



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**29 HEATHER ROAD, MILTON, ABINGDON**

**OXFORDSHIRE OX14 4EX**

**NGR SU 48900 92467**

**JULY 2021**

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**FIELDWORK DATE** 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**REPORT ISSUED** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

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**JMHS Project No:** 4394  
**OASIS No:** johnmoor1\_425251  
**Site Code:** MIHR 21  
**Archive Location:** A copy of the digital archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4394). Digitised copies of the primary records are available on OASIS.



**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
<b>2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 STRATEGY</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Research Design	3
3.2 Methodology	3
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 ARCHIVE</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>6</b>
 <b>FIGURES AND PLATES</b>	
Figure 1: Site Location.	2
Figure 2: Plan of excavated footings and Section.	5
Plate 1: Section 01. Looking south/south-west.	4
 <b>APPENDICES</b>	
Appendix 1. Primary Context Records	7
Appendix 2. OASIS Report Form	15

## **SUMMARY**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon OX14 4EX on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (NGR SU 48900 92467). The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was for the creation of a single storey rear extension. During the course of the watching brief, a series of foundation footings were excavated. This particular area had potential for prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. However, over the course of the watching brief groundworks, no archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered from any period.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The development site is located at 29 Heather Road, Milton (NGR SU 48900 92467). The site lies at approximately 58m AOD. The underlying geology is Second Terrace River Gravels.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

