



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

REGENCY COTTAGE, 14 AYLESBURY ROAD,

THAME, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 7070 0629

*On behalf of
Dr & Mrs T Mitchell*

JUNE 2017

REPORT FOR Dr & Mrs T Mitchell
c/o Michael Dolan Associates
Bull Lane
Thame
Oxfordshire

PREPARED BY Steve Leech

ILLUSTRATION BY Autumn Robson

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

FIELDWORK 19th – 29th October 2016

REPORT ISSUED 9th June 2017

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: 3554
Site Code: THAR 16



CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	3
3 STRATEGY	3
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
4 RESULTS	4
5 FINDS	6
6 DISCUSSION	6
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	6

FIGURES AND PLATES

Figure 1. Site location	2
Figure 2. Foundation trenches and sections	5
Plate 1. Garage trench looking northwest	4
Plate 2. Representative section S.4 in house foundation trench	6

SUMMARY

This document represents the results of a watching brief for archaeological remains on land at 14 Aylesbury Road, Thame Oxfordshire (NGR SP 7070 0629) where the excavation of foundation trenches for a house and garage were monitored. The two foundation trenches were devoid of any archaeological features and consisted of a gardensoil overlying a subsoil representing a former ploughsoil that overlay the natural gravels.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site lies on the east side of Thame, on the east side of Aylesbury Road (NGR SP 70700629 centred). The geology is beds of silt and sand of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation close to the interface with 2nd Terrace River Deposits (BGS 237). The site lies at approximately 70m OD.

