



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**1A CRANHAM STREET,
OXFORD,
OXFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NGR : SP 50681 07095

FEBRUARY 2019

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FIELDWORK 30th to 31st January 2019

REPORT ISSUED 11th February 2019

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JMHS Project No: 3986
OASIS No: johnmoor1-342123
Site Code: OXCS 19
Archive Location: The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museums Service with the accession number OXCMS: 2018.92



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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 1A Cranham Street, Oxford. A single evaluation trench was excavated down to the natural gravel and revealed made ground over the remains of a wall for a former garage/workshop, a modern pit, and a large pit with pottery dating to the 19th Century. A broadly dated piece of red earthenware pottery was recovered from a buried soil horizon that could possibly be as early as the late 16th century but as late as the 20th century. The stratigraphy of the site indicated 20th century activity above what was possibly an earlier post-medieval buried soil. No earlier finds or features were identified during the excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the south east side of Cranham Street, Oxford (NGR SP 50681 07095). The underlying geology is First (Floodplain) Terrace Deposits. The site is currently unoccupied and recently was used for parking.

1.2 Planning Background

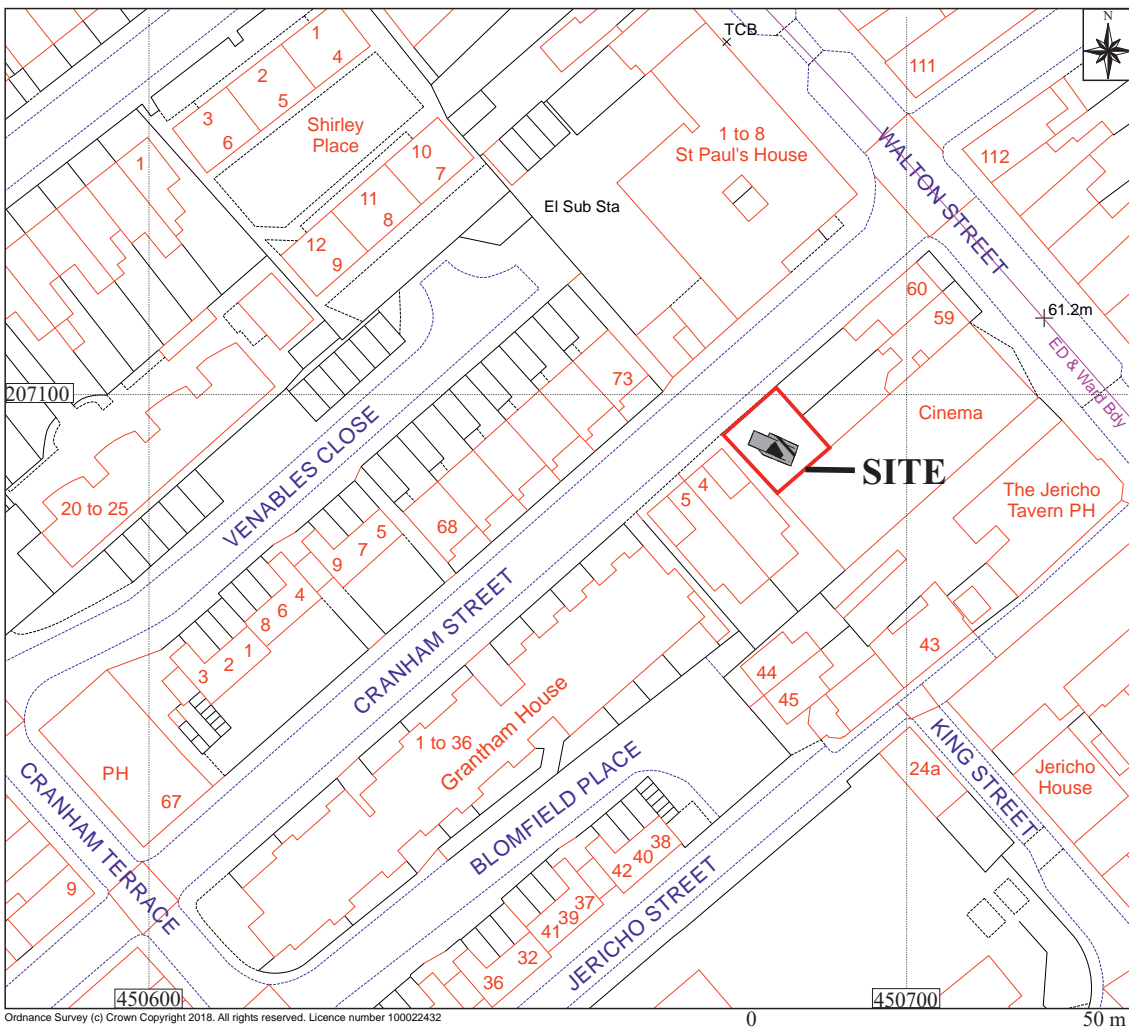
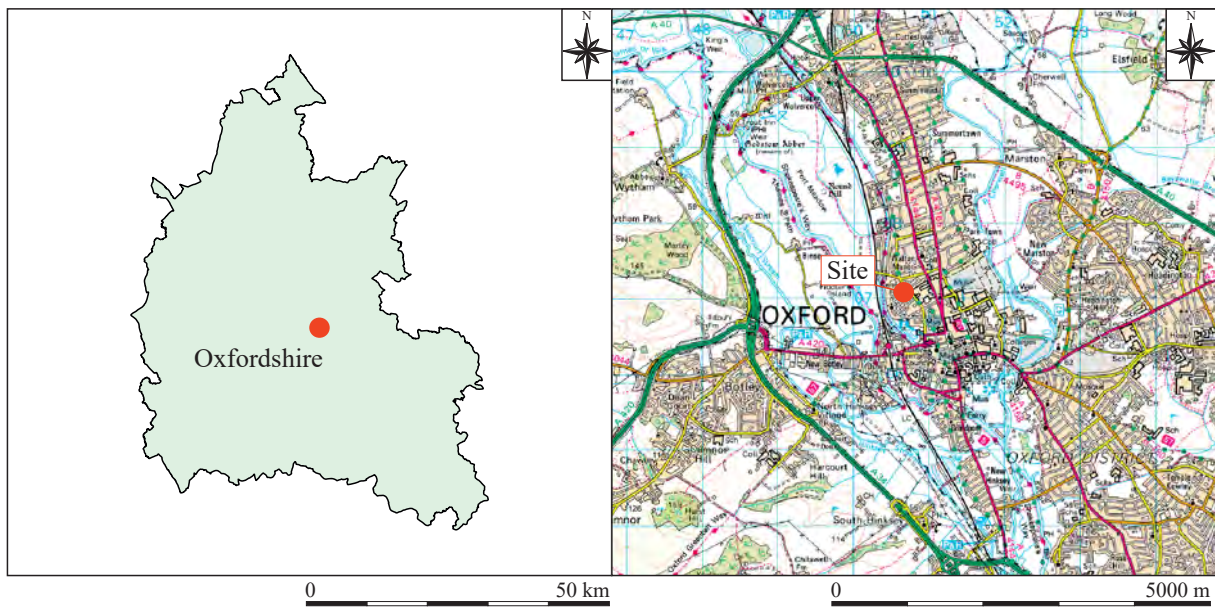