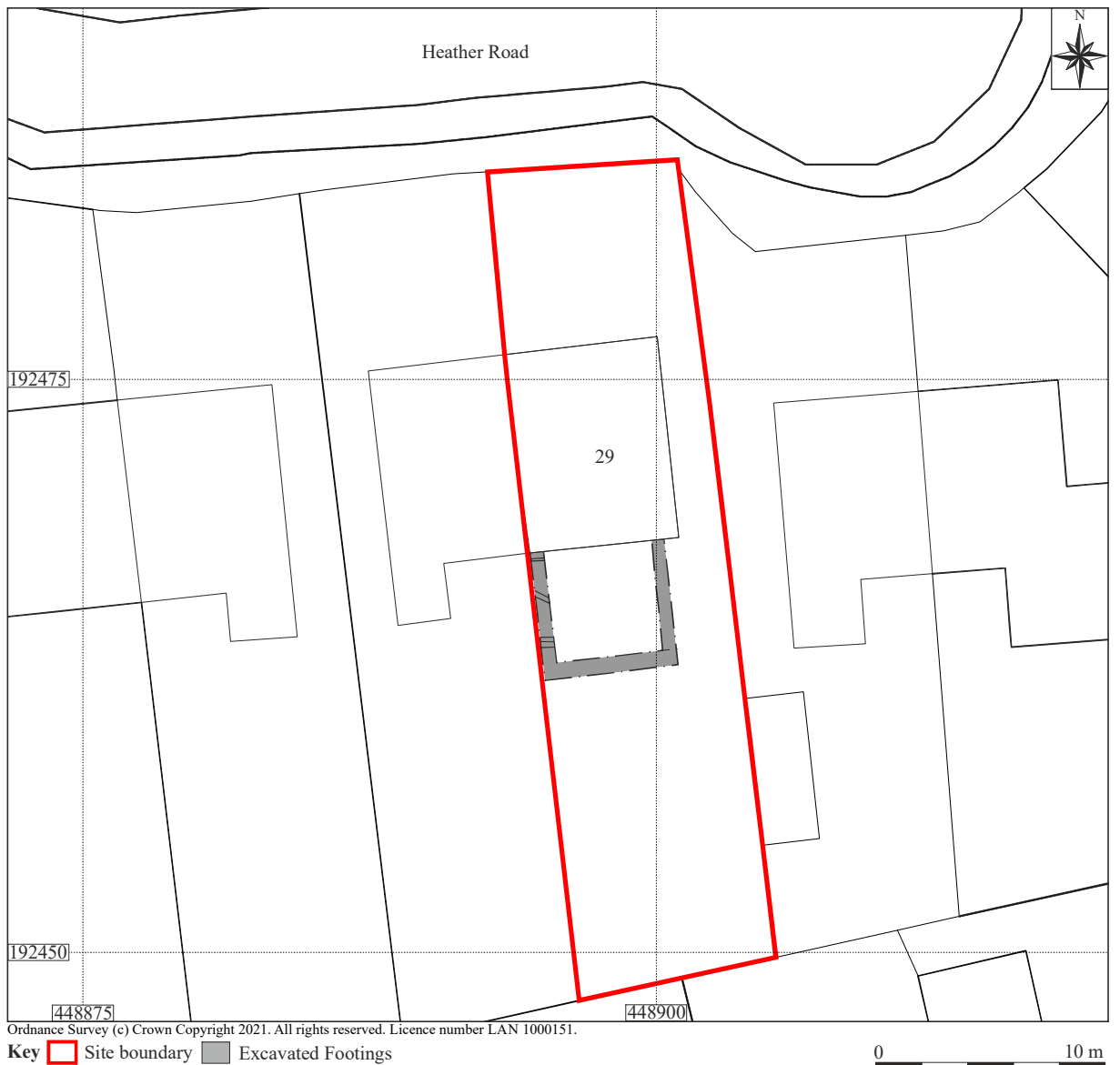
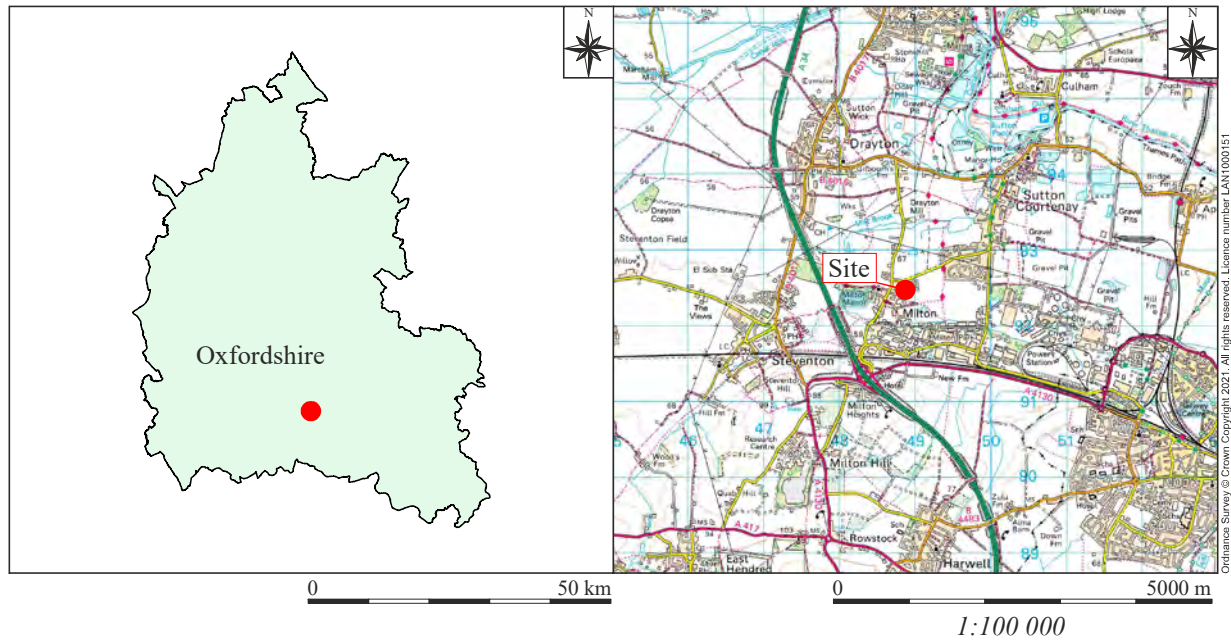
Vale of White Horse District Council granted planning permission for single storey rear extension. Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site.