1.2 Planning Background

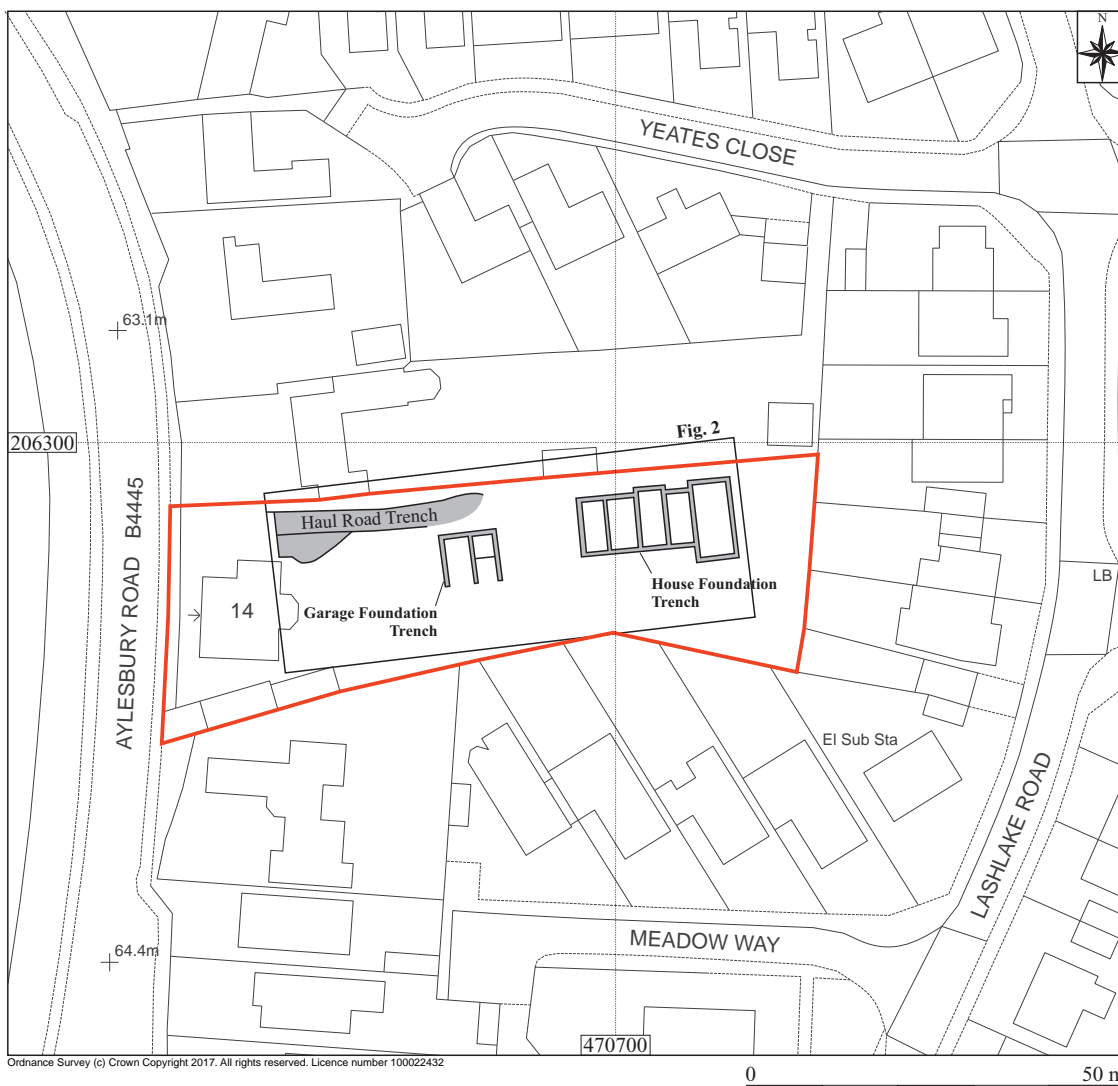
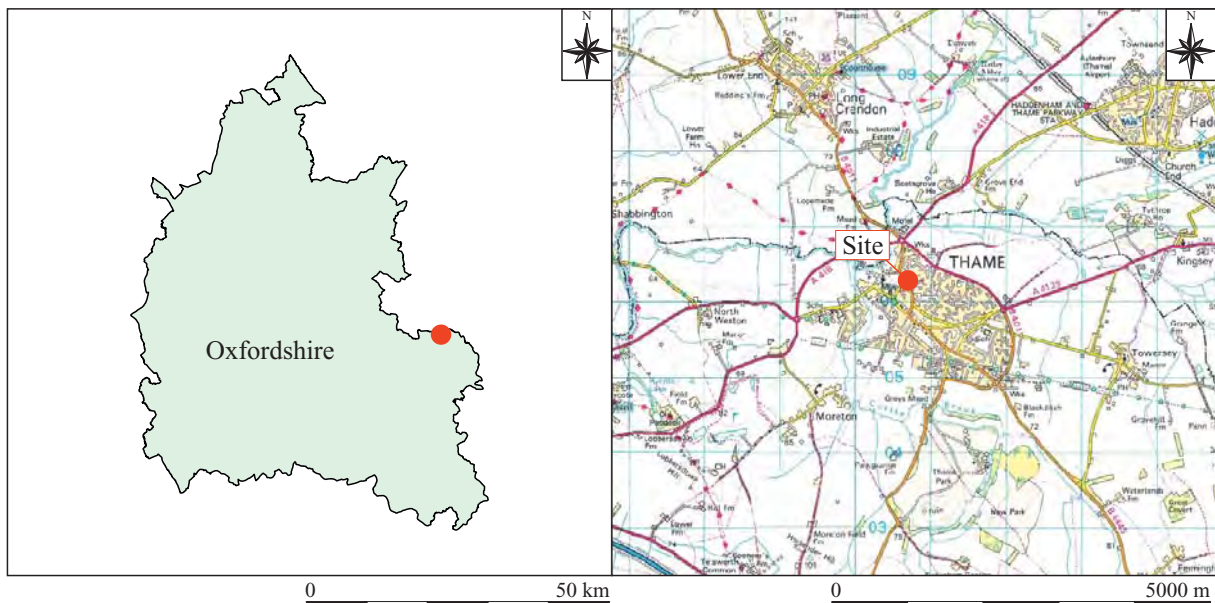
South Oxfordshire District Council has granted planning permission for part single storey and part two storey dwelling with garage on land to rear of Regency Cottage, 14 Aylesbury Road, Thame (P15/S1155/FUL). Due to the potential for the work to disturb archaeological deposits two conditions were attached to the permission:

11. 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 groundworks 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 secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with Policy CSEN3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy 2027 and Policies CON11, CON13 and CON14 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 and in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

12. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 11, 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 secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with Policy CSEN3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy 2027 and Policies CON11, CON13 and CON14 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 and to safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).



Key Site boundary Monitored area

Figure 1: Site location

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is located within an area of archaeological interest related to the medieval town of Thame. The original town of Old Thame lay at the west end of the High Street along the roads which encircle the church and the new planned town, developed in the 12th century by the Bishop of Lincoln, is located along the High Street to the south of the proposed site. Little formal archaeological recording has been undertaken within the vicinity of the proposed development site although medieval remains have been recorded 250m to the west and 130m to the south.

The full extent of the medieval town is unknown but it is possible that the proposed development could encounter archaeological deposits related to the development of Thame.

The above archaeological background 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 remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record any evidence relating to the medieval town of Thame.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team's (OHET), the archaeological advisors to the South Oxfordshire 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, especially for finds relating to the medieval period.

The watching brief involved the monitoring the excavation of foundation trenches for a garage and workshop and a house, together with a topsoil strip for a driveway.

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.

The garage foundation trench (Fig. 2 & Plate. 1) was 0.6m wide and 1m deep and consisted of a 0.3m thick layer of a dark grey / brown silty clay (01), a topsoil / garden soil that contained no finds. This layer overlay a 0.3m thick layer of a brownish grey silty clay (02), a subsoil that represents a former ploughsoil that contained no finds and overlay the natural gravels (03).



