



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**DANES PLACE, CROWSLEY ROAD,**

**LOWER SHIPLAKE,**

**OXFORDSHIRE**

**SP 7735 7923**

*On behalf of*

*Chesterton Commercial (Shiplake) Ltd*

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**REPORT FOR** Chesterton Commercial (Shiplake) Ltd  
Hooks Farm  
Henley Road  
Marlow  
Bucks SL7 2DS

**PREPARED BY** David Gilbert

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Eoin Fitzsimons

**FIELDWORK** 11<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

**REPORT ISSUED** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009

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

**Site Code:** SECR 09  
**JMHS Project No:** 2041  
**Archive Location:** Oxfordshire County Museum Service  
**Accession No:** 2009.9

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b><i>SUMMARY</i></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	1
<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>3</b>
<b>5 FINDS</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Pottery	4
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7 ARCHIVE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FIGURES</b>	
<b>Figure 1</b> Site location	<b>2</b>

## **Summary**

*A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the ground works at Danes Place, Crowsley Road, Lower Shiplake. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The proposed development site is located to the southeast of the junction of Crowsley Road and New Road on the southern side of Lower Shiplake (NGR SU 7735 7923). The underlying geology is Taplow Gravel and the site lies at approximately 42m OD. The site is a garden with the residential building having been demolished recently.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

South Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission under planning application number P08/E1006 for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of two detached dwellings and bin stores together with associated garages, access, turning areas and parking spaces. Due to archaeological and historical importance of the site 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. This was in line with PPG 16 and Local Plan policies.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site is located in an area of archaeological potential just 270m to the south east of an area thought to be a Saxon inhumation cemetery. Two urns with 6<sup>th</sup> century decoration, thought to contain cremations, were found alongside other finds including a sword (PRN 2150; NGR SU 7723 7950). Further cremations, possibly prehistoric, have been found north west of these. Cropmarks of a series of rectangular enclosures and pits that are thought to be prehistoric have been recorded 280m to the west of the site (PRN 10911; SU 7702 7911). Further enclosures have also been recorded 500m south east of the site (PRN 2161; SU 7780 7889).

Numerous find-spots of prehistoric flint tools have been recorded for the area surrounding the site and Roman finds have been recorded as being found 370m south of the site on the OS maps (PRN 2077; SU 7741 7886). The early edition OS maps do not record any development on this site and therefore it was thought possible that further aspects of these features could survive on site.