*4. 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 safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with policy DP39 of the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and the NPPF (2019).*

*5. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 4, 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 which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two years of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.*

*Reason - To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with in accordance with policy DP39 of the adopted Local Plan 2031 Part 2 and the NPPF (2019).*



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**Key**  Site boundary  Excavated Footings

Figure 1: Site location

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site lies very close (within 100m) of a large and highly significant Anglo-Saxon burial ground. Archaeological excavation was undertaken in 2015, for which initial reporting has occurred in October 2020. The excavation revealed multiple phases of archaeological activity. The earliest evidence consisted of a scatter of Beaker period pits, which were difficult to interpret, but most likely represented truncated settlement remains. These were superseded by probable later Prehistoric or Roman co-axial ditched fields, which were not demonstrably associated with any other features. The Beaker and later Prehistoric/Roman period features were sealed by a subsoil horizon, which was subsequently cut by numerous graves forming part of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The site contained 50 recorded inhumation burials, most of which were supine, aligned east – west and were devoid of grave goods.

There was therefore the potential for the site to contain heritage assets with an archaeological interest, and in particular the potential for human remains to be present 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 make a record of any significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record any evidence relating to the prehistoric, Romano British and Anglo-Saxon remains known in the area to further enhance the understanding of the landscape in these periods.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (OCAS), the archaeological advisors to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

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

### **3.2 Methodology**

A series of foundation footings were excavated on the immediate south of the building of 29 Heather Road which covered an area measuring 5.50m by 6m. The width of the footing trenches were 0.70m and were excavated down to a maximum depth of 0.78m.

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. 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 prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

#### 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. A series of foundation footings were excavated which covered an area measuring 5.50m by 6m to a depth of 0.78m.

The earliest recorded deposit was a compact, light to mid brownish-yellow gravel (03) (Figure 2; Section 01; Plan 01; Plate 1). It measured greater than 6m in length, greater than 5.50m in width and had a thickness exceeding 0.08m. This deposit was identified as the Second Terrace River Gravel geology.



Plate 1: Section 01. Looking south/south-west.

Overlying the natural gravels (03) was a friable to firm, mid reddish-brown sandy-clay (02) (Figure 2; Section 01; Plan 01; Plate 1). It contained frequent small gravels. It measured greater than 6m in length, greater than 5.50m in width and had a thickness of 0.28m. Deposit (02) was truncated by modern pipes and services, as well as a concrete pad that was observed in the south-western area of the excavated footings. This deposit was identified as a subsoil layer.

