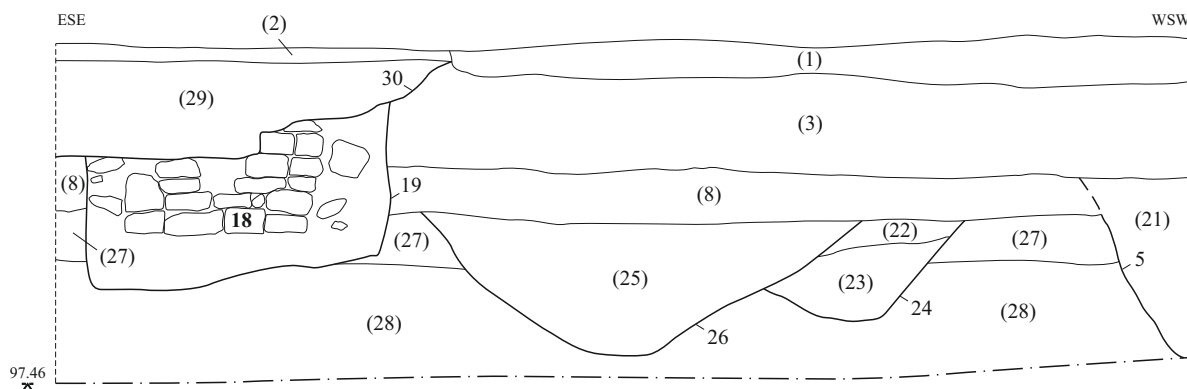
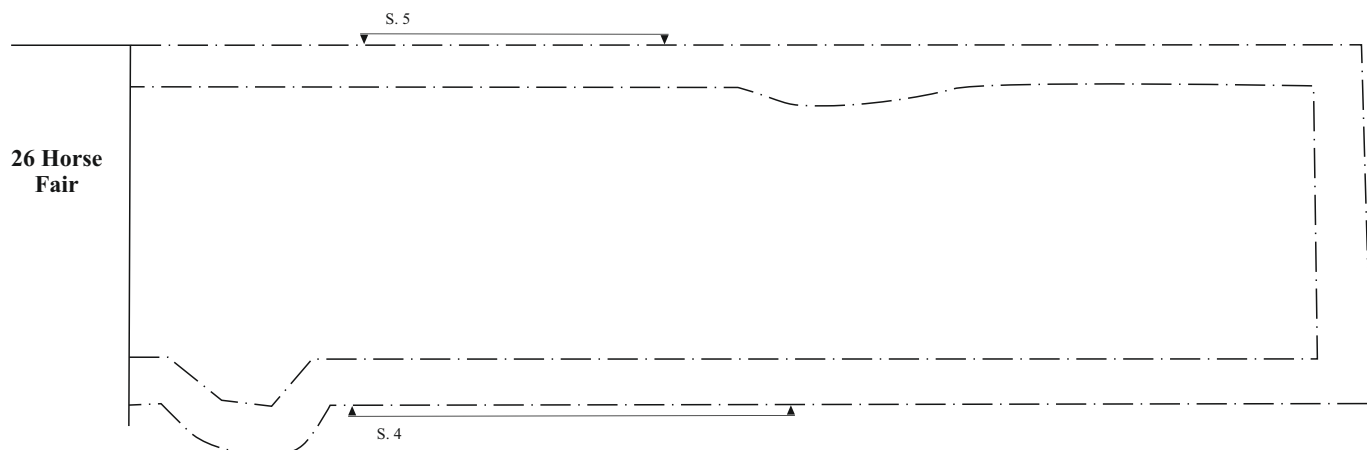
- Key**
-  Limit of excavation
  -  Clay
  -  Charcoal

