



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**INTERIM REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

AT

333 BANBURY ROAD,

OXFORD,

OXFORDSHIRE

(NGR SP 5058 0958)

On behalf of

Carnegie Capital Estates Ltd

JANUARY 2016

REPORT FOR Carnegie Capital Estates Ltd
54 Baker Street
London
W1U 7BU

PREPARED BY Steve Leech

ILLUSTRATION BY Autumn Robson

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

FIELDWORK 15th January 2016

REPORT ISSUED 25th January 2016

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

Tel: 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

JMHS Project No: 3270
Site Code: OXSHV 15
Archive Location: The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxford Resource Centre.

CONTENTS

	Page
<i>SUMMARY</i>	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	2
3 STRATEGY	3
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
4 RESULTS	3
5 FINDS	5
6 DISCUSSION	5
7 ARCHIVE	5
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
 FIGURES AND PLATES	
Figure 1. Site location	2
Figure 2. Representative sections	4
Plate 1. Trench 1	5

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the first stage of an evaluation at 333 Banbury Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 5058 0958). Trench 1 was devoid of any archaeological features and consisted of modern disturbed / made ground overlying the Oxford clay.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at 333 Banbury Road, Oxford, (NGR SP 6947 0884). The site lies at approximately 99m OD. The underlying geology is Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member overlying the Oxford Clay Formation.

1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted by Oxford City Council for demolition of existing buildings on site with an exception of retained 1820s villa. The project consists of construction of new independent sixth form school building on 2 and 3 floors with extension to villa with free standing building accommodating school hall. Provision of 27 car parking spaces, accessed from Banbury road and Chapel Close, together with cycle parking, bin stores, landscaping and ancillary works at 333 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7PL (14/03255/FUL). Due to the potential for the development to impact archaeological deposits a condition (19) has been attached to the permission. Condition 19 of the planning permission state that; *no development shall proceed until the developer has: carried out an archaeological evaluation of the site in accordance to a written scheme of investigation approved in writing by the planning authority, and: secured an implementation of a scheme of mitigation of any significant archaeological impact, which may be achieved by redesign or archaeological recording action in accordance to a supplementary written scheme of investigation, approved in writing by the planning authority.* The first stage is a field evaluation for which Oxford City Council has set out the requirements for this which is in line with government advice as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

