



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

THE GRANGE, MILL LANE, ADDERBURY,

OXFORDSHIRE

SU 4710 3541

On behalf of

Dr Georges Kaye

JULY 2009

REPORT FOR Dr Georges Kaye
The Grange
Mill Lane
Adderbury
Oxfordshire
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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief during installation of a gas supply to the dwelling. Nothing of significance was seen.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the west side of Mill Lane to the north of the village church, and to the south of Water Lane, in the southwest part of Adderbury (NGR SP 4710 3541). The underlying geology is the junction of Middle Lias Marlstone Rock Bed, and Clay, Silts and Siltstones. The site lies at approximately 96m OD and the route of the gas supply was through the garden.

1.2 Planning Background

Cherwell District Council granted listed building consent under application number 08/02487/LB for the installation of a new gas fuelled Aga stove, installation of external gas box to rear of property and a new gas pipe connection from the main street. Due to the possibility of below ground archaeological deposits being disturbed during the groundworks a condition was attached to the permission requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the period of construction works. This was in line with PPG 16 and local plan policies. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) has prepared a *Brief* for such archaeological work.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is the former rectorial manor house, which is known to have been built in 1684 by John Bloxham, a contractor, for Sir Thomas Cobb. The building was extended to the rear in 1829 and partly rebuilt around *c.* 1885 and further extended to the rear in the early 20th century. The medieval rectory became the New College manor house in 1381, part of which survived as the north wing until *c.* 1884 when it was destroyed by fire and rebuilt to match the south wing (Oxon Historic Environment Record No. PRN 18274).

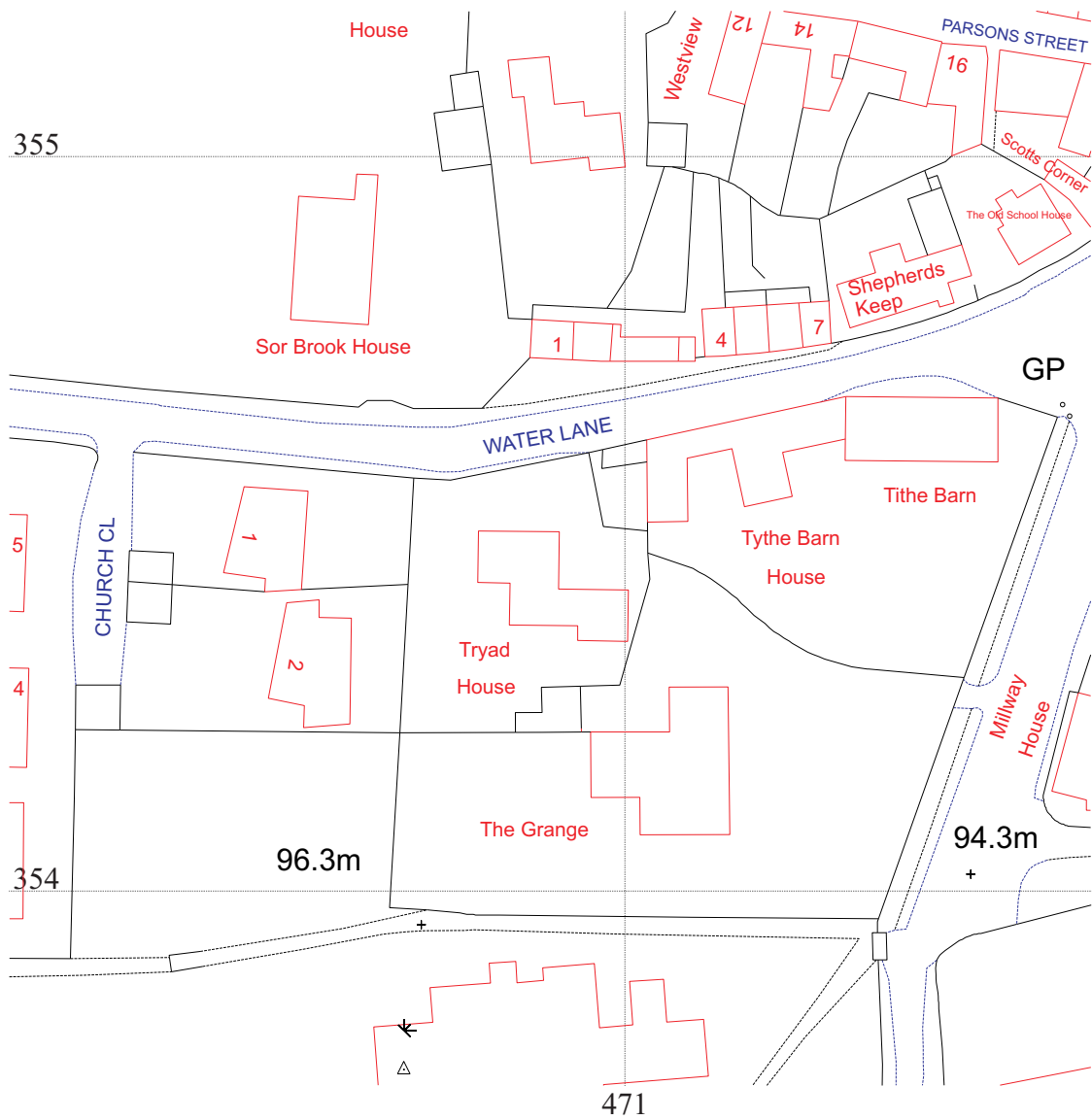
The site is also located immediately north of the medieval church of St Mary (PRN 4711). This church has 13th and 14th features and would have formed an important focus of the medieval village. This development therefore had the potential to impact on surviving aspects of the development of the medieval village and The Grange itself.

Some of the above information was taken from the OCAS's Brief.

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 remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.



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- In particular to record any evidence relating to the development of the medieval village and The Grange

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the client and Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, on behalf of Cherwell District Council. 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

A hand dug pit *c.* 900mmx450mm and 800mm deep was dug for the connection of the gas supply from the street to a meter installed immediately west of the front wall of the garden. The trench from the meter to the side of the building was dug using a 3 tonne excavator. The trench was *c.* 450mm wide and the same deep.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Results (Figures 2 and 3)

A pale yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional small stone was the lowest deposit seen. This was overlaid by 300-450mm of topsoil in the garden area. Elsewhere stone and gravel formed the drive and overlaid the lower deposit.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The watching brief was conducted under ideal conditions with the trench and pit inspected after excavation. The spoil heaps were also monitored.

5 FINDS

No artefacts were seen

6 DISCUSSION

Nothing of archaeological significance was seen during the watching brief. This is probably due to the fact that the depth for the gas supply was not deep enough to impact on potential remains.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

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