



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**12 CRICK ROAD, OXFORD, OX2 6QL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**ADDENDUM REPORT**

**NGR SP 51395 07573**

**FEBRUARY 2022**

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## SUMMARY

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a further phase of archaeological monitoring at 12 Crick Road, Oxford, during which an area of ground reduction to the rear of the house was monitored, as well as the excavation of a soakaway and drainage linkage to the front of the house. No archaeological features or horizons were encountered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located on the south side of Crick Road, Oxford (NGR SP 51395 07573). The site lies on the 2nd Terrace (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace deposits. The site is currently a residential dwelling and garden, which lies at approximately 60m aOD.

### 1.2 Planning Background

Oxford City Council granted planning permission for **Demolition of the existing conservatory and part of upper ground floor. Erection of a single storey rear extension and alterations to the roof. Demolition of part of front boundary wall and insertion of railing and gate to front boundary. Erection of bin and cycle store. Associated landscaping to front and rear gardens** (20/00664/FUL). A condition relating to archaeology was attached:

*No development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and*

- *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*
- *The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI*

*Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, including Iron Age and early Saxon remains (Local Plan Policy DH4).*

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

Evidence from aerial photographs and archaeological excavations indicates the presence of an extensive prehistoric ritual and agricultural landscape across this part of the Oxford gravel terrace, involving Middle Neolithic – Early Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments, Iron Age /Roman agricultural field systems and subsequent Saxon rural settlement. An extensive cropmark complex recorded in the University

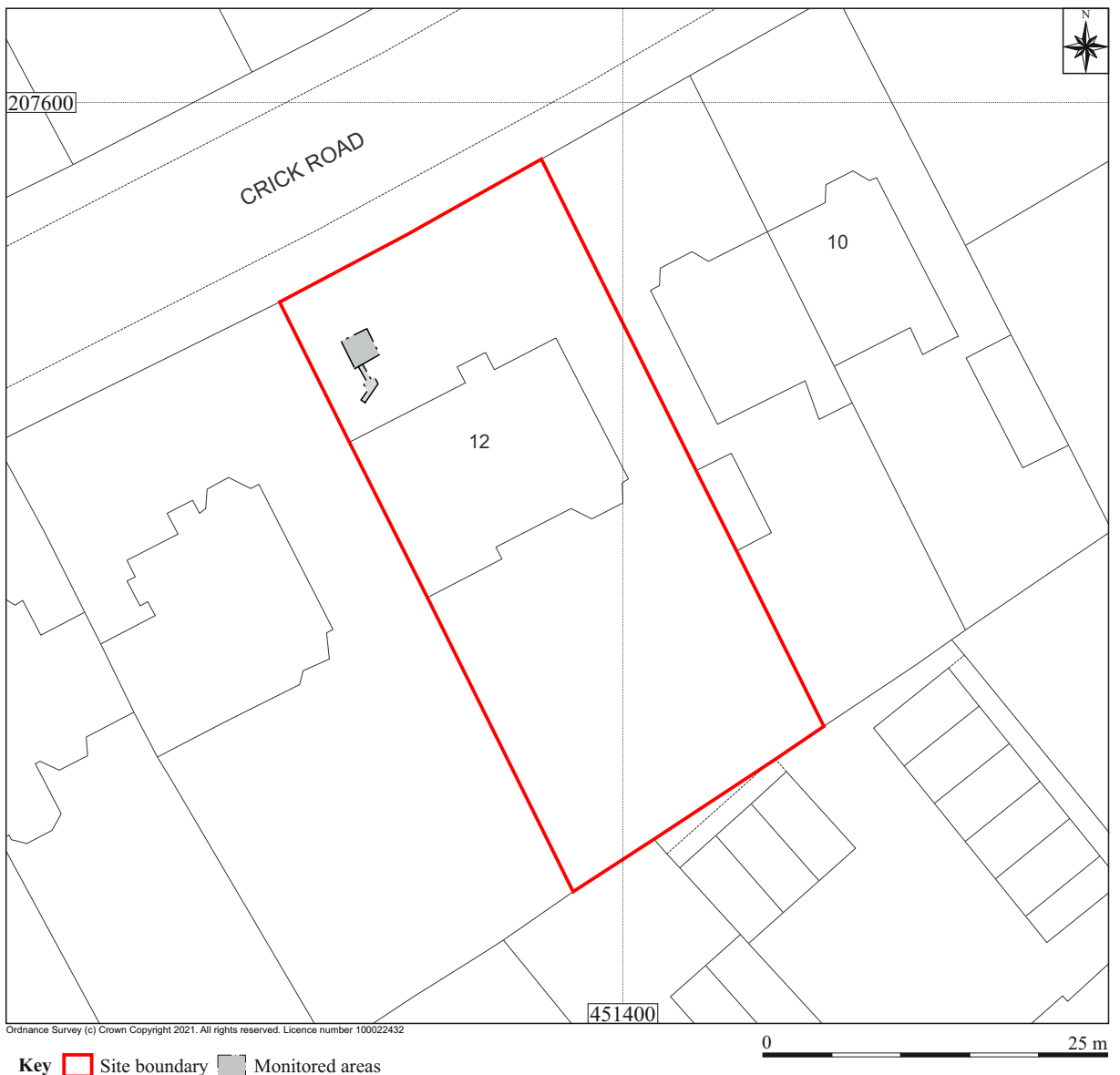
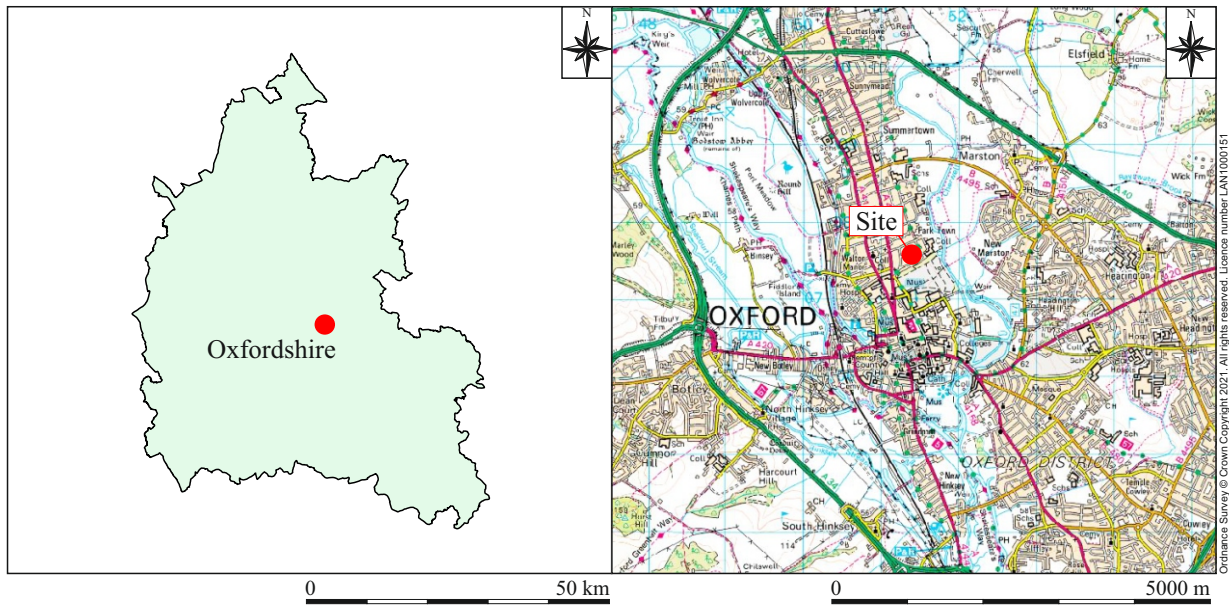