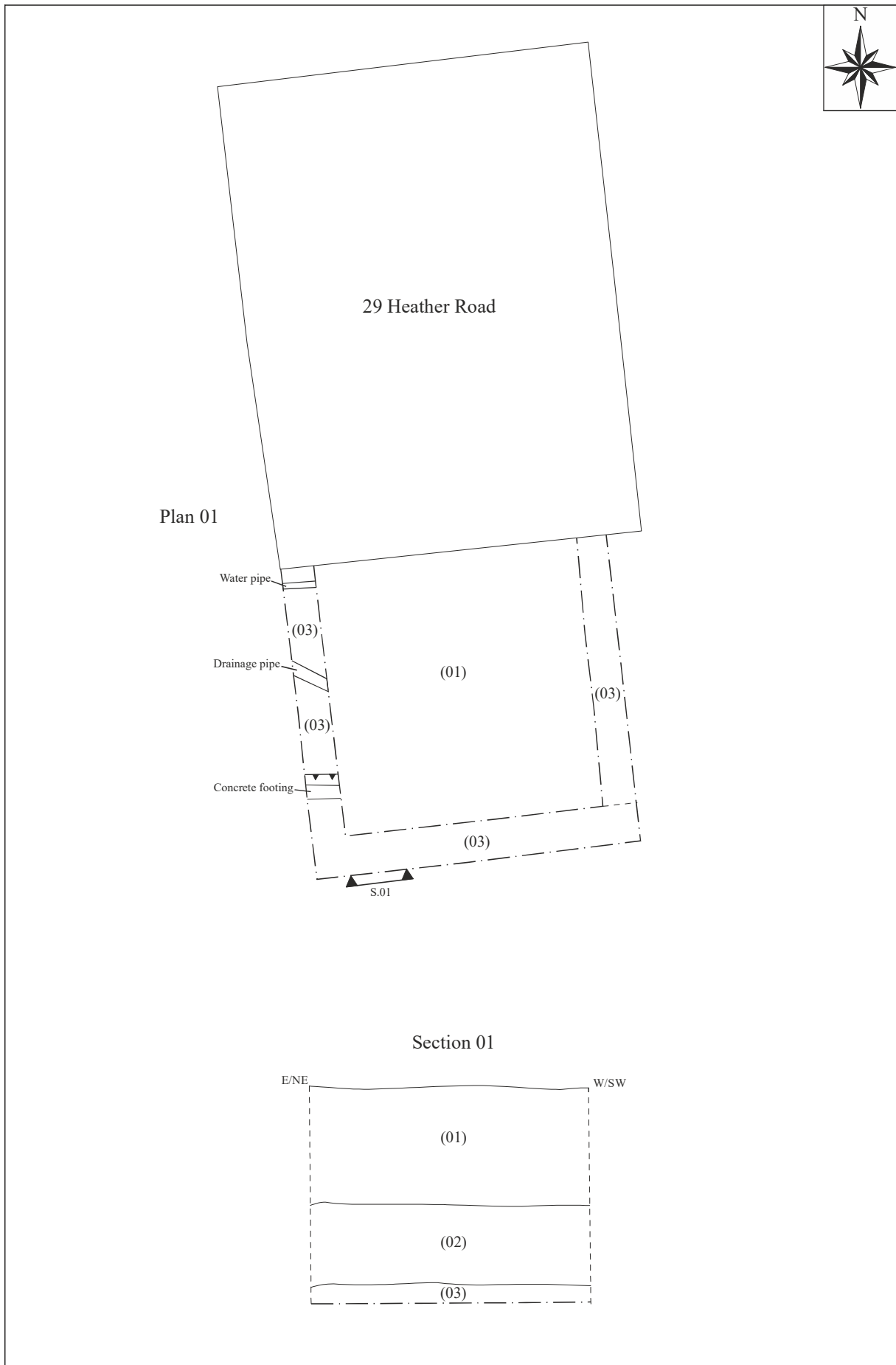


Figure 2: Plan of excavated footings and Section.

Plan 0 5 m  
Section 0 1 m



The latest observed deposit was a friable, mid to dark-brown sandy-clay-loam (01) (Figure 2; Section 01; Plan 01; Plate 1). It contained rare small-sized gravels. It measured greater than 6m in length, greater than 5.50m in width and had a thickness of 0.43m. This deposit was observed throughout the full extent of the site area, and was identified as the garden topsoil layer.

### Reliability of Results

The reliability of the results is considered to be good. The weather conditions were clear, and the groundworks were monitored and completed within a single day. The horizon clarity of the deposits were also considered to be good.

## **5 FINDS**

Over the course of the watching brief groundworks, no archaeological finds or artefacts relating to any period were uncovered or retained.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

The watching brief aimed to identify the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, with a particular focus on the prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. However, over the course of groundworks excavations, a series of modern drainage pipes as well as a modern concrete footing pad were observed within the excavated area. No archaeological features or artefacts relating to any period were uncovered.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4394) and will be made available upon request (to [admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk](mailto: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\_425251).

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

John Moore Heritage Services, 2021, *P20/V2529/HH – 29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon OX14 4EX, Archaeological Watching Brief, Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished.



Grid Squares	Area/Trench	Context Type <i>Dep</i>	Site Code <i>MIHR 21</i>	Context <i>(01)</i>
--------------	-------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

Plan No. <i>P.01</i> on Drawing Sheet No. <i>1</i>	Section No. <i>S.01</i> on Drawing Sheet No. <i>1</i>	Add. Sheet
---	--	------------

**DEPOSIT**

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Horizon clarity	6 Comments
7 Method & Conditions	

**CUT**

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Break of slope-top	4 Sides
5 Break of slope-base	6 Base
7 Orientation	8 Inclination of axis
9 Truncation	10 Fill Nos.
11 Other comments	

**Description**

- 1) Friable
- 2) mid to dark brown
- 3) sandy clayey loam
- 4) rare gravel > 0.02m
- 5) moderate
- 6) N/A
- 7) machine

**Dimensions**

Length:	<i>&gt; 6m</i>
Thickness/Depth:	<i>0.43m</i>
Width:	<i>70.6m</i>

**Stratigraphic matrix**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This context is:		<i>01</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>02</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Physical Relationship**

**BELOW**  
Under: \_\_\_\_\_ Filled by: \_\_\_\_\_ Cut by: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTEMPORARY**  
Group No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Same as: \_\_\_\_\_

**ABOVE**  
Over: *(02)* Fill of: \_\_\_\_\_ Cuts: \_\_\_\_\_

**Interpretation & Discussion:** Internal External Structural Other (specify)

*Garden soil*

**Environmental Samples**  
Nos: \_\_\_\_\_

**Small Finds:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINDS**  
none  pot  CBM  fauna  flora  flint  glass  metal  burntmat.