Figure 3: Stone hearth

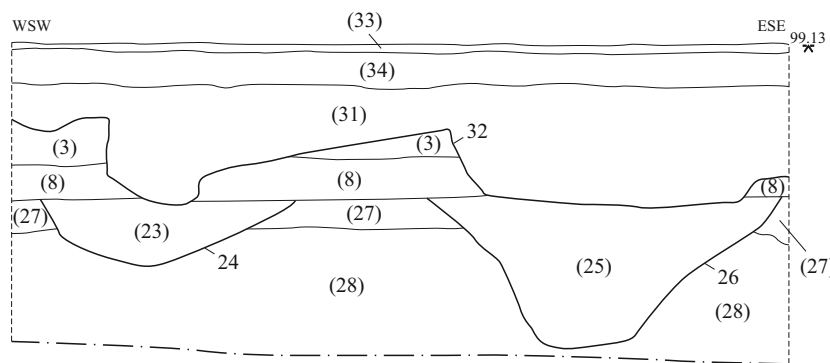




Plan 6



Section 4



Section 5

Key Limit of excavation

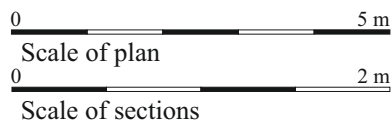


Figure 4: Footing trenches with sections

#### 4.2 Phase 1: Undated linear ditch

Subsoil (27) was truncated by 24, a linear feature with sharp break of slope at top and base, steep concave sides and a concave base; the cut had a maximum width of 1.35m and a depth of 0.38m (Fig. 4; sections 4 and 5. Plate 1). The feature was recorded in both footings trenches, running for a length of 4.5m, and was aligned on a northwest - southeast orientation. The basal fill of the ditch was a firm dark brownish grey clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecks, 0.38m in thickness (23). In the southern footings trench this fill was overlain by a soft dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.25m in thickness (23); this fill was not seen where the feature was recorded in the northern footings trench.

#### 4.3 Phase 2: Romano-British linear ditch

Ditch 24 was truncated by 26, a linear feature with sharp break of slope at top and base, with steep concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 4; sections 4 and 5. Plate 1). The feature was present in both footings trenches, running for a length of 4.5m, with a width of 2.3m and a depth of 0.78m. The feature was aligned on a north – south orientation. Filled by a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate well sorted sub-angular stone (25). Three sherds of Romano-British shelly ware were recovered from this context.



**Plate 1:** *Ditches 24 and 26; section 4. Looking south southeast.*

#### 4.4 Phase 3: Medieval cultivation soil

Ditch 26 was overlain by a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional sub-angular stone (8); this deposit was present across the whole site, with a thickness of 0.22 to 0.38m (Fig. 4; sections 4 and 5. Plate 1). Several sherds of pottery were

recovered from this deposit, providing a *terminus post quem* of the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century although no later than late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 4.5 Phase 4: Medieval features

Cultivation soil (8) was cut or overlain by a series of features and deposits:

Well 4, a stone-built well with an internal diameter of 0.85 and an external diameter of 1.35m; the well was still open, and was found to be at least 3m in depth (Fig. 2. Plate 2). It was constructed from roughly hewn stone sandstone blocks varying in size from 400mm x 300mm x 300mm to 250mm x 200mm x 200mm. The blocks were randomly coursed and dry bonded. The well was built within construction cut 5; this cut had a sharp break of slope at top and steep sides. The cut was excavated to a depth of 0.9m within the footings trench (Fig. 4; Section 4). The cut was filled by a soft mid yellowish grey silty clay (21).

