

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

JOBBS CLOSE, KELMSCOTT,

NEAR LECHLADE,

OXFORDSHIRE

SU 24805 99068

On behalf of

Carden King Partnership

MAY 2009

REPORT FOR Carden King Partnership
Jobbs Close
Kelmscott
Near Lechlade
Oxfordshire
GL7 3HG

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Summary

A watching brief was conducted by John Moore Heritage Services during the ground works at Jobbs Close, Kelmscott. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at Jobbs Close, Kelmscott (NGR SU 24805 99068). The site lies at approximately 70m OD and the geology is shown as Oxford Clay. The site is part of a garden with the previous garage in the area having been demolished recently.

1.2 Planning Background

West Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the construction of a new garage incorporating guest room and storage in the roof space at Jobbs Close, Kelmscott (ref. 05/1922/P/FP). 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 application is in an area of archaeological potential. The site is located on the eastern edge of the Scheduled Ancient Monument SAM 178. This is marked by a series of cropmarks and appears to be a settlement marked by at least 8 rectilinear enclosures as well as small circular enclosures (Benson & Miles 1974).

Cropmark plots in the area of Kelmscott show significant activity in the wider area in the form of field systems (PRN 15206 and 15207) and possible prehistoric enclosures (PRN 8113, 12126 and 15198).

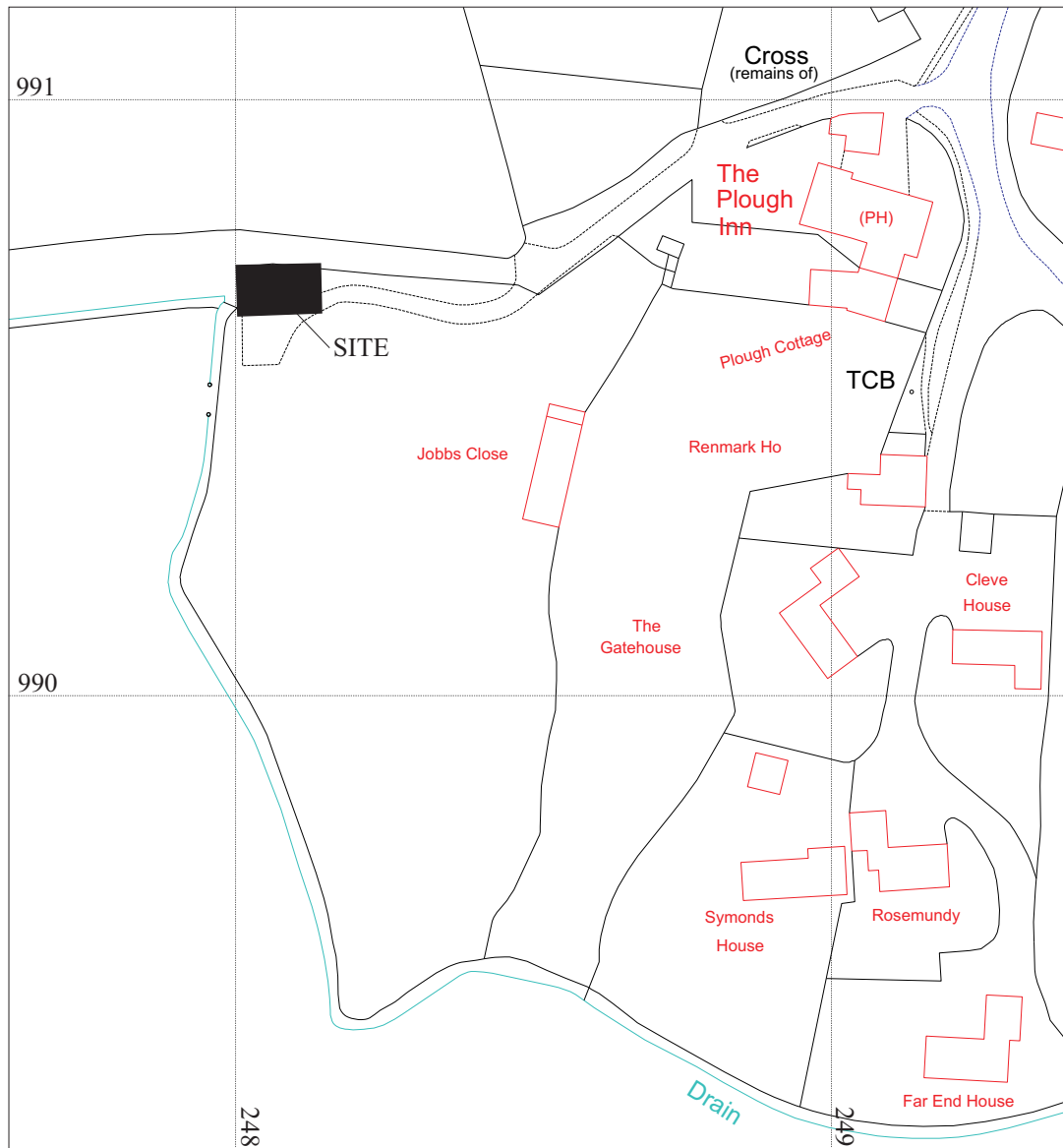
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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.