Figure 1: Site location

Parks to the south incorporates a possible Neolithic/Bronze Age linear barrow cemetery and later Iron Age/Roman agricultural enclosures. A Neolithic/Bronze Age henge monument and three Bronze Age ring ditches belonging to this complex have been excavated at Queen Elizabeth House, St Giles and at the Radcliffe Infirmary site.

Crick Road lies in a poorly understood part of the gravel terrace located between the known find clusters of Bronze Age and Saxon material south of Park Town and an extensive landscape of monuments and field systems recorded in University Parks. An undated, but probable prehistoric, gully was recorded during an evaluation in 2007 at Lady Margaret Hall (Oxford Archaeology, 2007; UAD No 1708). An Iron Age pit has been found at 6 Crick Road and a burial of possible Anglo-Saxon date accompanied by a knife was encountered at the adjacent property of 10 Crick Road.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by John Moore Heritage Services (2017). This found a middle Iron Age pit and a pit of Post-medieval date (18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century).

A series of archaeological remains were recorded, the majority of which were undated. However pottery of middle Iron Age date comparable to that recorded during a previous evaluation on the site was recovered from a pit. As such it appears that 12 Crick Road is situated within an area of middle Iron Age occupation. The Iron Age and undated features were truncated by a series of later features associated with the construction and occupation of 12 Crick Road from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards (JMHS 2021).

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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

- Identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the ground works, paying particular regard to the potential for Iron Age settlement remains.

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxford City Council's Archaeologist, the archaeological advisor to Oxford City Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

### **3.2 Methodology**

To the rear of the house, a section of the existing patio was removed, and an area of land approximately 2.5m x 10.5m was reduced by a maximum depth of 0.24m, prior to an archaeologist's presence on site. The area was inspected and photographed.