Plate1. Garage trench looking northwest

The house foundation trench (Fig.2 & Plate. 2) was 0.6m wide and ranged from 1m deep to the west, and 2m to the east, and consisted of a 0.3m thick layer of a dark grey / brown silty clay (01), a topsoil / garden soil that contained no finds. This layer overlay a 0.3m thick layer of a brownish grey silty clay (02), a subsoil that represents a former ploughsoil that contained no finds and overlay the natural gravels (03).

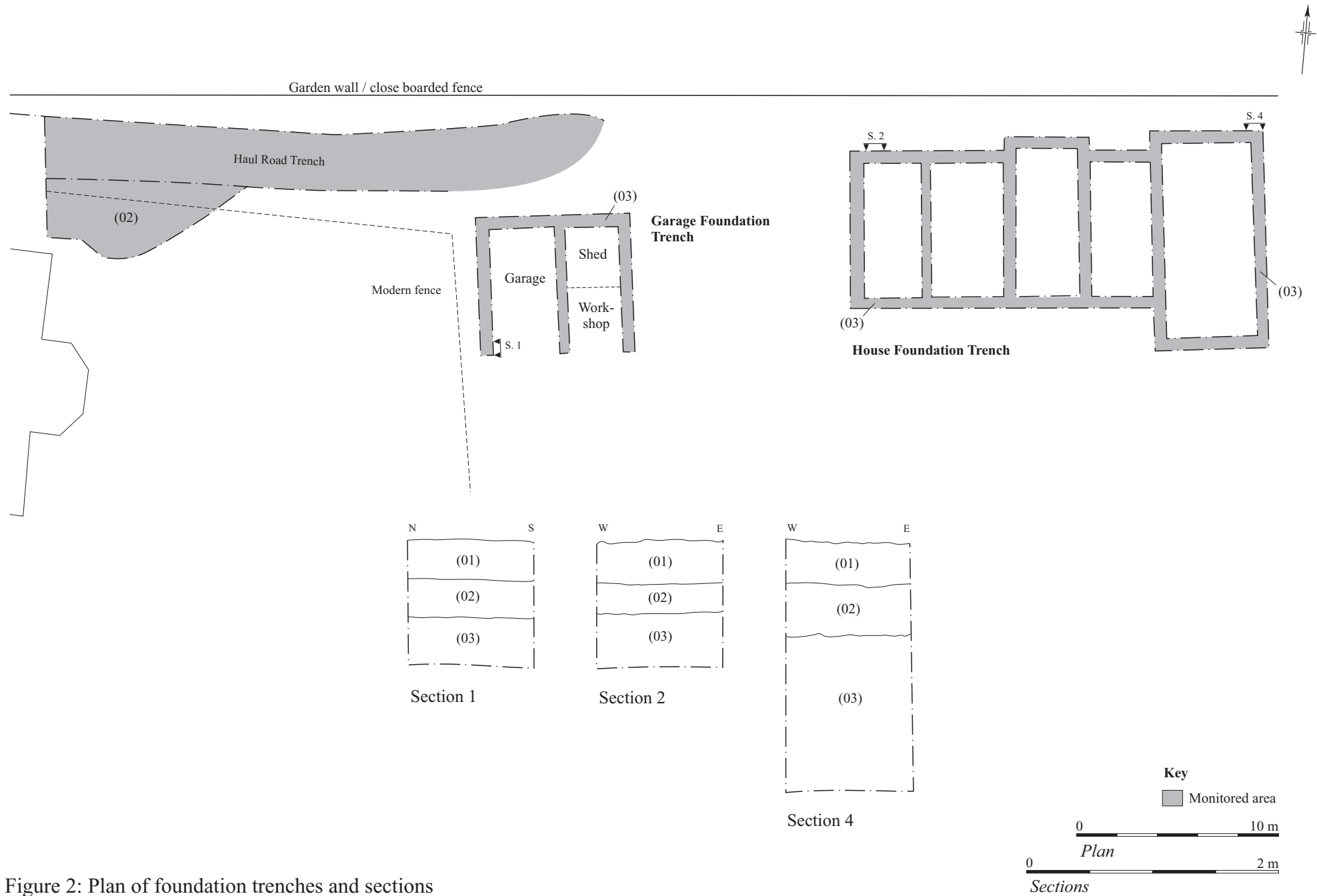


Figure 2: Plan of foundation trenches and sections



Plate 2. Representative section S.4 in house foundation trench

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from the site

6 DISCUSSION

The two foundation trenches were devoid of any archaeological features and consisted of a garden soil overlying a subsoil representing a former ploughsoil that overlay the natural gravels.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

JMHS, 2014 *Regency Cottage, 14 Aylesbury Road, Thame, Oxfordshire Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished client report