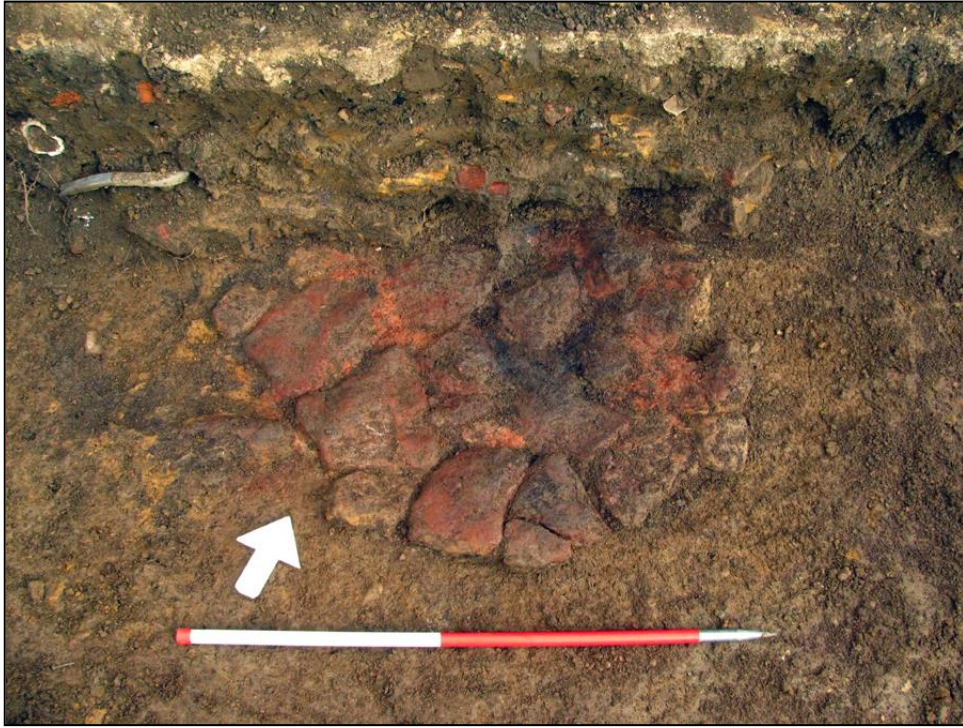


**Plate 2:** Well 4, showing post-medieval capping. Looking north.

Hearth 6, measured 1.5m in length by 0.85m in width (Fig. 2, 3; section 2. Plate 3). It was built from roughly hewn sandstone blocks that varied in size from 380mm x 250mm x 80mm to 100mm x 60mm x 60mm. The stone was predominantly wedge shaped, with the thicker end of the wedge facing toward the centre of the hearth, and was bonded with a compact mid brownish red clay (11). One sherd of Brill/Boarstall Ware was recovered from this context, providing an earliest date of 13<sup>th</sup> century. The hearth sat within construction cut 7; an ovoid cut with sharp break of slope at top and gradual at base, gently sloping sides and a concave base. Both the stones, clay and cut displayed substantial evidence of heat damage. The northern side of the feature was truncated by modern drainage pipe trench 32.

Towards the eastern end of the site, deposit (8) was overlain by a compact light greyish brown sandy silt with moderate fine gravel (16). This deposit was 4.1m in

length by 2.4m in width, 0.1m in thickness and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north and south (Fig. 2. Plate 4). Pottery from this deposit provided a *terminus post quem* of the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century and up to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. This deposit was overlain by a limestone slab (17), 0.7m in length by 0.6m in width and 80mm in thickness, which appeared to have been deliberately bedded into (16).



**Plate 3:** *Hearth 6. Looking north northwest.*



**Plate 4:** *Compact surface (16); cess pit 18 is visible in the background. Looking south southeast.*

#### 4.6 Phase 5: Post-medieval garden soil

The next phase of activity is represented by the accumulation of a soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate sub-angular stone and moderate charcoal flecks (3). This deposit was a maximum of 0.65m in thickness and was present across the whole site (Fig. 2, 4; sections 4 and 5). Several sherds of pottery were recovered from this layer, providing a *terminus post quem* of the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 4.7 Phase 6: Post-medieval features

Garden soil (3) was truncated by two post-medieval structures: **9** (also recorded as **12** and **13**) a small outbuilding; 3.5m in length by 2m in width, and a surviving depth of 0.5m (Fig. 2; Section 1. Plate 5). The walls had a width of 0.4m and were constructed from bricks with dimensions of 220mm x 80mm x 70mm that were built in a random bond, and bonded with a light whitish grey sand in construction cut 13. The remaining structure was filled by a loose dark brownish grey sandy silt loam with frequent brick fragments and sub-angular stone, 0.6m in thickness (15). Pottery and glass recovered from this fill provided a 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date.



**Plate 5:** *Post-medieval structure 12, mid-excavation. Looking east.*

**18** a cess pit; 1.7m square with a depth of 1.0m. Built from roughly squared sandstone blocks with average dimensions of 300mm x 200mm x 100mm (Fig. 2, 4; section 4. Plate 6). The stone was dry bonded and set in random courses built within construction cut 19; 1.7m square, with a depth of 1.2m. The cut had a sharp break of slope at top and base, vertical sides and a flat base. It was undated but probably contemporary with the outbuilding.

During the post-medieval period well **4** was modified; a lead pipe was added to the western side of the well; this pipe appeared to lead into the extant building, suggesting that an internal pump must have been fitted. A slight rebuild was evident within the

well, which included the inclusion of an arched brick fitting (Plate 7). Following this modification the well was capped with two slabs of yellowish brown limestone, approximately 1.5m in length by 0.8m in width and 0.1m in thickness. These stones were placed upon five iron bars; these bars had a square profile, 40mm in thickness and a length of 1.4m (Plate 1).