Other finds (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Provisional Date:** *mod*

Checked by (on site): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by: *SMD* Date: *24/5/21*

Checked by (office): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grid Squares	Area/Trench	Context Type <i>Dep</i>	Site Code <i>MIHR 21</i>	Context <i>(02)</i>
--------------	-------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------

Plan No. <i>01</i> on Drawing Sheet No. <i>1</i>	Section No. <i>01</i> on Drawing Sheet No. <i>1</i>	Add. Sheet
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**DEPOSIT**

1 Compaction            2 Colour  
3 Composition        4 Inclusions  
5 Horizon clarity    6 Comments  
7 Method & Conditions

**CUT**

1 Shape in plan        2 Corners  
3 Break of slope-top   4 Sides  
5 Break of slope-base   6 Base  
7 Orientation        8 Inclination of axis  
9 Truncation        10 Fill Nos.  
11 Other comments

**Description**

*1) Frangible but firm*  
*2) mid reddish brown*  
*3) sandy clay*  
*4) random gravel upto 0.03m*  
*5) mod to good*  
*6) N/A*  
*7) machine*

**Dimensions**

Length: *7.6m*  
Thickness/Depth: *0.28m*  
Width: *70.6m*

Stratigraphic matrix	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(01)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Relationship
	This context is: <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(02)</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(03)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p><b>BELOW</b></p> Under: <i>(01)</i> Filled by:   Cut by:		
<p><b>CONTEMPORARY</b></p> Group No.:   Same as:		
<p><b>ABOVE</b></p> Over: <i>(03)</i> Fill of:   Cuts:		

**Interpretation & Discussion:**      Internal      External      Structural      Other (specify)

*Subsoil*

**Environmental Samples**  
Nos:

**Small Finds:**

**FINDS**

none   pot   CBM   fauna   flora   flint   glass   metal   burntmat.

Other finds (specify):

**Provisional Date:** *nrk*

Checked by (on site):      Date:

**Completed by:** *SNO*      **Date:** *24/5/21*

Checked by (office):      Date:

Grid Squares	Area/Trench	Context Type <i>Dep.</i>	Site Code <i>MIHR21</i>	Context <i>(03)</i>
--------------	-------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Plan No. <i>1</i> on Drawing Sheet No. <i>1</i>	Section No. <i>1</i> on Drawing Sheet No. <i>1</i>	Add. Sheet
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<p><b>DEPOSIT</b></p> <p>1 Compaction      2 Colour 3 Composition    4 Inclusions 5 Horizon clarity   6 Comments 7 Method &amp; Conditions</p>	<p><b>Description</b></p> <p><i>1. Compact</i></p> <p><i>2. mid to light brownish yellow</i></p> <p><i>3. gravel</i></p> <p><i>4. ———</i></p> <p><i>5. good</i></p> <p><i>6. N/A</i></p> <p><i>7. Macrae</i></p>
<p><b>CUT</b></p> <p>1 Shape in plan      2 Corners 3 Break of slope-top   4 Sides 5 Break of slope-base   6 Base 7 Orientation      8 Inclination of axis 9 Truncation      10 Fill Nos. 11 Other comments</p>	
<p><b>Dimensions</b></p> <p>Length: <i>76m</i></p> <p>Thickness/Depth: <i>70.08m</i></p> <p>Width: <i>70.6m</i></p>	

Stratigraphic matrix	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(02)</i></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">This context is:</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(03)</i></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(02)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This context is:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(03)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>BELOW</b></p> <p>Under: <i>(02)</i>      Filled by:      Cut by:</p> <p><b>CONTEMPORARY</b></p> <p>Group No.: _____ Same as: _____</p> <p><b>ABOVE</b></p> <p>Over:      Fill of:      Cuts:</p>	Physical Relationship
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	This context is:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(03)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>													
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>														