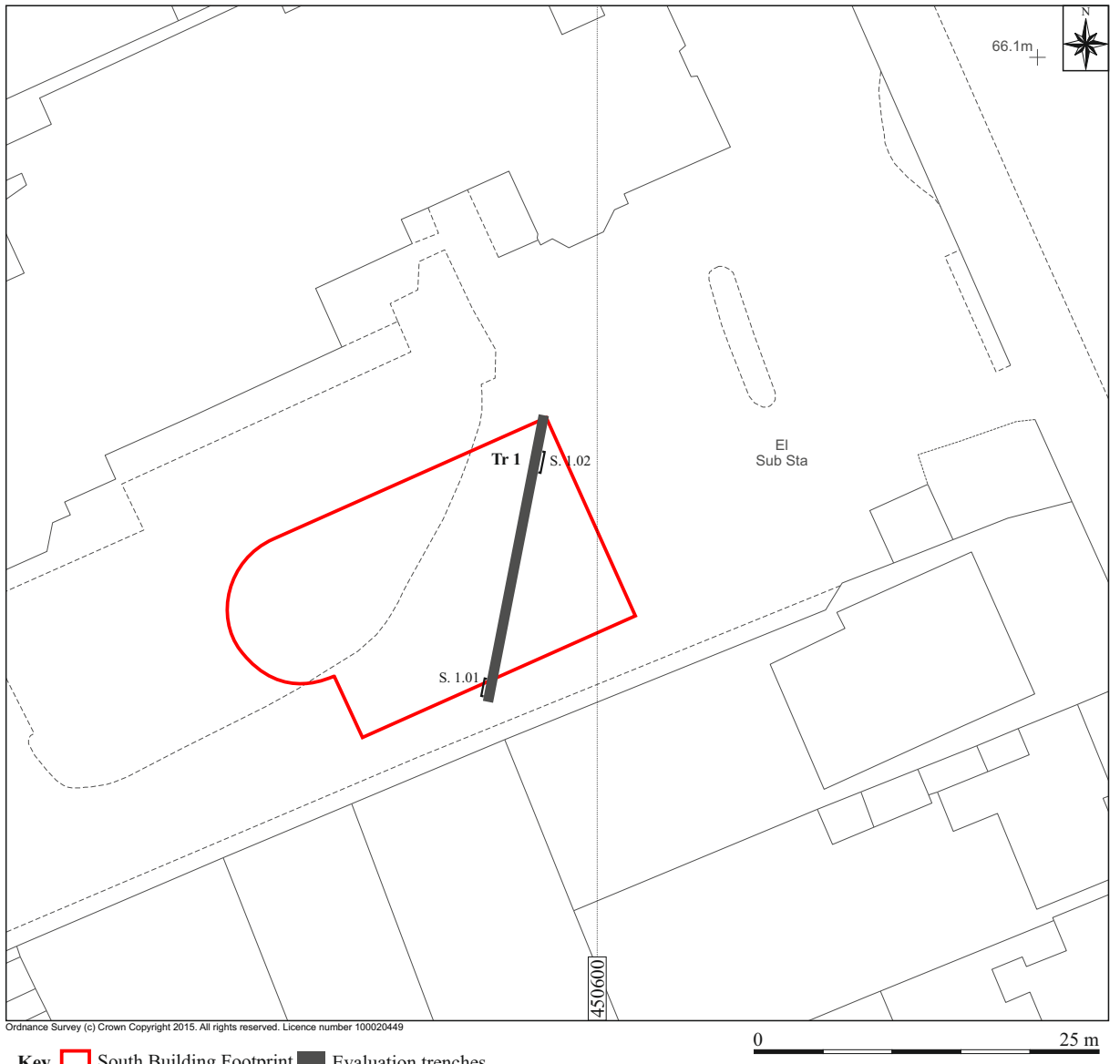
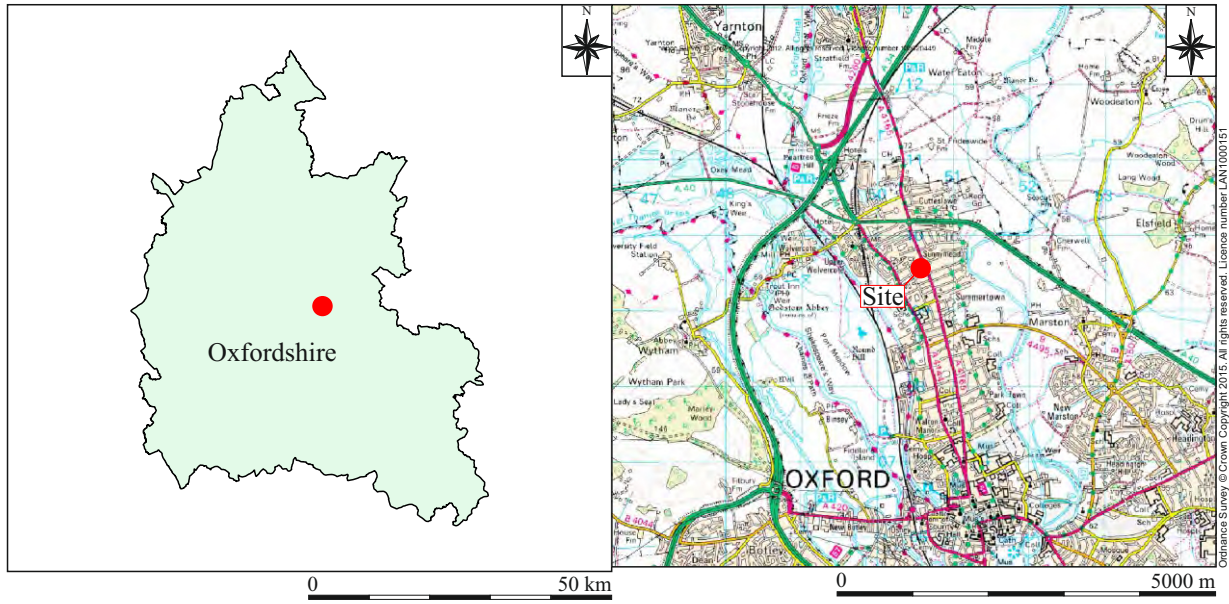
1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological and historical background to the site is given in an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (JMHS 2014) and the archaeological background is given in the written scheme of investigation (JMHS 2016) and will not be reproduced here.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.



Key South Building Footprint Evaluation trenches

Figure 1: Site location

- 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.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- In particular to determine whether any remains of prehistoric or Roman activity survive within the development footprint. Also the evaluation aims to establish the exact nature of geological deposits.

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.

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

3.2 Methodology

The investigation involved as a first stage, the mechanical excavation of one trench 15m x 1.6m (Fig. 1), within the location of the new building to the south with limited hand investigation of any archaeological deposits. This was carried out prior to demolition works occurring on the site. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits that might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation *in situ*, were not compromised.

