



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

**TRACEY BARN HOUSE, NEW ROAD,
GREAT TEW, OXFORDSHIRE**

SP 3924 2758

On behalf of

Fairwater Ltd

JUNE 2007

REPORT FOR Fairwater Ltd
Lodge Farm
Malthouse Lane
Ashington
West Sussex
RH20 3BU

PREPARED BY John Moore

FIELDWORK 9 November 2006 & 23-24 May 2007

REPORT ISSUED 18 June 2007

ENQUIRES TO *John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ
Tel/Fax 01865 358300*

Site Code GTTBH 06
JMHS Project No: 1723
Archive Location Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Accession number OCMS: 2007.4

CONTENTS

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

Summary

A watching brief was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services during excavation for a new lake. No archaeological remains were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site was located approximately east of the B4022 approximately 1 km south of Great Tew and immediately west of Tracey Barn House (NGR SP 3924 2758). A stream runs from Hookerswell Farm in a southeasterly direction and passes some 50m south of Tracy Barn House. The underlying geology is Upper Lias Clay. The site lies at approximately 147m OD and the landuse was pasture.

1.2 Planning Background

West Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the construction of a new lake adjacent to Tracey Barn House, Great Tew (06/0899/P/FP). Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition was attached requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the period of groundworks. This was in line with PPG 16 and local plan policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

To the north of Tracey Barn House are a series of crop marks that have been identified through aerial photography. These include a circular feature approximately 20m across with a possible small entrance through its northeastern side. There are several linear features adjacent to this that run southwards to Tracey Barn House. To the northwest, upstream, is the possible site of a barrow.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To identify and record any archaeological remains exposed during the construction works
- In particular to record any remains associated with the known cropmarks to the north.

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. Standard

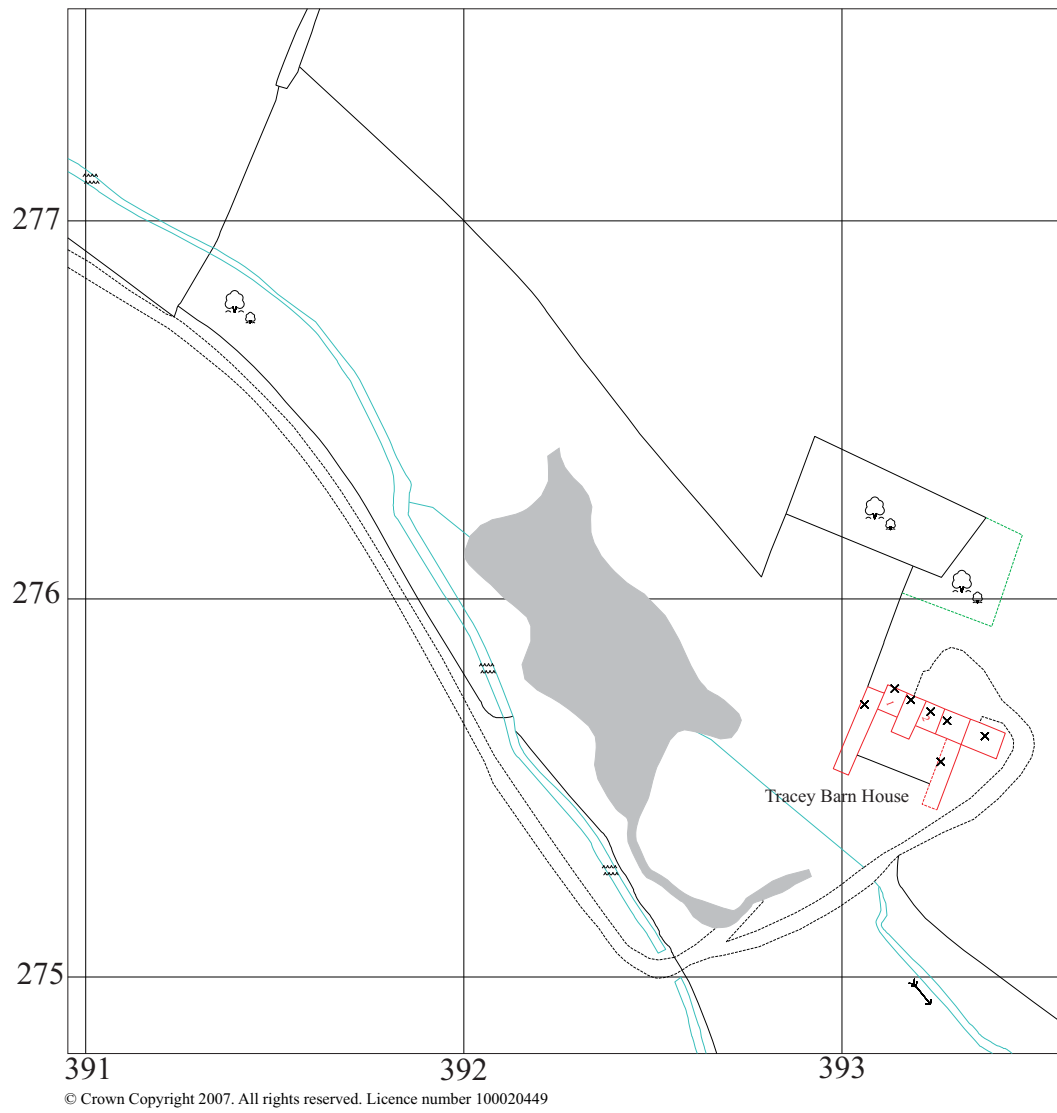


Figure 1. Site location

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

Unfortunately after being notified that planning consent had been granted but before the conditions attached to the consent were known development commenced. Approximately one-third of the proposed lake (eastern) was excavated to full depth without an archaeologist being present. The topsoil had also been removed over the remaining two-thirds. The later had been partly rutted by plant movement. Work on the site halted in November 2006 due to the high level of the watertable. The site was visited at this time and the spoil heap from the excavations was examined but no artefacts were noted.

On re-commencement of the work in May 2007 an archaeologist monitored the cleaning of the top of the Upper Lias Clay deposits over the western two-thirds of the lake footprint. This was carried out mechanically using a large toothless bucket. In addition an area of topsoil stripping to the west of the lake was monitored prior to dumping of the excavated clay from the lake. The excavation of the outflow channel from the southern corner to the existing stream further to the northeast was monitored as far as it is shown on Figure 1. At this point the ground had been disturbed by a builder's compound for the conversion of the barn into the present house. The sides of the area of the lake already excavated were examined for cut features.

4 RESULTS

Topsoil directly overlaid Upper Lias Clay over the lake footprint and in the bottom of the valley where the excavated material was being dumped to the west. On the north edge of the area for dumping colluvial deposits up to 2m thick overlaid the Upper Lias Clay.

No archaeological features or finds other than one piece of late 19th/early 20th century mass produced white ware pottery and pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem were seen.

5 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or activity associated with the cropmarks known to the north were present in the area examined. The area had not been ploughed in antiquity.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

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