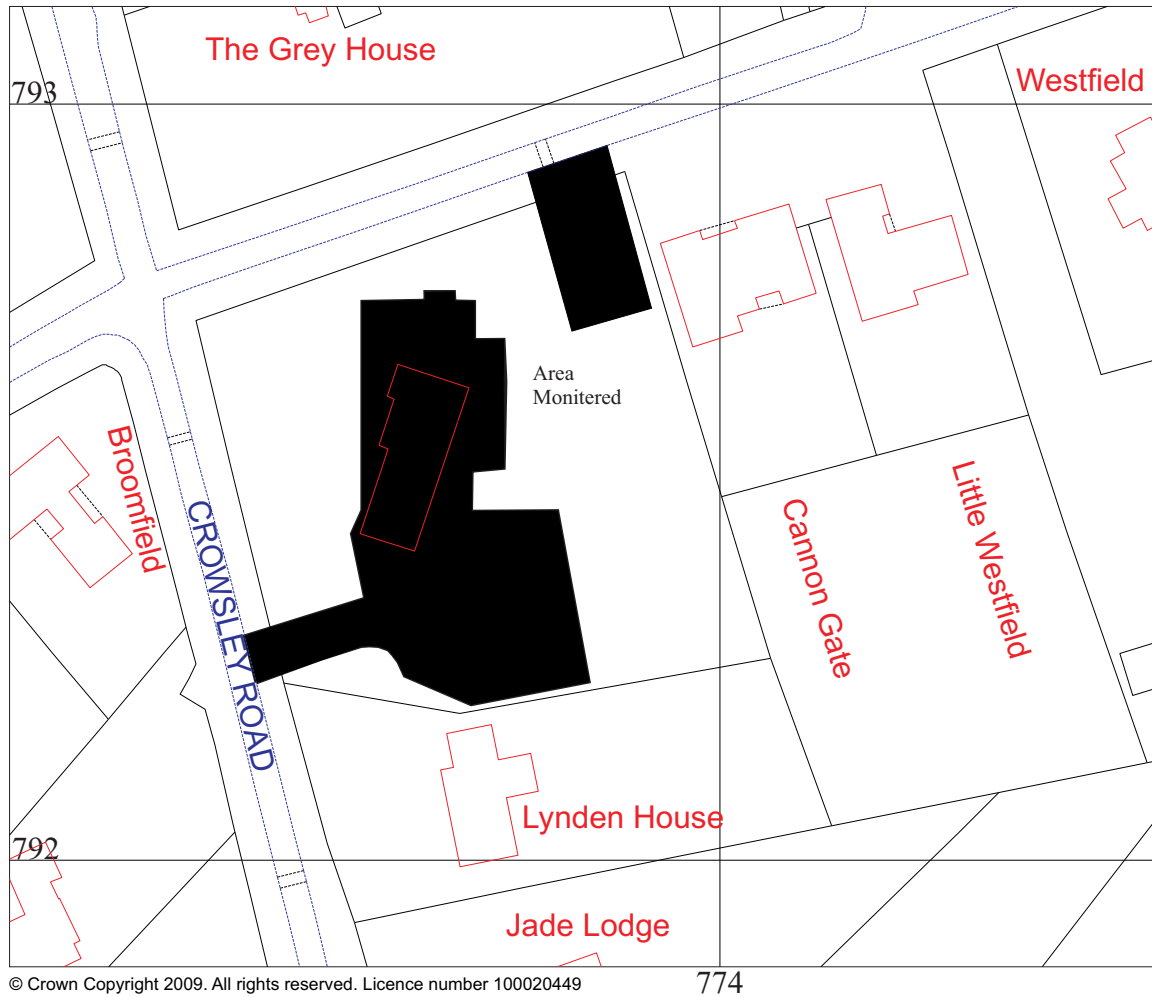


Figure 1. Site location

## **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 and historic remains exposed during the course of building operations or construction works on the site.

## **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 (OCAS). 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 and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

### **3.2 Methodology**

An archaeologist monitored the course of the majority of the groundwork, which involved the machine strip of the area of the footprints of both buildings and access ways from Crowsley Road and New Road. Also monitored was the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new buildings. Other proposed groundworks were not monitored in agreement with OCAS.

## **4 RESULTS**

All features were assigned individual context numbers. This number covered both the feature cut and the fill for pits, unless the feature was sample excavated by hand. Context numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material.

The natural geological deposit in the area was related to the Taplow Gravels and consisted of flint gravel in a matrix of yellowish grey-brown clay-sand, which was banded in places with layers of sand (03).

Above this was a subsoil of mid grey-brown clay-sand (02) containing the rare flint pebble. Small fragments of modern bricks were seen on occasion. This layer varied in thickness from 0.15m to 0.5m in a few places.

The uppermost layer was a dark brown-grey-black sandy loam topsoil (01) that was between 0.15 and 0.2m thick.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery

Sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century Mass-produced White Earthenwares were noted from the topsoil (01). These were not retained.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The area of the previous house showed considerable disturbance due to demolition with brick rubble scattered over a wide area. Recent pits had been dug to the southwest of the site to burn rubbish. Foundation cuts were seen as well as disused services and two brick built septic tanks were seen to the east of the site.

Much of the area had previously been utilised as a garden. There was considerable root penetration noted and bowls for several very large trees were also present. Some were over 1.3m deep.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recorded.

## 7 ARCHIVE

### Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

#### Paper record

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

#### Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museums' Store.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Revised 2001