



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT CRISPIN PLACE

WALLINGFORD

OXFORDSHIRE

SU 6051 8930

On behalf of

Brian Landowski

NOVEMBER 2007

REPORT FOR Brian Landowski
11 Crispin Place
Wallingford
Oxon OX

PREPARED BY Gwilym Williams

FIELDWORK 20th November 2007

REPORT ISSUED 23rd November 2007

ENQUIRES TO *John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ
Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email info@jmheritageservices.co.uk*

JMHS PROJECT NO. 1848

ARCHIVE LOCATION Oxfordshire Museum

CONTENTS

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

Summary

A Watching Brief was carried out by John Moore Heritage Services at Crispin Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire during the excavation of footings for an extension. Topsoil overlying disturbed ground was observed. No archaeological remains of significance were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the west side of Goldsmiths Lane in the centre of Wallingford at NGR SU 6051 8930. It is situated at about 45m OD and the underlying geology is Thames First Floodplain Terrace Deposits. The site is occupied by an end terrace house and the area of the extension is currently in use as a garden.

1.2 Planning Background

South Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the construction of a two-storey side extension and conservatory. Due to the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a watching brief during groundworks. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared a *Brief* for the work. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was submitted by John Moore Heritage Services detailing how the requirements of the *Brief* would be met.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The proposed development site lies within the south-eastern part of the Saxon burh. The site lies immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Oxon 182 – Kine Croft) of the Saxon Burh. This includes the Saxon defensive walls thought to have been built *c.* 900AD, although earlier Saxon burials indicate an earlier settlement already existed in this area. The section at Kine Croft is thought to have a second, later phase of enlargement. The interior of the walls are therefore thought to contain Saxon deposits.

Following the Norman Conquest a castle was built, which destroyed several properties. In 1086 the Domesday survey records Wallingford as having 491 houses, a mint, a market and a guildhall. After the 13th century the town's prosperity went into decline and was at its lowest in the 16th century.

GPO cables across Kine Croft in 1971, 70m NW of the proposed site, revealed a scatter of medieval and modern pottery sherds, but only two features. Both were pits at the same depth, one containing medieval and modern pottery, the other with C12th pottery (PRN 7766; NGR SU 6048 8935). Further medieval remains are known to exist 140m SW of the site where a number of medieval skeletons were uncovered during late C19th century development. This is thought to be the location of St Rumbold's Church (PRN 7805; NGR SU 6061 8919).

Prehistoric monuments and other evidence of prehistoric activity are known from the area although little has been found within Wallingford itself.



605
© Crown Copyright 2007. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449

Figure 1. Site Location

The above information has been obtained from the County Archaeological Services' Brief.

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 development works

In particular:

- to record any deposits associated with the Saxon and medieval occupation of the town

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

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

The excavation of the footings was monitored and the trench-sections cleaned and examined.

4 RESULTS

All archaeological features were assigned individual context numbers. This number covered both the feature cut and fill, unless the feature was sample excavated by hand. Context numbers in () indicate deposits of material. A general description of the deposits is given.

The footings-trench was excavated to c. 1.5m to the natural (103), bright yellow sandy gravel. This was overlain by 0.8m of mixed yellow and brown sandy loam (102), which in turn was sealed by topsoil (101), measuring 0.7m thick. All three contexts were observed in all sections. No finds were recovered.

5 DISCUSSION

No remains of archaeological significance were observed.

6 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The project report

The primary site records

The accession number for the archive is OXCMS : 2007 : **XX**