



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

MOAT COTTAGE, KINGHAM,

OXFORDSHIRE.

SP 2587 2420

On behalf of

Mr. & Mrs. A Marshall

JULY 2007

REPORT FOR Mr. & Mrs. A Marshall
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out, as part of the consideration of a proposed development, on 11th July 2007 by John Moore Heritage Services within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument: Oxon 255, Moated Site at Manor Farm, Kingham, Oxfordshire. Previous landscaping of the garden where the proposed development is located had removed all archaeological deposits. No archaeological remains were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located at the north-west end of The Moat, Kingham at NGR SP 2587 2420. The drift geology is supposedly Boulder Clay overlying Middle Lias clays, silts and siltstones (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1968, Chipping Norton: Solid and Drift Sheet 218) although the site itself was found to be on Great Oolitic Cornbrash and approximately 80m to the east another site exhibited sands and fine gravels. The site lies at c. 122m OD and the area of proposed development is under a loose laid patio.

1.2 Planning Background

A planning application has been submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of an extension to Moat Cottage, Kingham, Oxfordshire. As part of the consideration of the application an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site was required. The site also lies within a Scheduled Monument and as such Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent is also required for the proposed development. Class 7 consent was granted for the archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was undertaken to a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by John Moore Heritage Services and approved by Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council and Chris Welch of English Heritage on behalf of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site lies within Scheduled Monument 255, Moated Site at Manor Farm, Kingham (Oxfordshire County Sites and Monuments Record PRN 11,854). This consists of a three sided moat with the northwest side defined by a hollow way which followed the margin of the medieval field system and also formed a back lane to the village (Fig. 1). In addition there is an extension to the northeast side which forms another enclosure. To the west of the moat and the location of the proposed development is a large rectangular pond.

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/absence of archaeological remains within the site.