In particular:

- to record any remains relating to the settlement activity associated with the SAM



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0 m  50 m

Figure 1. Site Location

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 groundwork, which involved the machine strip of the area of the footprint of the new building.

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

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 consisted of yellow-orange clay-sand and gravel, which was banded in places with layers of sand (03).

Above this was a subsoil of pale to mid grey-brown clay-sand (02) containing rare flint pebble. This layer varied in thickness from 0.15m to 0.25m in a few places.

Apparently cut into this layer was an L-shaped deposit of pale brownish grey sandy clay (04) flecked with charcoal and up to 0.8m thick. It contained bone and c. C19th century pottery. It would appear to be associated with several inter-cutting and indistinguishable tree planting pits. These would have continued the lines of standing trees seen to border the garden.

A further line of planting pits was noted running parallel to the western boundary. These also contained pale brownish grey sandy clay and c. C19th century pottery.

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 19th – 20th century Mass-produced White Earthenwares were noted from the topsoil (01) and planting pits (04). These were not retained.

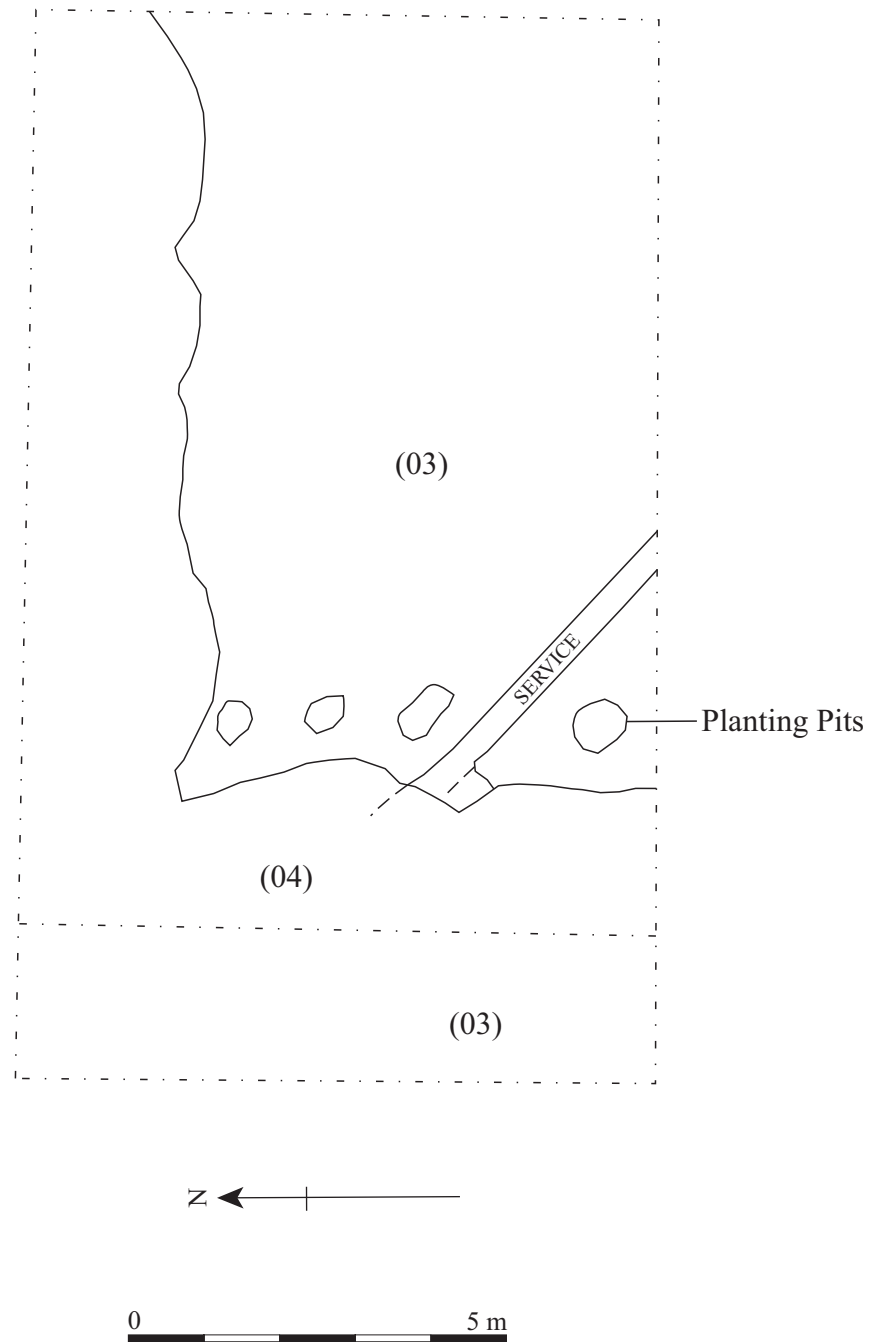


Figure 2. Plan of the Area

6 DISCUSSION

The area of the previous garage showed some disturbance due to demolition. Some 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 0.8m 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

Benson, D. & Miles, D. 1974 *The Upper Thames Valley: An Archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*

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