



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS,

SHIPTON-ON-CHERWELL,

OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 48020 16520

JUNE 2020

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Church of the Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxfordshire (SP 48020 16520) ahead of determination of a planning application for the construction of a new W/C building and associated works and at the request of the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, demonstrating that the area proposed for the W/C, on the peripheral edge of the churchyard, had not been used for burials.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located in the churchyard of the Church of the Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxfordshire (SP 48020 16520). The site lies on the banks of the River Cherwell at a height approximately between 60m and 65m AOD. The underlying geology is Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone; no superficial geology is recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.2 Planning Background

Archaeological investigation in the form of a trenching evaluation was requested by the archaeological advisor to the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) at the Church of the Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, ahead of a forthcoming planning application for the construction of a new W/C building, associated septic tank trench and pipe trenching (20/01263/F).

1.3 Archaeological Background

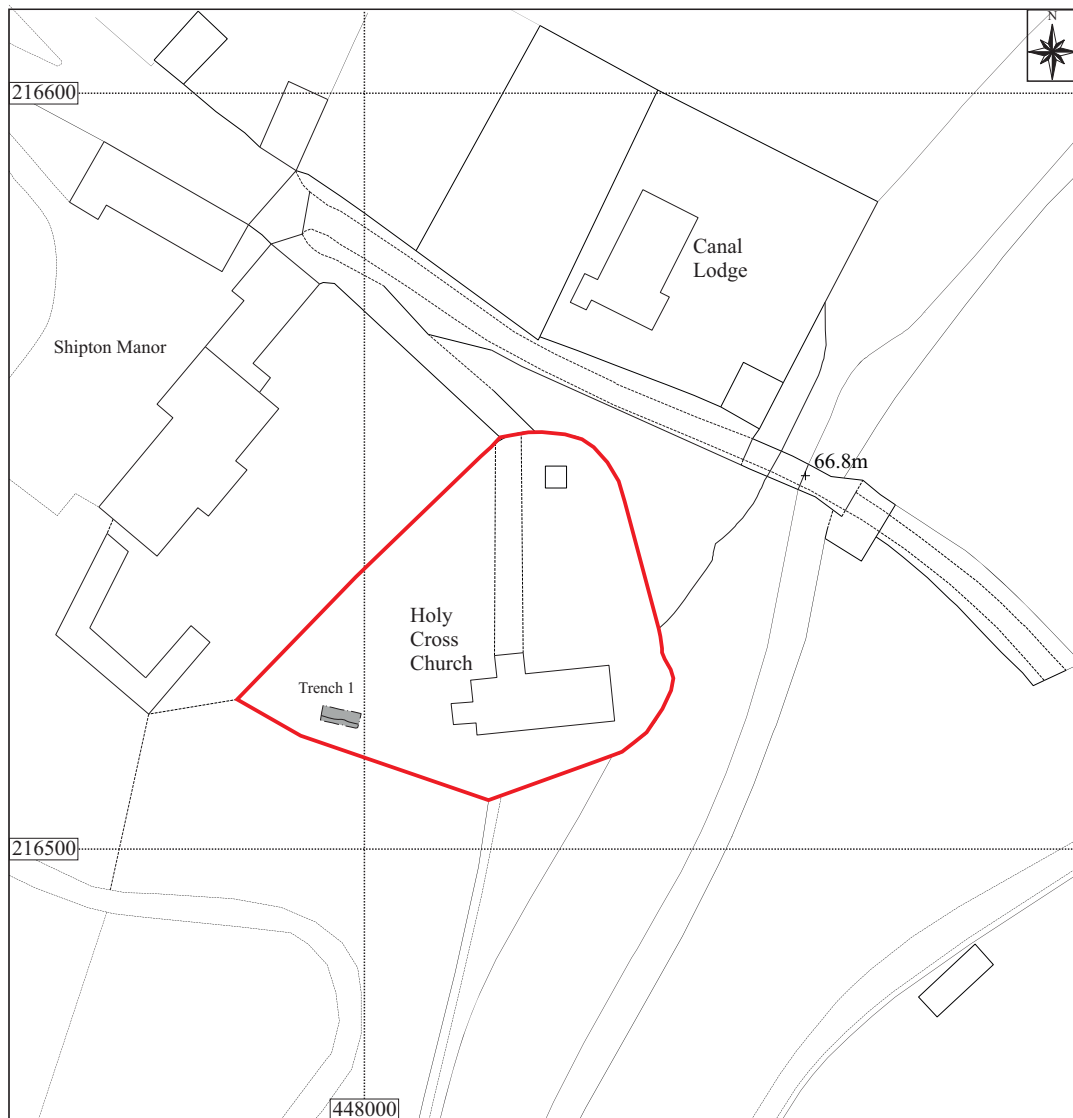
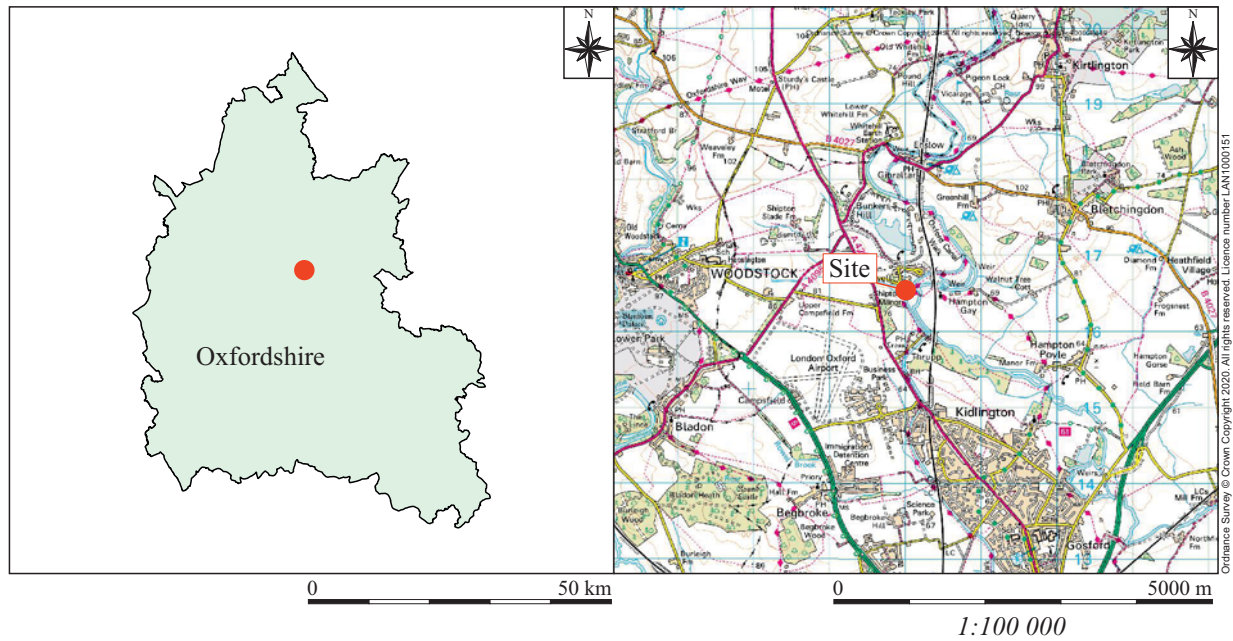
The site is located in an area of considerable archaeological interest within the graveyard of the medieval Holy Cross Church. The Church was rebuilt in 1831 and thoroughly restored in 1885 but retains a number of 14th century elements. The graveyard also contains the remains of a medieval cross to the north of the church which is a scheduled monument.