#### **4.8 Phase 7: Modern features**

Cess pit **18** was truncated by pit 30, an ovoid cut 2.5m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.5m in depth. The cut had a sharp break of slope at top and base, with gradually sloping to stepped sides and a flat base (Fig. 2, 3; Section 4. Plate 6).



**Plate 6:** *Cess pit 18; section 4. Looking south.*

Filled by a soft to friable dark grey sandy silt loam with occasional sub-angular stone (29). 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century glass, brick, tile and metal was noted and discarded. This feature extended beyond the limit of excavation to the south, and was overlain by topsoil (2) a friable dark brownish grey clayey silt loam, 0.2 to 0.3m in thickness. Towards the western end of the site the topsoil was overlain by a deposit of made ground; this was a loose mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent fragmented brick and slate (1), 0.2 to 0.3m in thickness. This deposit extended 4m from the eastern gable wall of the property.



**Plate 7:** Post-medieval modification to well 4. Looking west.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 36 sherds with a total weight of 3428g. It comprised Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval wares, and was recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

<b>OXAC:</b>	<b>Cotswold-type Ware</b> , AD975-1350. 2 sherds, 6g.
<b>OX234:</b>	<b>Banbury Ware</b> , late 11 <sup>th</sup> – late 14 <sup>th</sup> century. 3 sherds, 41g,
<b>OX68:</b>	<b>Potterspury Ware</b> , late 13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century. 5 sherds, 47g.
<b>OXBK:</b>	<b>Medieval Shelly Coarseware</b> , AD1100-1350. 1 sherd, 3g.
<b>OXAM:</b>	<b>Brill/Boarstall Ware</b> , AD1200 – 1600. 7 sherds, 89g.
<b>OXBG:</b>	<b>Surrey Whiteware</b> , mid 13 <sup>th</sup> –mid 15 <sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 3g.
<b>OXBX:</b>	<b>Late Medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware</b> , 15 <sup>th</sup> –early 17 <sup>th</sup> century. 3 sherds, 130g
<b>OXCL:</b>	<b>Cistercian Ware</b> , 1475-1700. 1 sherd, 266g.
<b>OXDR:</b>	<b>Red Earthenwares</b> , 1550+. 1 sherd, 51g.
<b>OXNOTTS:</b>	<b>Nottingham/Derby Stoneware</b> , 1700-1900. 7 sherds, 2504g
<b>WHEW:</b>	<b>Mass-produced White Earthenwares</b> , 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 229g.

In addition, three sherds (29g) of Romano-British shelly ware were also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, and suggests that there was activity at the site during the Romano-British period, and then from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, with perhaps a hiatus in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The earlier medieval assemblage consists of fragments of unglazed jars and glazed, slip-decorated jugs, and is typical of the period. The later medieval material includes



a partially complete, three-handled Cistercian Ware tyg (a large English pottery mug with three or more handles dividing the rim into sections for several drinkers) from context 3, along with a few fragments of plates and dishes.

The pottery from context 15 does not include any tablewares other than a single egg-cup, but instead is mainly blacking bottles, along with a pot-lid emblazoned with the trademark of “Burgess’s Genuine Anchovy Paste”. This particular trademark, no. 7993, was applied for on 8 July 1876 and is still registered, although the company was sold in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Newton 2008).

## 5.2 Glass *By Simona Denis*

An assemblage of 11 glass items was recovered from context (15), composed of 9 complete bottles, a single complete jar stopper and a fragment of vessel or jug handle. The assemblage dates to between the middle 19<sup>th</sup> century and the middle 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Bottles**

The nine complete bottles recovered from context (15) represent a variety of common household glass containers.

Olive green, ‘champagne’ bottles are one of the more common alcoholic beverage bottles found in mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> historic sites, used to contain wine as well as some spirits (<http://www.sha.org/bottle/colors.htm#Greens%20&%20Blue-greens>). The two large champagne bottles found during the excavation have push-up base with mamelon, a large protuberance at the tip of the push-up, typically found on free-blown or dip-moulded bottles. The third example of the same type is unusually smaller (190 mm in height), being half the volume (Jones 1986).

Two of the aqua bottles were identified as sauce containers. Both items have a so-called ‘Blake variant 1’ octagonal base, normally associated with condiment bottles produced in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> C. Embossed maker’s marks were observed on both bottles:

- C & B - Crosse & Blackwell, a British food production company established in 1830
- J B & S - unidentified

The assemblage also comprises two medicinal or druggist bottles. The aqua-coloured example shows a series of parallel, equally spaced embossed lines on the back and residues of glue for the applied paper label, not preserved, on the front. The general aspect of the bottle is very similar to tartaric acid bottles dated to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The second item is a clear, machine made bottle with oval base and oil finish, dated on the basis of the manufacturing details between 1860 and 1875. (Jones 1986, Lindsey 2010).