To the front of the house, the excavation of a soakaway, measuring 2.0m x 2.0m, with a maximum depth of 1.10m was excavated prior to an archaeologist's presence on site. The area was inspected and photographed. The excavation of drainage linkage to the soakaway was later monitored.

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 Iron Age period.

#### **4 RESULTS (Figure 2)**

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.

##### **4.1 Ground Reduction to Rear of House**

Following the reduction of the ground to the rear of the house no archaeological horizons or features were encountered. The area had previously formed part of the patio, and had modern services truncating the area. The lowest deposit encountered was friable mid brown sandy silt garden soil (02), which had been previously encountered during the earlier phase of the watching brief.



*Plate 1: Photograph of reduced area to the rear of the property*

##### **4.2 Soakaway and Drainage Linkage**

The lowest deposit encountered within the soakaway was natural deposit (48), which was a >0.29m thick friable to loose mid yellow sand with frequent sub-rounded pebbles, 5-15mm in size. Overlying this was deposit (47), which was a friable mid reddish brown sandy silt, 0.40m thick, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, 10-50mm in size, and frequent disturbance from rooting. This was probably a subsoil deposit, which contained no finds.

Above subsoil (47) was a made-ground deposit, (46). Deposit (46) was a 0.21m thick friable dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions, 10-20mm in size. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The uppermost context encountered was (45), which was a series of three layers of hardstanding, which related to the modern driveway of the property. Deposit (45) was 0.19m thick, comprising (from lowest to highest layer): a yellow hardcore layer, 0.08m thick; a mid yellowish brown silty sand, 0.06m thick; and a black tarmac, 0.05m thick. No finds were recovered from this deposit.



*Plate 2: Representative section of soakaway*



*Plate 3: Representative section of drainage linkage*



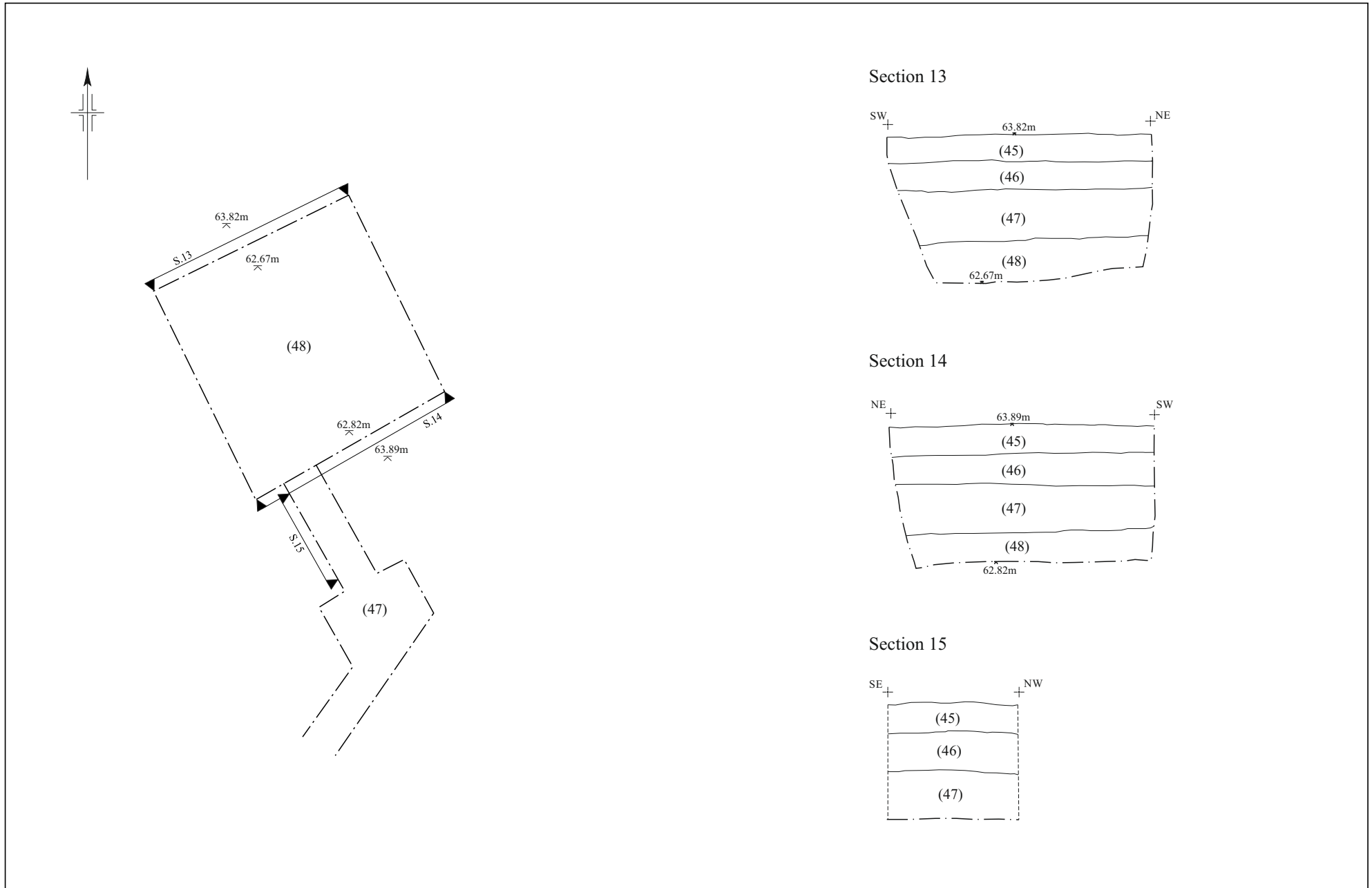
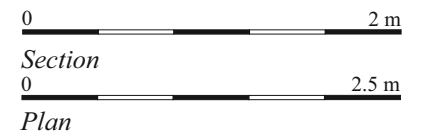