The graveyard itself is therefore likely to have been used for burials since the 14th century and likely earlier. The proposed works will involve ground disturbances which are therefore highly likely to encounter medieval and later human remains and may encounter surviving remains of any earlier church buildings on the site.

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 or absence of archaeological remains within the area of the proposed works.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.



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Key  Site boundary  Evaluation trenches

0 50 m
1:1000

Figure 1: Site location

- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any human remains present.
- To determine the extent of the burials within this area of the churchyard.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the archaeological advisors to the DAC.

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

3.2 Methodology

As laid out in the WSI the evaluation was initially to comprise of two trenches, however following consultation with the archaeological advisor to the DAC a single evaluation trench 5.5m in length by 1.8m wide was excavated across the proposed site of the toilet in the southwestern corner of the churchyard. It was determined that the second trench, due to be located in the area of the proposed septic tank, would be excavated either post-determination or covered under an archaeological watching brief.

The work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the faculty issued by the Oxford DAC. 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.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 Trench 1

The lowest deposit encountered was the geological horizon (1/04), mudstone of the Forest Marble Formation bedded in compact whitish grey and yellowish brown clay. Within the trench this deposit dropped significantly in height from north to south. The natural geology was overlain by deposit (1/03); a stiff mid grey silty clay graveyard soil that contained occasional fragments of limestone and charnel. This was at least 0.2m in thickness and extended below the limit of excavation along the southern edge of the trench, where the sloping geology did not allow it to be fully excavated. Several sherds of post medieval to 20th century pottery were also recovered from this deposit. Deposit (1/03) was overlain by (1/02) a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt 0.4m in thickness that contained frequent limestone fragments. Layer (1/02) was overlain in turn by topsoil (1/01), a friable dark brown sandy silt 0.12m in thickness.