Planning permission was refused by Oxford City Council for Erection of three storey building to provide 1x1bed flat at first floor and 1 x 2 bed duplex flat (both Use Class C3) to first and second floor and office accommodation (Use Class A2) at the ground floor. Provision of bin/cycle stores. (amended plans and description) (17/03086/FUL). This was granted on appeal (APP/G3110//W/17/3184277). Due to the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains a condition was attached. Condition 7 stated that:

No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions and:

- i) the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
- ii) the programme for post investigation assessment;*
- iii) the provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;*
- iv) the provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
- v) the provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
- vi) the nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site lies within an extensive area of prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments; this is situated on the Second Terrace Gravels and defined by the Rivers Thames to the west and Cherwell to the east (HER 26293). Evidence of this landscape has been recorded throughout the immediate area of the site. Excavation at the site of the Radcliffe Infirmary, approximately 170m east of the site, recorded a rectilinear



Key Site boundary Archaeological features Evaluation trench

Figure 1: Site location

Neolithic enclosure interpreted as a possible mortuary enclosure (HER 26542: SP 5085 0706). This was enclosed by a Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age barrow (HER 26524: SP 5085 0706) and two further barrows were also recorded within the area of excavation (HER 26526: SP 5093 0708 and HER 26527: SP 5090 0699).