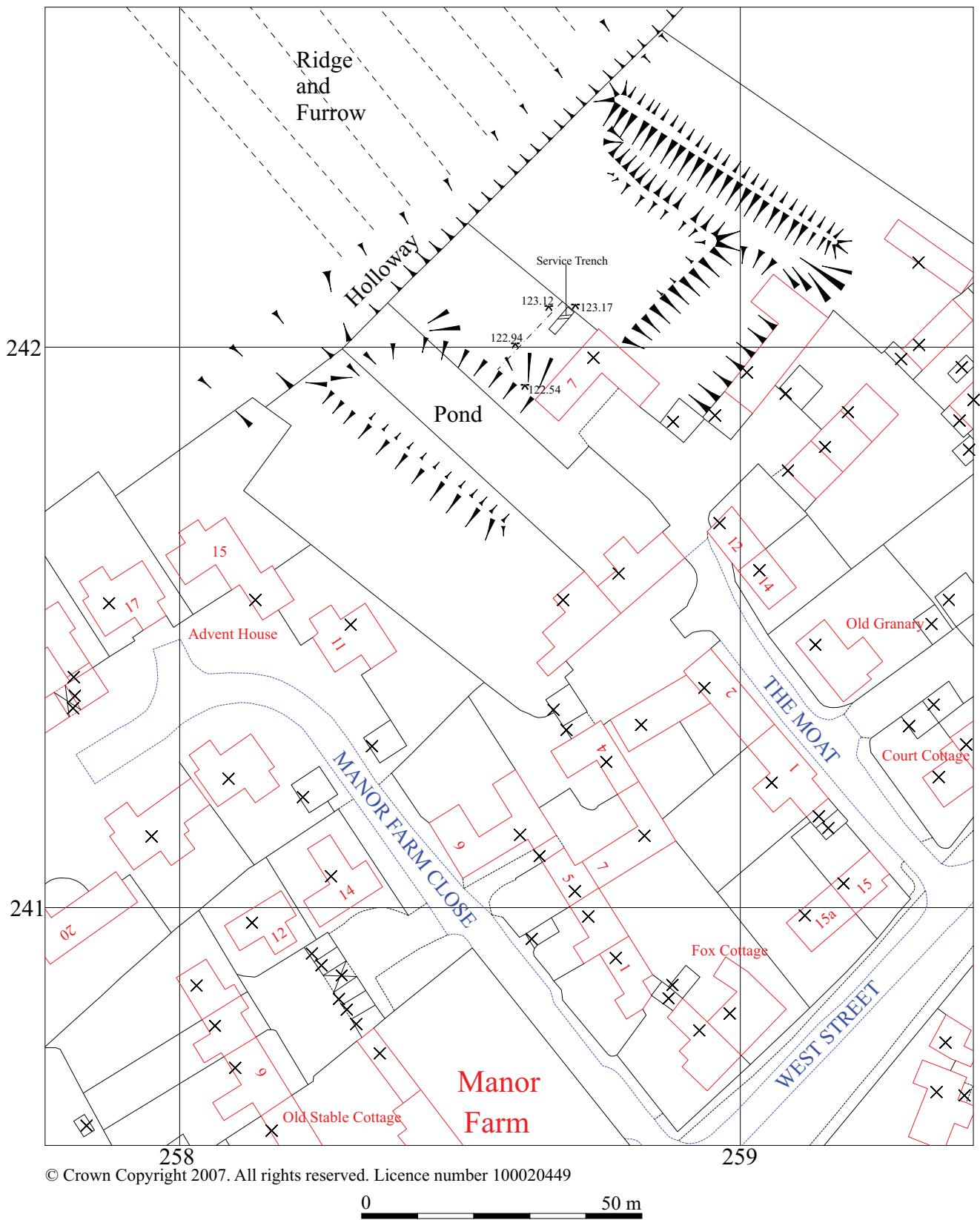


Figure 1. Site and trench location showing 1979 earthwork survey (after Oxfordshire SMR data)

- 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.
- In particular to determine whether any significant archaeological features and deposits relating to the Scheduled Monument will be affected by the development proposals.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

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 and English heritage. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record throughout, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the procedures laid down in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

A trench measuring 5.2m by 1.6m was mechanically excavated across the footprint of the proposed extension to Moat Cottage, using a toothless bucket. The trench was oriented northeast-southwest (Fig. 1). The work was monitored by Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Field results

The trench was located beneath a loosely laid patio, which was at a height of between 122.56m OD and 122.68m OD. This was removed by hand prior to machine-excavation starting. Immediately below the patio-slabs was c. 0.1m of concrete, which was excavated to reveal the underlying natural Cornbrash. The uppermost c. 0.1m of the Cornbrash was machined off as it was dirty due to root-action and from when it had previously been exposed. No finds were recovered.

A single east-west service trench was observed, which was sampled to confirm that it was a service trench. A small piece of Welsh slate was in the fill of the service trench. No finds were retained however.

No archaeological remains were present in the trench; nor were there any finds within the deposits observed. Levels taken on the ground surfaces to the north, west and south indicate that significant truncation has been carried out on the site where the proposed extension is located.

Levels were taken on the original land-surface to the north, west and south to assess the quantity of material that had been removed at the time of terracing. Approximately 0.7m had been scraped away for the patio area next to the house on the northern side of the property. This flat area extended the length of the dwelling, though at the southern end it is clear that less had been landscaped as the topography indicates a fall in the land to the south towards the fishpond.

4.2 Reliability of results and methodologies

The evaluation undertaken at Moat Cottage, Kingham was carried out in optimal conditions, enabling all the aims of the investigation to be addressed.

5 FINDS

5.1 Artefacts

Only Welsh slate was recovered from the service trench. No finds were retained.

5.2 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out at Moat Cottage, Kingham, demonstrated that significant truncation had occurred in the area of the footprint of the proposed extension, removing all putative archaeological remains.

This truncation measured c. 7.5m. east-west and c. 10m north-south within the garden area immediately adjacent to and north of the current dwelling. Approximately 7.5m west of the house, the ground-level is stepped up by c. 0.70m, a level similar to that in the neighbouring garden to the north, which is not terraced. The general level of the garden does drop away to the south, toward the fishpond, and any terracing on the south side of the property has probably not had as significant an impact upon putative archaeological remains as it has had on the north side of the property adjacent to and immediately west of the current dwelling.

It is clear that there is the potential for archaeological remains to the west of the proposed extension, but that within the footprint of the proposed extension extensive truncation has removed all archaeological remains.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

The project report

Written Scheme of Investigation

The primary site records

The archive has been given an accession number OXCMS:2007:92 by Oxfordshire County Museums Service, where it will be deposited.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1994. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.*