<b>Interpretation &amp; Discussion:</b>	Internal	External	Structural	Other (specify)
<p><i>NATURAL GRAVELS</i></p>				

<p><b>Environmental Samples</b></p> <p>Nos: _____</p>	<p><b>FINDS</b></p> <p>none <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pot <input type="checkbox"/> CBM <input type="checkbox"/> fauna <input type="checkbox"/> flora <input type="checkbox"/> flint <input type="checkbox"/> glass <input type="checkbox"/> metal <input type="checkbox"/> burntmat. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other finds (specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Small Finds:</b></p> <p>_____</p>	

<p><b>Provisional Date:</b> <i>unk</i></p>	<p><b>Checked by (on site):</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____</p>
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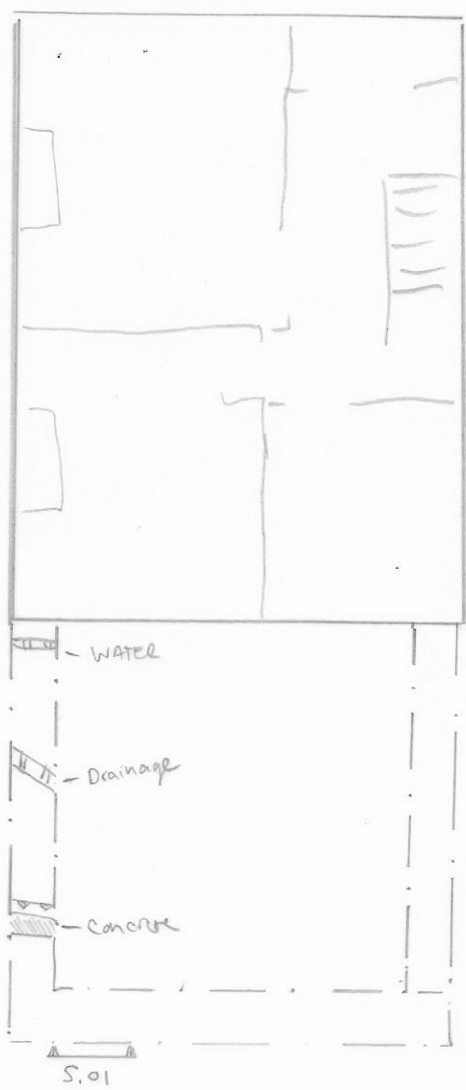
<p><b>Completed by:</b> <i>SMD</i>      <b>Date:</b> <i>24.05.21</i></p>	<p><b>Checked by (office):</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____</p>
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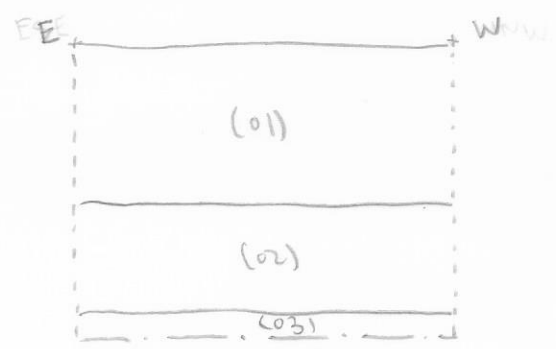






MIHRZI  
p.01 1:100

MIHRZI S.01 Rep. Sec 1:20



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnmoor1-425251**

### Project details

Project name	29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon (NGR SU 48900 92467). No archaeological features or artefacts were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 24-05-2021 End: 24-05-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P20/V2529/HH - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	MIHR 21 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4394 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	johnmoor1-425251 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Research project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE VALE OF WHITE HORSE MILTON 29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon
Postcode	OX14 4EX
Study area	36 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 48900 92467 51.628421205432 -1.293459129221 51 37 42 N 001 17 36 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.7m Max: 0.7m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Vale of White Horse District Council
Project design originator	JMHS
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Stephanie Duensing
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Duncan Wolage Architects Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	John Moore Heritage Services
Digital Archive ID	4394
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Digital Archive notes	Digital files related to the project are maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4394) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk).
Paper Archive Exists?	No

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at 29 Heather Road, Milton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Whitehead, C.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Moore, J.
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**OASIS:**

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