Evidence of prehistoric activity has been found throughout the wider area, including: an unspecified number of possible prehistoric burials found near Southmoor Road in the late 19th century, 350m to the north west (HER 26475: SP 50 07, HER 11368: SP 5046 0737), and an undated burial found near Leckford Road, 300m to the north (HER 11366: SP 5072 0741).

A possible Romano British settlement is located within the area, although the exact location of the settlement is poorly defined. Evidence of occupation was potentially identified during archaeological evaluation approximately 400m to the north east (HER 11369: SP 5097 0738). Although later quarrying had severely truncated the site a large quantity of pottery and several coins were found. Several Roman findspots are also located within the area, including: two coins found in the area of the Cripsey Allotments 400m to the west (HER 11363, HER 25399: SP 5019 0704); a bronze coin of Constantine or Magentius was found along Walton Street 400m to the south east (HER 25467: SP 5094 0670); a coin was found near Woodstock Road (HER 25534: SP 5097 0738); Roman pottery and a quernstone near St Bernard's Road, 280m to the north east (MOX11365: SP 5083 0734); a single inhumation was recorded during a watching brief at 16 Kingston Road, 300m to the north (HER 23544: SP 50556 07372); pottery sherds were found at 82 Walton Street and Kingston Road (HER 25474: SP 5055 0735, HER 25496: SP 5055 0748).

An Anglo-Saxon gold bracteate was found in the 17th century (HER 11551: SP 509 071). This was found in the area of the barrows recorded during excavations at the site of the Radcliffe Infirmary, leading to the supposition that the barrows were reused during the early medieval period (HER 11568); a sunken featured building and associated features were also recorded in this area (HER 26540: SP 5082 0702). Excavation to the rear of 75 Walton Street, 180m to the north of the site, recorded evidence for late Saxon settlement including a pit and midden (MOX26473: SP 5062 0719); a range of material including pottery, metalwork and oyster shell was found (HER 25533, HER 12075). A possible early medieval pit was recorded during evaluation at 6 King Street, 100m south east of the site (HER 23901: SP 5072 0704).

The site of a Carmelite Friary, established in 1286, is located between 400 to 600m to the south west in the area of Walton Street. A number of burials and wall foundations have been found during excavation (HER 25902: SP 510 065). This area is also the site of Beaumont Palace, built in the 12th century by Henry I (HER 25968: SP 5105 0657). 75 Walton Street may be the site of a medieval farm associated with Walton Manor (HER 25533, 26474: SP 5062 0719). A possible farmstead, rubbish pits and pottery sherds were recorded during excavation at 69 Woodstock Road (MOX23780: SP 50901 07344).

Additional evidence of medieval occupation includes: pottery sherds found during evaluation at 43 Jericho Street, 40m to the south (HER 24908: SP 5068 0706); Medieval pottery found at 18 Walton Street, 360m to the south (HER 11831, HER 24855: SP 5093 0676); pottery sherds at 82 Walton Street, 280m to the north north-west (HER 25474: SP 5055 0735).

The construction of the Oxford Canal in 1790 (HER 25909: SP 5056 0679) enabled industrial and residential development at the end of the 18th century and start of the 19th century. The Eagle Iron Works moved to Walton Well Road in 1825 (HER 11358: SP 5045 0722). The Radcliffe Infirmary was erected between 1759 and 1770 and was associated with an extensive burial ground that was subject to excavation during 2013-14 (HER 26543: SP 5085 0697). Walton House was constructed c. 1826 by Alderman Thomas Ensworth and later became Somerville College (HER 26161: SP 5098 0696). The University Press moved to Walton Street in 1830 (HER 25972, 11337: SP 5081 0690), the presence of which led to the rapid development of the Jericho district through the latter part of that century. Working class houses were constructed along Walton Street and Jericho mainly in the decade 1821-31, but this continued into the 1860s and 1880s. The majority of HER sites listed in the Walton and Jericho areas are listed buildings, the most pertinent of which are accounted above.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular

- To determine whether any prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments are on the site and/or whether known Roman activity in the area extends on to the site.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the development under consideration.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

A Brief for the evaluation was issued by the Oxford City Council Archaeologist. John Moore Heritage Services undertook the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2018) agreed with the Archaeologist.

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

3.2 Methodology

The site was a small area 102.23m² and was bordered by the wall to a building on east side, a boundary wall to the south, and residential access to the north. Due to the constraints of the site the excavation of a 6m length by 1.65m wide trench was proposed. Due to the potential depth of excavation the trench was excavated at 2.85m wide down to a depth of 0.5m and then then was stepped down a further 0.8m at 1.85m wide. The final trench length was 6.25m at ground level and 5.6m long at the base.