Figure 2: Plan of soakaway and drainage linkage, and Sections 13, 14, and 15



Within the drainage linkage, the same series of deposits were encountered, however the excavation did not extend into natural deposit (48); the lowest deposit encountered was subsoil (47).

### **4.3 Reliability of Results**

The reduction of ground to the rear of the property was not monitored. However, the reduction did not extend below modern subsoil deposit (02), which was disturbed by several modern services. It is unlikely that the excavation negatively impacted upon any archaeology, and no archaeological horizons or features were identified.

The excavation of the soakaway was not monitored, therefore there is the potential that archaeological features could have been impacted upon in this area. However, the reduced area was investigated and recorded, and there was no evidence for any archaeological features or horizons within the trench. Therefore, it is possible that no archaeology was impacted upon by this investigation.

The excavation of the drainage linkage was undertaken in fair conditions with excellent cooperation from site staff, ensuring that the archaeological investigation could be undertaken without impediment.

## **5 FINDS**

No finds were recovered from this phase of the watching brief.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

During this phase of the watching brief, no archaeological horizons or features were observed. A series of modern made-ground deposits relating to the current use of the property were identified overlying natural subsoil and geological layers, demonstrating the man-made and geological processes which have formed this landscape.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **Archive Contents**

The archive consists of the following:

#### Paper record

Written scheme of investigation  
The project addendum report  
The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museum Resource Centre.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

John Moore Heritage Services, 2021 *Archaeological Watching Brief at 12 Crick Road, Oxford OX2 6QL*. Unpublished client report

# Summary for johnmoor1-426250

OASIS ID (UID)	johnmoor1-426250
Project Name	12 CRICK ROAD OXFORD
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	4334, OXCMS:2017.134, ADS:20009483
Planning Id	20/00664/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	John Moore Heritage Services
Project Dates	16-Nov-2020 - 30-Nov-2021
Location	12 Crick Road, Oxford NGR : SP 51395 07573 LL : 51.7644870429414, -1.25667400253464 12 Fig : 451395,207573
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Oxfordshire District : Oxford Parish : Oxford, unparished area
Project Methodology	<p>Several phases of work were monitored, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excavation of footings trenches</li> <li>Excavation of service and drainage trenches</li> <li>Excavation of soakaways</li> </ul> <p>To the rear of the house, a section of the existing patio was removed, and an area of land approximately 2.5m x 10.5m was reduced by a maximum depth of 0.24m, prior to an archaeologist's presence on site. The area was inspected and photographed.</p> <p>To the front of the house, the excavation of a soakaway, measuring 2.0m x 2.0m, with a maximum depth of 1.10m was excavated prior to an archaeologist's presence on site. The area was inspected and photographed. The excavation of drainage linkage to the soakaway was later monitored.</p> <p>All excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision and where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately.</p>

Project Results	<p>The archaeological watching brief was successful in meeting the aim laid out in the WSI. A series of archaeological remains were recorded, the majority of which were undated. However, where pottery was recovered it appeared comparable to that recorded during the previous evaluation (JMHS 2017). The small size of the area excavated limits the extent to which the remains can be interpreted, though it appears that 12 Crick Road is situated within an area of middle Iron Age occupation that comprises pits and probable ditches. The Iron Age and undated features were truncated by a series of later features, typically regular in form, that are likely to be associated with the construction and occupation of 12 Crick Road from the 19th century onwards.</p>
Keywords	<p>PIT - MIDDLE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types  WELL - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types  SHERD - MIDDLE IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  SHERD - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  FEATURE - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
HER	Oxford City UAD - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	<p>Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service</p> <p>Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive</p>