The only amber glass bottle of the collection is a small (120 mm in height) moulded item, with applied blob finish. Overall, the characteristics of the bottle are very similar to soda bottles produced between 1840 and 1860, but significantly smaller in size. (Aultman *et al* 2014).

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Cntxt	RB		OXAC		OX234		OXBK		OXAM		OXBG		OX68		OXBX		OXCL		OXDR		OXNOTTS		WHEW		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3							1	3	1	12					3	130	1	266	1	51					M16thC
8					2	28			1	27	1	3	3	26											M13thC
11									1	11															13thC
15																					7	2504	2	229	L19thC
16			2	36	1	13			4	39			2	21											M13thC
25	3	29																							RB
Total	3	29	2	36	3	41	1	3	7	89	1	3	5	47	3	130	1	266	1	51	7	2504	2	229	

*Table 2: Bottles by colour, weight and height*

Context	Type	Colour	Weight (gr)	Height (mm)	Date Range
15	Champagne bottle	Olive green	633	250	1850-1950
			582	250	
			317	190	
	Sauce bottle	Aqua	260	195	1880-1900
			394	230	1840-1880
	Medicinal/Druggist bottle	Aqua	122	132	?1910s
		Clear	109	133	1860-1875
	Food bottle	Clear	140	135	?1940s
	?Soda bottle	Amber	273	120	1840-1860

Context	Species	Type	Weight (gr)	Comments
03	Sheep/Goat	Proximal L tibia	70	2 shallow parallel cut marks
		Proximal metacarpus	99	
		Proximal metacarpus	15	Young individual

The remaining find is a machine-made food bottle of clear glass, with interrupted external thread for a screw cap, possibly produced in the 1940s (Lindsey 2010).

### Jar stopper

The complete object, a light green rounded stopper with a diameter of 58 mm, preserved the complete embossed maker's mark

AIRE AND CALDER BOTTLE CO. CASTLEFORD & LONDON, a glass manufacturing company active between 1836 and 1913.

### Vessel handle

One incomplete fragment of J-shaped glass vase handle measuring 145 mm and weighing 166 gr was also recovered. The object remains undated.

## 5.3 Animal Bone *By Simona Denis*

A small collection of three animal bone fragments, with a combined weight of 184 gr, was recovered from context (03).

The items were positively identified as belonging to sheep/goat. Two small, parallel marks were observed on the proximal tibia fragment and tentatively identified as shallow cut marks (Adams and Crabtree 2008, Aultman and Galle 2014).

*Table 3: Animal bone*

Context	Species	Type	Weight (gr)	Comments
03	Sheep/Goat	Proximal L tibia	70	2 shallow parallel cut marks
		Proximal metacarpus	99	
		Proximal metacarpus	15	Young individual

## 5.4 Metal *By Simona Denis*

A single iron item was recovered from context (15). The object, weighing 156 gr, was identified as a gas or oil spout dating to the 20<sup>th</sup> C (Horn 2005). It is not recommended to retain the item.

## 6 DISCUSSION

### Natural deposits

The lowest deposit encountered was the geological horizon, a mix of compact clays and gravels. This deposit was overlain by (27) a naturally derived subsoil layer formed through weathering of the underlying geology.

### Phase 1: Romano-British features

The natural subsoil was truncated by a shallow linear ditch 24, aligned north west – south east; the function of this feature is not clear, although it may represent a field boundary or enclosure ditch. The presence of charcoal within both fills may indicate the presence of nearby occupation or agricultural activity. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, although its relationship with ditch 26 provides a potential *terminus ante quem* of the Romano-British period.

