



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

THE CORNER HOUSE, KINGSTON BAGPUIZE,

OXFORDSHIRE OX13 5AP

NGR SU4077 9820

On behalf of

Mr L Stoppes

JUNE 2017

REPORT FOR Mr L Stoppes
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SUMMARY

This document represents the results of a watching brief for archaeological remains on land at The Corner House, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 4077 9820). This involved monitoring the excavation of the new house foundation trench which was devoid of any archaeological features. This tied in with the results of the evaluation carried out on the adjacent land to the east and south of this site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located on the corner of Oxford Road and Abingdon Road in Kingston Bagpuize (NGR SU40779820). The site is currently a garden. The geology is sandstone. It lies at approximately 81m OD.

1.2 Planning Background

The Vale of White Horse District Council granted planning permission for subdivision of the garden to The Corner House to Allow construction of new 5 Bed Detached House, together with wider access to Highway. (amended plans received 6/12/2016 indicating revised design and providing further details). (amended plans received 01/11/2017 with revisions to parking and further tree information). (P16/V2460/FUL). Two conditions relating to archaeology were attached:

4 The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological watching brief, to be maintained during the period of construction/ during any ground works taking place on the site. The watching brief shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

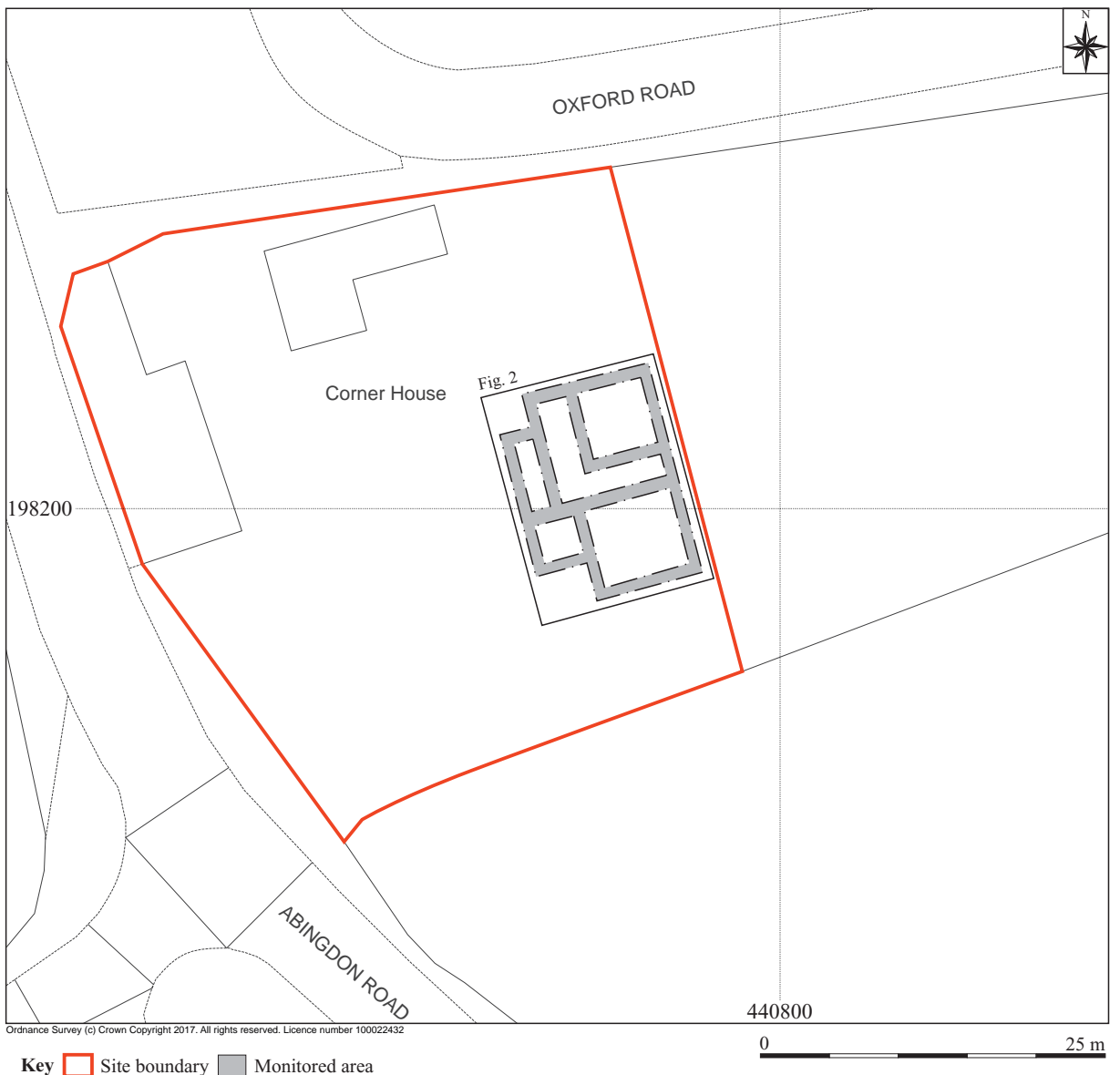
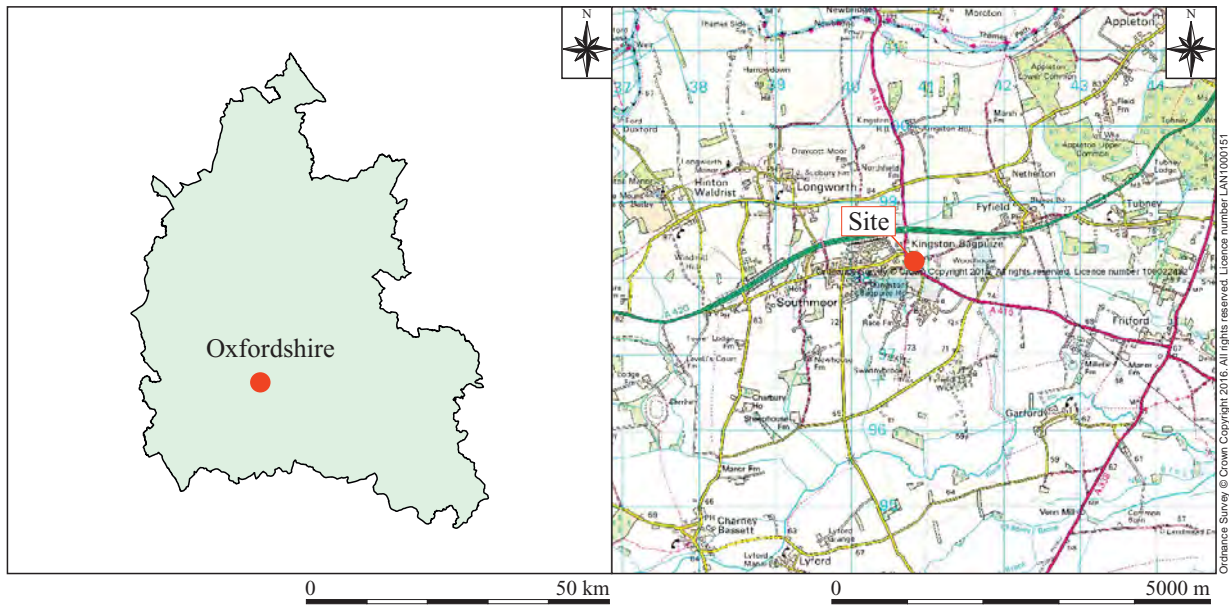
Reason - To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012)