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 evaluation trench was monitored by David Radford the Oxford City Council Archaeologist.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2; Appendix 1)

The trench was excavated down to a depth of 1.2m onto the natural gravel (1/07). Deposited above this was a mixed grey and orange sandy loam subsoil (1/06) and this was overlain by a buried topsoil (1/05). Above this was a further topsoil with a more frequent stone inclusion (1/04). Overlying these buried soil deposits was a made-ground deposit which was a mixture of light orange and grey clayey sand (1/03) and excavated through this deposit was the foundation cut 1/12, the cut to a former garage/workshop wall **1/13**. The wall-cut 1/12 was a 0.22m deep by c.0.5m wide vertical sided cut with a flat base. The wall **1/13** which was orientated north-west to south-east was constructed of unfrosted bricks and survived to a height of 0.42m, a width of 0.35m and was greater than 3.7m in length. The wall-cut was backfilled with a clayey sand deposit with inclusions of mortar (1/14). Deposit (1/03), which the wall cut was excavated through, was not continuous across the site. It became diffuse beyond the south-west of the garage wall and did not continue into the southern section of the trench (Fig. 2, Sections 1.01 and 1.02). It may have been mostly removed during previous ground clearance prior to the excavation of the garage foundations or it may have been a levelling layer spread roughly across the footprint of the garage plot prior to its construction.

At the south edge of the site was the remains of a large pit 1/09 and a smaller pit 1/15 (Fig. 2, Plan 1.01, Section 1.02; Plates 1 & 2). The pit 1/15, which was only identified in section, had been cut through the buried soil horizon (1/04). The pit contained a dark grey brown sandy loam fill (1/16) with modern material including a post-war milk bottle. This pit was cut by a larger pit 1/09. The known dimensions of pit 1/09 were greater than 2.3m by greater than 1.6m. The lower fill of the pit was a 0.13m to 0.3m thick mid-grey and yellow sandy silt loam with patches of burnt material and fragments of 19th century pottery (1/10). Deposited above was a 0.35m to 0.5m thick deposit of light yellow and grey sandy silt loam (1/11). A further deposit a dark grey black silt with a dominant ash content and fragments of plate glass and brick, overlay