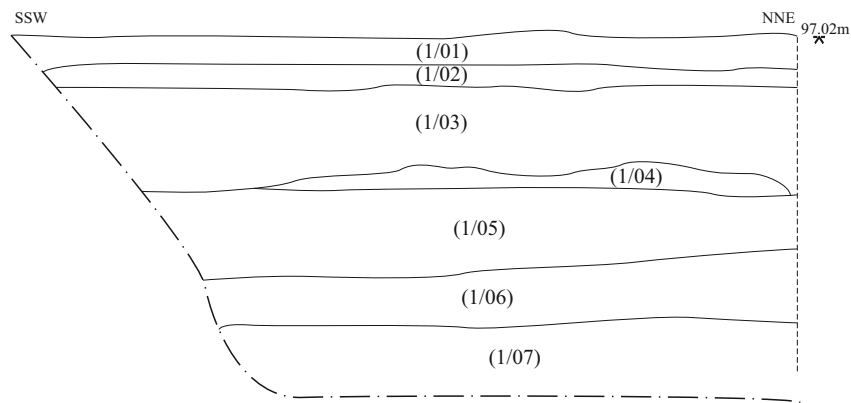
Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

Excavation was by a JCB excavator equipped with a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the uppermost archaeological horizon or geological horizon under direct archaeological supervision.

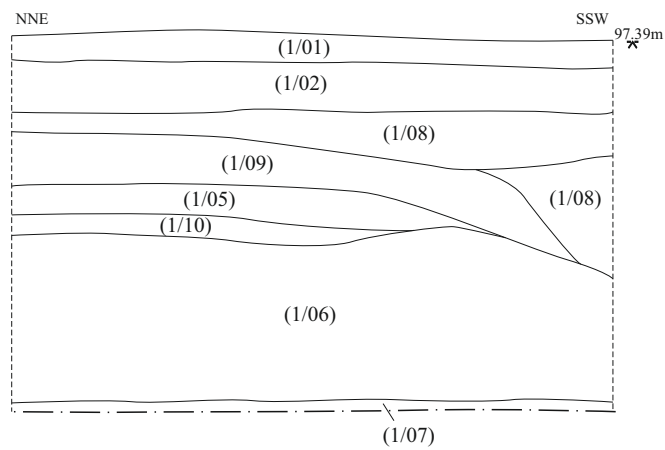
Site procedures carried out followed CIfA (2014) guidelines. The resulting surfaces were cleaned where appropriate. All surfaces and excavated spoil were scanned with a metal detector.

4 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was orientated northeast – southwest, 15m long, 1.6m wide and 1m deep and was devoid of any archaeological features. It contained nine layers of disturbed / made ground possibly relating to the construction of the buildings to the north of the



Section 1.01



Section 1.02

Figure 2: Sections of Trench 1



trench in the 1980's that overlay the natural Oxford Clay (see Fig. 2 for representative sections). The lack of presence of the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravels that overlie the Oxford clay indicates that these have been completely truncated away.

The reliability of the results is considered good as the evaluation was conducted in fine weather conditions and the natural horizon was clear.



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking northeast

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from the trench.

6 DISCUSSION

Trench 1 was devoid of any archaeological features and comprised up to a 1m thick layer of disturbed / made ground overlying the natural Oxford Clay. A high level of truncation is evident in the area surrounding trench 1 due to the lack of presence of any of the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravels that overlie the Oxford Clay.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire Resource Centre.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*

John Moore Heritage Services 2014, *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (including Building Assessment) of Summerhill Villa, 333 Banbury Road, Oxford*. Unpublished client report

John Moore Heritage Services 2016, *333 Banbury Road Oxford Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Tarmac	0.06m	-	-	-	Car park surface	Modern
1/02	Deposit	Hardcore of gravels and sand	0.06m	-	-	-	Made ground	Modern
1/03	Deposit	Dark grey sandy clay	0.26m	-	-	-	Made ground	Modern
1/04	Deposit	White sandy clay	0.06m	-	-	-	Made ground	Modern
1/05	Deposit	Mid-Brown / Grey clay	0.24m	-	-	-	Made ground	Modern
1/06	Deposit	Dark grey clay	0.2m	-	-	-	Made ground	Modern
1/07	Deposit	Grey clay with fragmented fossils	-	-	-	-	Natural	
1/08	Deposit	Light grey sand	0.18m	-	5.1m	-	Made ground	Modern
1/09	Deposit	Light yellow sandy clay	0.14m	-	2.8m	-	Made ground	Modern
1/10	Deposit	Light brown sandy gravels	0.04m	-	1.1m	-	Made ground	Modern