

**JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**THE COACH HOUSE, 25 SPRING HILL ROAD,**

**BEGBROKE, OXFORDSHIRE**

**SP 4683 1380**

*On behalf of*

*Chopping Partnership*

**JULY 2004**

**REPORT FOR**

Chopping Partnership  
86 Old Road  
Headington  
Oxford  
OX3 7LP

**PREPARED BY**

John Moore

**FIELDWORK**

19 May and 25 June 2004

**REPORT ISSUED**

12 July 2004

**ENQUIRES TO**

John Moore Heritage Services  
Long White Cloud  
Waterperry Road  
Holton  
Oxfordshire OX33 1PW

*Telephone/Fax 01865 876637*  
*Email: jmhs99@hotmail.com*

**Site Code;**

BBSHR 04

**JMHS Project No:**

1431

**Oxon Museums Accession No.**

OXCMS: 2004.83

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b><i>SUMMARY</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Site Location	
1.2 Planning Background	
1.3 Archaeological Background	
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Research Design	
3.2 Methodology	
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>4</b>
Figure 1      Site and New Build Location	<b>2</b>

## **Summary**

*A watching brief was partially conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during development work. No archaeological remains were seen.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The development site was located in the west of Begbroke, to the south of Spring Hill Road opposite the junction with St. Michael's Lane (NGR SP 4683 1380). The geology was Oxford Clay with Kellaway Beds and with patches of Wolvercote and Summertown-Radley terrace river gravels. The site lay at approximately 67m OD. The development area was within the domestic garden of Willow Bank.

The former school buildings were previously used by Solid State Logic.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Cherwell District Council granted planning permission for the conversion of an existing building into 3 dwellings and the construction of a further 2 dwellings (02/01701/F). Due to the potential presence of below ground archaeological deposits a condition was attached to the planning consent that required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the course of the groundworks in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

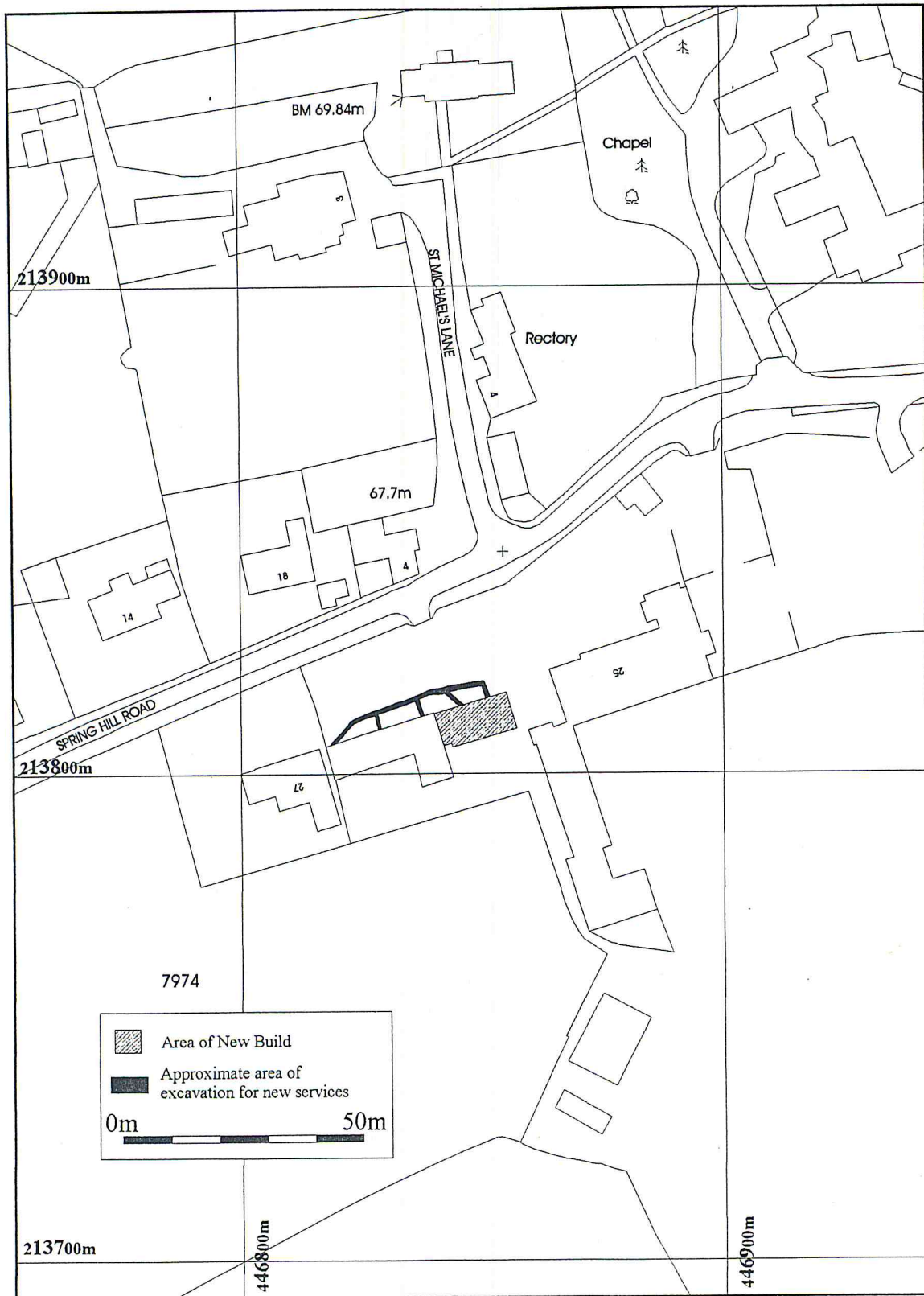
The site lies within the historic core of Begbroke, which was mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. To the north of the church, earthworks are identifiable that appear to form part of the medieval settlement. The nearby church of St Michael is of 12<sup>th</sup> century origin. Outside the church stands the base of a medieval cross. Spring Hill Road was formerly known as Watery Lane and both this and St Michaels Lane appear to form the core of the historic settlement.

The site is shown as lying within a field on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884. The existing L-shaped building is shown on the 1936 edition along with a further building in the extreme north-east corner of the site.

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



Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100020449 Plot Scale 1:1250

Figure 1. Site and New-build location.

- In particular:
  - to record any evidence relating to the medieval and later settlement of Begbroke.
- To make the results of the investigations public.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, on behalf of the local planning authority. 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.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

An archaeologist visited the site after excavation for new services. The service trenches ran from, and in front of, the existing building to the west of the new building and to the front (north) of the latter. The excavation of the foundation trenches for the new build was not observed due to a message not being passed on in the offices of JMHS.

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

### **4 RESULTS**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [ ] indicate features i.e. walls, pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material.

The lowest deposit seen was compact mid/dark orange sandy silt containing 1-2% by volume of small gravel (02), which constituted the natural geology of the site. This was overlaid by a sub-base of crushed stone that in turn was covered by roadstone under tarmac (01). The surface and make-up was 500mm thick.

No features were observed in the sides of the services trenches.

The site agent stated that he did not see any potential archaeological features during the excavation of the foundation trenches. He commented that there were a lot of trenches for electrical cabling from when the area had former school buildings.

## **5 FINDS**

No finds were observed.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

While it can not be said that there were no archaeological features present on the site it would appear that the site has in the recent past been heavily truncated for the playgrounds. In addition school buildings would have disturbed any potential archaeology. Therefore, had any archaeological remains been present that they would have been the lower parts of deeper cut features i.e. pits.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994      *Standard and Guidance for  
Archaeological Field Evaluations*