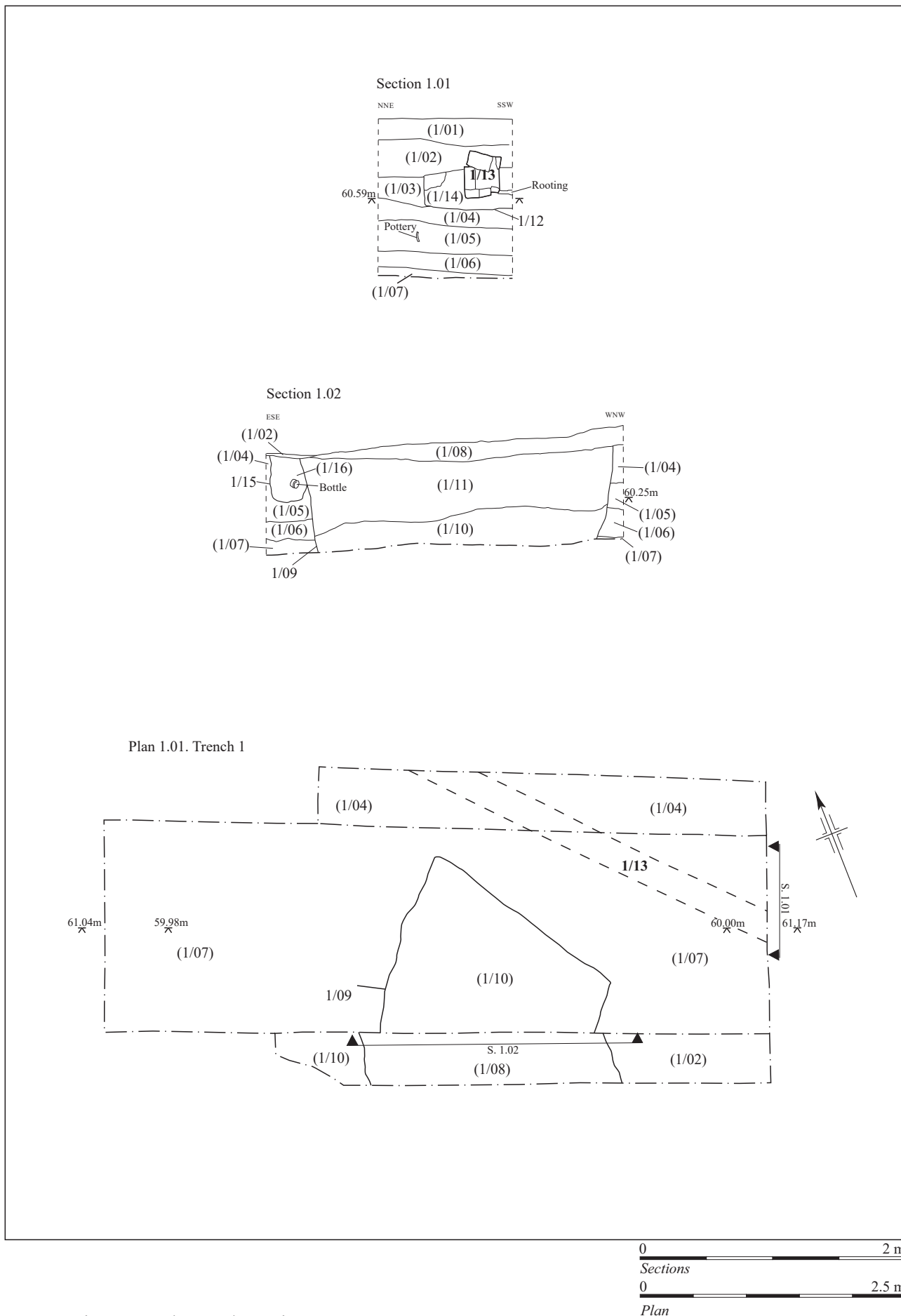


Figure 3: Plan and Sections.



Plate 1. Trench 1. WNW view.



Plate 2. Section 1.02 featuring Pits 1/09 and 1/15. SSW view.

the pit and may have been an upper fill of it. This deposit spread beyond the edges of the pit 1/09 and had an unclear upper horizon with the made-ground deposit above.

Overlying the wall and the backfilled pits was made-ground deposit (1/02) which had been deposited following the demolition of the two garages/workshops on the site. This was overlain with light pinkish purple stone which made up the surface of the current parking area.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by Stephanie N. Duensing

A small assemblage of post medieval pottery was recovered from two contexts in the evaluation trench at Cranham Street, and comprised of 10 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 266g. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA 2018), as follows:

PMR: Red Earthenware, 1580 – 1900. Fine sandy earthenware, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such pottery was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 20th century. 1 sherd, 20g.

REFW: Refined white earthenware, 1805 – pres. 7 sherds, 176g.

TPW: Refined white ware, underglaze transfer-printed, 1780 – 1900. 1 sherd, 15g.

TPW4: Refined white ware with green colour transfer-printed, 1825 – 1900. 1 sherd, 55g.

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 similar sites in the immediate location which were heavily built-up in the mid to late Victorian period. The assemblage was industrial in date, specifically 19th century. Overall, the range of pottery types present indicates that there was domestic activity at the site during the late 19th to 20th century; the wares reflect that of a middle social status.

No further work is recommended and the pottery will not be retained.

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

WARE	Context	05	10	Total
TPW	No		1	1
	Wt (g)		15	15
TPW4	No		1	1
	Wt (g)		55	55
REFW	No		7	7
	Wt (g)		176	176
PMR	No	1		1
	Wt (g)	20		20
	Date	AD 1580-Pres	AD 1825	

5.2 Other finds

A glass milk bottle, probably dating to the 1960s or 1970s was recovered from the fill of a small pit, Context (16).

A sample brick was recovered from wall 1/13. It had no frog and measured 106mm in breadth, 230mm long and 63mm in height. It had a mid- pinkish orange fabric and had been bonded with a light grey mortar.

Other fragments of brick and plate glass were not recovered from the site and none of the finds were considered for retention.