5 Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 1, no development shall commence on site without the appointed archaeologist being present. Once the watching brief has been completed its findings shall be reported to the Local Planning Authority, as agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, including all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication.

Reason - To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is within an area of archaeological potential. To the north evidence of a later prehistoric settlement has been revealed within a field system that is contemporary



Key Site boundary Monitored area

Figure 1: Site location

and appears to have continued to be used into the Roman period. Field walking across adjacent fields has revealed wide spreads of Mesolithic flint artefacts. These include microblades, cores, microburins and waste flakes. Evidence of Romano British activity in the form of artefacts has been recorded in the area.

An evaluation immediately to the east and southeast of the site found only one Late Post-medieval small pit.

Some of the above has been taken from the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team's (OHET) advice note.

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 the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the Prehistoric and Roman landscape.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team (OHET), the archaeological advisors to the Vale of White Horse District Council. The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

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 resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned for finds relating to all periods.

The watching brief involved monitoring the excavation of the foundation trench for a new house in the garden of the existing property (Fig. 2).

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.

An area 14m x 17m had been cleared of topsoil / garden soil (01) before the excavation of the foundation trench. This layer was a dark grey / brown silty sand (01) that was 0.25m thick and contained various modern finds (not retained).

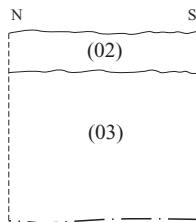
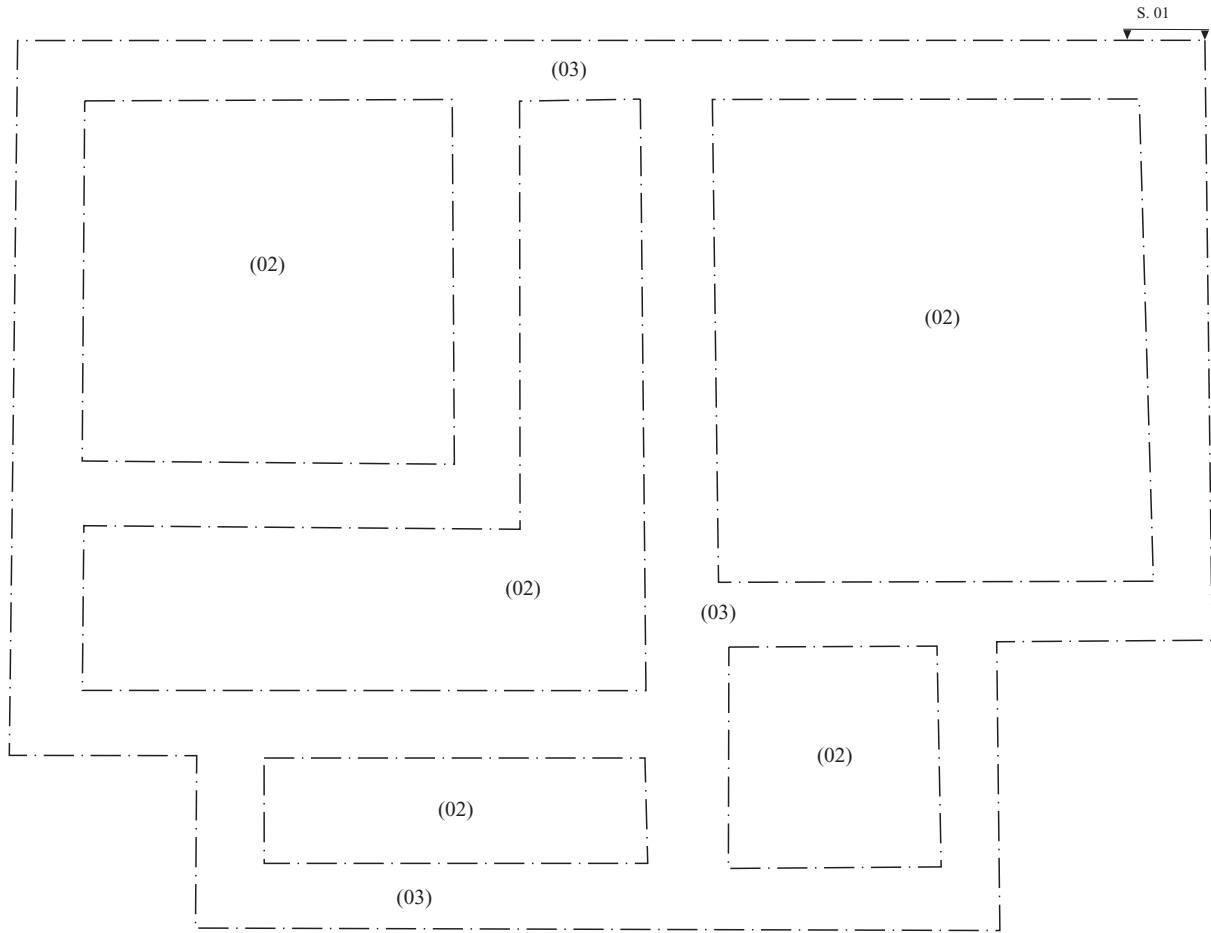
The foundation trench (Fig. 2) was 0.8m wide and up-to 1m deep and consisted of a 0.2m thick layer of a Brownish grey silty sand (02), a subsoil that represents a former ploughsoil. This overlay the natural limestone (03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 1. Representative section in foundation trench



Plan 1



Section 01

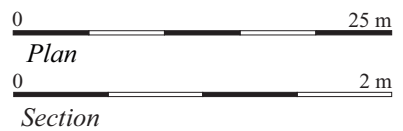


Figure 2: Plan and sections



Plate 2. Foundation trench looking south

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from the site

6 DISCUSSION

The house foundation trench was devoid of any archaeological features. This ties in with the results of the evaluation carried out on the adjacent land to the east and south of this site.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

John Moore Heritage Services, 2017 *The Corner House, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* (Unpublished client report)