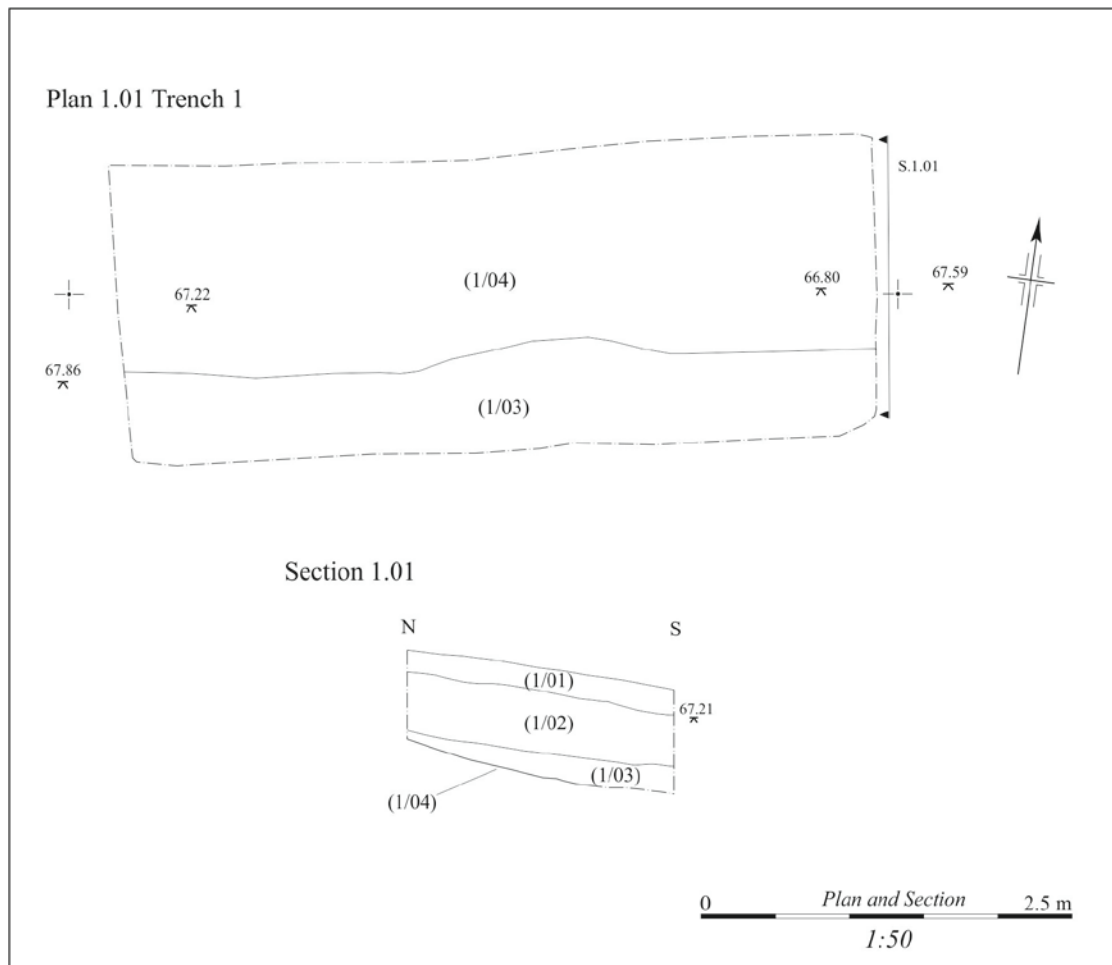


Figure 2: Trench 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, section 1.1. Looking east.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by Tom Rose-Jones

Four sherds of pottery of post-medieval to 20th century date were recovered from deposit (1/03) before being reburied prior to reinstatement of the trench. Those positively identified comprised one sherd of Red Earthenware (OXDR) and two sherds of Mass-produced White Earthenware (WHEW).

5.2 Human Remains by Tom Rose-Jones

Three fragments of disarticulated human remains were recovered from deposit (1/03). These were retained during the course of the evaluation before being reburied prior to reinstatement of the trench.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation was successful in meeting the aims laid out in the WSI. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation. No graves were present within the trench; this is likely due to the topography of the location, which is on the very edge of the churchyard and in an area of sloping ground, which drops away steeply to the south. Deposit (1/03) was interpreted as a thin layer of graveyard soil, which had been overlain by a thick deposit of dumped material (1/02). The origin of this material is uncertain though it may have been deposited in order to level the sloping ground in this area of the churchyard, thus increasing the available space for burials.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4236) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Digitised copies of all the primary records will be made publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS (ID johnmoor1-395697).