6 DISCUSSION

The deposits and material recovered from the site suggest activity in the 20th century related to the demolition of the garages or small workshops which had stood on the site and which could still be observed as the impressions of their former rooflines on the easterly wall of the site. Pottery was recovered from a pit which dated to the 19th century but as this pit appeared to cut a smaller pit, which contained late 20th century material, it would indicate that this pottery was deposited during the rapid backfilling of the pit in the 20th century. Pottery recovered from a buried soil deposit on the site might be dated to as early as the late 16th century but the broad date range of this type pottery and the lack of any other dateable material could mean that the deposit is much later. No earlier features or finds were identified.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

<u>Paper record</u>	<u>Physical record</u>
Written scheme of investigation	None
The project report	
The primary site record	

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museums Service with accession number OXCMS: 2018.92

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

MoLA 2018, Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes
https://www.mola.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-downloads/Medieval%20and%20post-medieval%20pottery%20codes%20in%20Word_0.doc accessed 20/04/2018)

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Light pinkish purple gravel	0.22m	>2.85m	>6.2m	None	Car park surface	20 th century +
1/02	Deposit	Mid greyish brown loamy sand	0.18m to 0.33m	>2.85m	>6.2m	Brick fragments	Made ground	20 th century +
1/03	Deposit	Mid-grey and yellow clay and sand	0.14m to 0.23m	>2.85m	>4.3m	None	Made ground	Post-medieval +
1/04	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy loam with frequent small stone	0.14m to 0.2m	>2.85m	>6.2m	None	Buried topsoil horizon	Post-medieval +
1/05	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy loam	0.2m to 0.5m	>1.85m	>5.6m	Pottery	Buried topsoil horizon	Post-medieval +
1/06	Deposit	Reddish brown and grey sandy loam	0.12m to 0.22m	>1.85m	>5.6m	None	Subsoil	Undated
1/07	Deposit	Light orange sand and gravel	>0.1m	>1.85m	>5.6m	None	Natural sand and gravel.	Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago
1/08	?Fill	Dark grey to black ashy silt	0.28m	>2.35m	-	Brick fragments and plate glass	Upper fill of pit 1/09 or deposit overlying the pit	20 th century
1/09	Cut	Irregular cut with near vertical sides	> 0.65m	2.35m	>1.6m	-	Large modern pit which cuts pit fill (1/16)	20 th century
1/10	Fill	Mid-grey and yellow sandy silt loam	>0.3m	2.10m	>1.6m	Pottery	Lower backfill of modern pit 1/09	20 th century
1/11	Fill	Light yellow and grey sandy silt loam	0.35m to 0.5m	2.35m	>1.6m	Brick	Backfill of modern pit 1/09	20 th century
1/12	Cut	Linear cut with straight vertical sides	0.22m	c. 0.5m	>3.7m	None	Foundation cut for wall 1/13	20 th century
1/13	Masonry	Unfrogged bricks in 3 surviving courses with grey mortar	0.42m	c. 0.35m	>3.7m	None	Remains of wall to garage or small workshop	?20 th century
1/14	Fill	Clayey sand and mortar	0.29m	c. 0.5m	>3.7m	Brick fragments	Backfill of cut 1/12	?20 th century
1/15	Cut	Near vertical sides and concave base	0.35m	0.27m	-	-	Modern pit which is cut by pit 1/09	20 th Century
1/16	Fill	Dark grey brown sandy loam	0.35m	0.27m	-	Glass bottle	Fill of Pit 1/15	20 th Century

APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	1A Cranham Street, Oxford	
Short description	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at 1A Cranham Street, Oxfordshire. A single evaluation trench was excavated down to the natural gravel and revealed made ground over the remains of a wall for a former garage/workshop, a modern pit, and a large pit with pottery dating to the 19 th Century. A broadly dated piece of red earthenware pottery was recovered from a buried soil horizon that could possibly be as early as the late 16 th century but as late as the 20 th century. The stratigraphy of the site indicated 20 th century activity above what was possibly an earlier post-medieval buried soil. No earlier finds or features were identified during the excavations.	
Project dates	30 th to 31 st January 2019	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	1A Cranham Street, Jericho, Oxford, OX2 6BY	
Study area	102.23m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SP 50681 07095	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	John Moore Heritage Services	
Project Brief originator	Oxford City Council	
Project Design (WSI)	John Moore Heritage Services	
Project Manager	John Moore	
Project Supervisor	Gavin Davis	
MONUMENT TYPE	Pits, Wall	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery, brick, glass	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Not retained	Not retained
Paper	Oxfordshire County Museums Service	The project brief Written scheme of investigation The project report The primary site record
Digital	Oxfordshire County	The project brief

	Museums Service	Written scheme of investigation The project report Synthesised site record Digital Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
John Moore Heritage Services 2019 <i>1A Cranham Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Unpublished.		