In the southern footings trench ditch 24 was truncated by ditch 26, a linear ditch aligned north - south. This ditch was more substantial than 24, with a maximum width of 2.3m and a depth of 0.78. This feature contained a single fill (25); a thick homogenous deposit, likely to be backfilled bank material. Pottery recovered from this fill was dated to the Romano-British period, although a lack of any diagnostic features hindered the establishment of a more accurate date. Due to the lack of dating from ditch 24, the chronological relationship between these features is unclear; however the close spatial relationship of the two may indicate that they represent two phases of activity associated with a Romano-British field system or enclosure. An undated linear ditch aligned east – west was recorded during a watching brief 20m south of the site at The Woolpack (Yeates 2013); it is not unreasonable to suggest that this feature may form part of the same field system. Iron Age activity has also been encountered in Banbury; Excavations at Jugglers Close and Hennef Way, approximately 1.5 miles to the north east, revealed evidence of occupation from the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC through to the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. This was characterised by a series of enclosures and structural features, thought to represent a low status agricultural settlement (Stevens 2004).

### Phase 2: Medieval Occupation

Ditch 26 was sealed by soil layer (8); this may represent the remnants of a cultivation soil associated with the late Saxon or Early Medieval settlement that is thought to have been located to the south east of the site in the area of Calthorpe Street (VCH 1972). Medieval occupation within the area of the site appears to have begun in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and is represented by a series of features: well 4, constructed from local stone and built within a sub-ovoid construction cut. The well was at least 3m in depth, although no excavation was undertaken as steps were made to ensure the well was preserved *in situ*. No dating evidence was recovered from the well or the fill of the construction cut; however, the cut truncated (8) and was overlain by post-medieval garden soil (3). It seems likely that this well is contemporary with hearth 6, located approximately 3.5m to the north; this was a simply constructed stone hearth, built from local stone and bonded with clay. The stones and clay showed clear evidence of heat damage, and where the heath had been cut into soil (8) evidence of heat damage was also present. Brill/Boarstall ware was found pressed into clay bedding (11),

providing a 13<sup>th</sup> century date. No structural evidence that would indicate the presence of an associated building, such as post holes or sill beam trenches, was found within the immediate area of the hearth. However, 3.5m to the east a deposit of compact silt may represent a remnant hard earth occupation surface (16). Pottery recovered from this deposit provides a 13<sup>th</sup> century date; indicating that the surface would likely have been contemporary with the hearth. Truncation by later activity, such as cultivation during the post-medieval period and the construction of **12** and **8**, may help explain why this surface does not extend any further west towards the hearth. This deposit was overlain by stone (17); a slab of limestone set into the deposit that may represent a possible post pad.

The archaeological evidence can potentially be correlated with known historical events; especially regarding the development of Banbury as a planned town in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. As mentioned above, the land for the planned town was granted at approximately 1160AD, and by 1200 the new borough had been laid out under the auspices of Bishop Alexander of Lincolnshire; this settlement was located between the church (located approximately 60m to the north of the site at the site of the present St Marys Church) and the River Cherwell. Throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> century the existing plots were subdivided as population grew, and further land was given to the creation of new plots (VCH 1972). It seems likely that the features found at 26 Horse Fair correspond to one of the burgage plots created during the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the artefactual evidence clearly indicating domestic occupation starting in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Phase 3: Post-medieval Garden Soil**

From the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards the medieval occupation appears to have given way to a long period of cultivation, represented by cultivation soil (3). This deposit was thick, present throughout the site and pottery recovered provided a 16<sup>th</sup> century *terminus post quem*. It seems likely that cultivation ceased following the construction of the current house.

### **Phase 4: Post-medieval structures**

26 Horse Fair is thought to have been built between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century and within the area of excavation a series of features relating to the building were recorded. Cultivation soil (3) was truncated by **18**, a stone built cess pit; this feature was filled by (20), a deposit of loose rubble that was presumably designed to backfill the structure after it had fallen from use. Located approximately 1.7m to the west was brick built structure **12**. The function of this building was not clear, although it may have also been a cess pit or a privy, constructed at a later date. This structure was backfilled with a loose homogenous deposit of silt containing frequent domestic rubbish; pottery, glass and metal recovered from this fill provided a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, indicating that the structure had fallen out of use by this point.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

Although no evidence of the 12<sup>th</sup> century church was encountered, a number of features relating to the medieval occupation of Banbury were recorded. These features seem to provide evidence of a period of domestic activity starting in the 13<sup>th</sup> century,

possibly associated with the creation and expansion of the planned town in the late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of the thick post medieval garden soil indicates that preservation of medieval remains within the immediate area may be good.

The work was undertaken during mixed weather conditions, and co-operation with site staff was good; the reliability of the results is therefore considered high.

## 8 ARCHIVE

### Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

#### Paper record

Written scheme of investigation  
The project report  
The primary site record

#### Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museums Service under accession code OXCMS: awaited

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