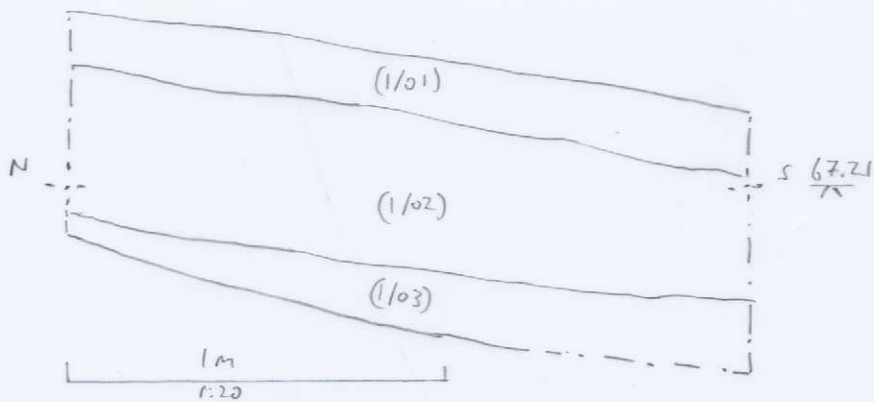
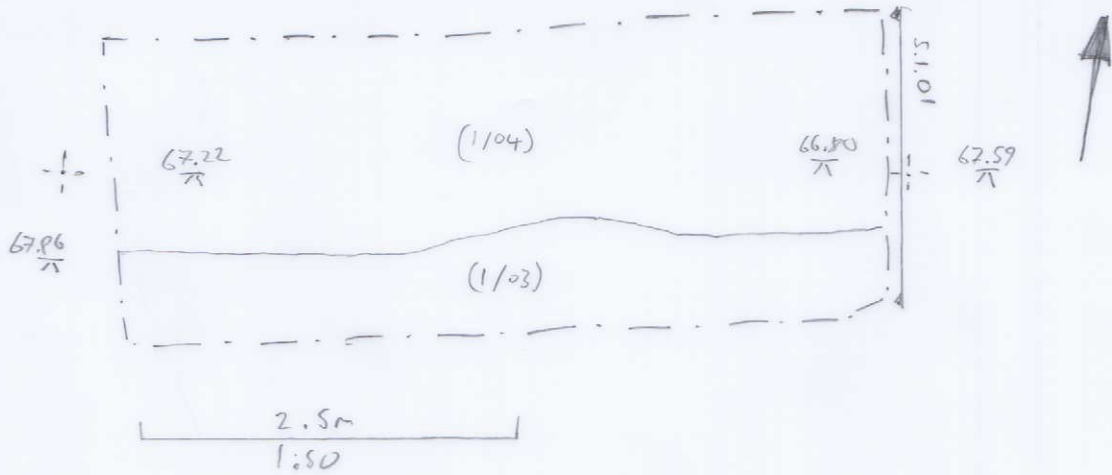
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

APPENDIX 1: Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
1/01	Deposit	Friable dark brown sandy silt.	0.12	Whole trench	Whole trench	None	Topsoil	Undetermined
1/02	Deposit	Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent limestone fragments.	0.4	Whole trench	Whole trench	None	Levelling deposit or dumped material	Undetermined
1/03	Deposit	Stiff mid grey silty clay graveyard soil that contained occasional fragments of limestone and charnel.	>0.2	Whole trench	Whole trench	Charnel, pottery	Subsoil/Graveyard soil	Post-medieval to 20 th century
1/04	Deposit	Mudstone bedded in compact whitish grey and yellowish brown clay.	N/A	Whole trench	Whole trench	None	Natural - Forest Marble Formation	Jurassic

SCHC20 P1.01 TR1
 1:50 2/6/20 TRJ



SCHC20 S.1.01 Rep sec. of TR1
 1:20 2/6/20 TRJ



Trench 1, looking E



Trench 1, looking W



Section 1.01



Pottery

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-395697

Project details

Project name	Church of the Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxfordshire
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at Church of the Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxfordshire (SP 48020 16520) ahead of a forthcoming planning application for the construction of a new W/C building and associated works. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, demonstrating that the area proposed for the W/C, on the peripheral edge of the churchyard, had not been used for burials.
Project dates	Start: 02-06-2020 End: 02-06-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SCHC 20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4236 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	johnmoor1-395697 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCHYARD Medieval
Monument type	CHURCHYARD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE CHERWELL SHIPTON ON CHERWELL AND THRUPP Church of the Holy Cross

Postcode	OX5 1JL
Study area	11 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 48020 16520 51.844769120604 -1.30285285761 51 50 41 N 001 18 10 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.8m Max: 67.2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Diocese Advisory Committee
Project design originator	JMHS
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Tom Rose-Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	JMHS
Digital Archive ID	johnmoor1-395697
Digital Contents	"other","Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Digital Archive notes	A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4236) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Digitised copies of all the primary records are publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Church of The Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxfordshire
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Moore, J.
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