



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION**

**TO THE REAR OF 10 HIGH STREET**

**THAME**

**OXFORDSHIRE**

**NGR SP 7055 0592**

*On behalf of*

*R B Dymott Builders LLP*

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

**REPORT FOR** R B Dymott Builders LLP  
Greenacre  
Moreton  
Nr. Thame  
Oxfordshire  
OX9 2HL

**PREPARED BY** Gwilym Williams

**ILLUSTRATION BY** Eoin Fitzsimons & Gwilym Williams

**FIELDWORK** 30<sup>th</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> May & 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July 2009

**REPORT ISSUED** 1<sup>st</sup> September 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** THHS 09  
**JMHS Project No:** 1941  
**Archive Location** The archive is currently held by JMHS and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Services in due course under Accession Number: 2009.41

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</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	4	
<b>4 RESULTS</b>	<b>4</b>	
4.1 Excavation Results	4	
4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results	10	
<b>5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS</b>	<b>10</b>	
5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn	10	
5.2 Other Finds	11	
5.3 Environmental Remains	12	
<b>6 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>7 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b>APPENDIX</b> Archaeological Context Inventory	<b>14</b>	
 <b>FIGURES</b>		
<b>Figure 1</b>	Site and Trench location	2
<b>Figure 2</b>	Trench 1 Plans and sections	5
<b>Figure 3</b>	Trench 2 & Watching Brief area. Plans and sections	7

## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a first phase of evaluation and subsequent watching brief on land to the rear of 10 High Street, Thame. The evaluation investigated the rear of two burgage plots. Evidence for a Victorian garden and an internal boundary, both of which are visible on the 1881 Ordnance Survey 25" map, was observed as was a post-medieval ditch. Late medieval pits and undated postholes were also investigated, although no structures can be proposed.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

The site comprises the rear of 10 High Street Thame, which formerly comprised two burgage plots extending back from the street frontage. The site is centred on NGR SP 7055 0592. The underlying geology is 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Terrace River Deposits and the site lies at c. 72m OD, dropping to the north and to the west. The site is currently a business with storage units to the rear.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning permission (P06/E0596) for the construction of three houses and six flats has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council. A condition (No. 5) requires the implementation of a staged programme of archaeological investigation and mitigation. Due to the potential presence of archaeological remains a field evaluation has been required. This is in line with PPG16. Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) prepared a Design Brief For Archaeological Field Evaluation. A *Written Scheme of Investigation*, which proposed a suitable methodology to satisfy the requirements of the Brief, was submitted to and accepted by OCAS. An evaluation of part of the area was undertaken as a first stage with a subsequent watching brief carried out on the excavation of the footings trench for the first unit. Further evaluation, and any necessary mitigation work, will be carried prior to further development.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The development site lies in the core of the medieval planned town of Thame and located within burgage plots fronting High Street. The town appears to have developed into a Saxon Burgh by around 635AD, which was located at the western end of the current High Street, along the roads surrounding the church. A Cistercian Monastery was located just outside of the town by the 12<sup>th</sup> century, at Priestend. The site is located 68m east of the site of the medieval Market Hall which was known to have been in use by 1509 and had shops underneath (PRN 16084; SP 7062 0594).

Cartographic evidence for the site indicates the presence of burgage plots extending south from the High Street. The new town of Thame was laid out using burgage plots in the 12<sup>th</sup> century although the exact date is unknown. In 1219 the bishop of Lincoln, who is believed to be responsible for the founding of New Thame, rerouted the Oxford to Aylesbury road just to the northwest of the proposal site, along Bell Lane (Airs *et al.* 1974). A survey carried out at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century recorded

Figure 1 Site and trench location

63 burgesses in the town and that by middle of the century there were 78. The burgage plots along the High Street were field acre strips.

Previous archaeological investigations north of High Street during development of Waitrose where a number of medieval pits, ditches and postholes were recorded 180m north of the site (PRN 16152; SP 7059 0608). This medieval occupation appears to continue to the east of the site as further medieval settlement was recorded 250m to the north-east of the site (PRN 15841 & PRN 16068; SP 7072 0609).

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

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

- To establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the site
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.

In particular

- To establish whether there are any significant medieval remains present and to assess any impact on them from the development proposals
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In response to a *Design Brief* from OCAS a Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by John Moore Heritage Services and agreed with Oxfordshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist. The field evaluation carried out comprised the first phase of a two-phase operation consisting of the mechanical excavation of two trenches at the rear of the proposal area.

This represents approximately 45% of the total overall sampling for evaluation of the proposed development. The two trenches were excavated on 29<sup>th</sup> April (Trench 1) and 6<sup>th</sup> May (Trench 2) and backfilled the following day, respectively. Trench 1 was 8m long and 1.5m wide while Trench 2 was 10m long and of similar width. Subsequent to this a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of foundation trenches for the new unit in the area of evaluation trench 2

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

### **3.2 Methodology**

The proposal site was subject to evaluation through the machine excavation of two trenches supplemented by hand investigation of archaeological deposits.

Excavation was by 4 tonne excavator equipped with a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was taken down to the top of “natural” deposits with recording of later deposits carried out during machining. All negative features were sampled, although some were limited in their sampled percentage due to physical constraints on site.

## **4 RESULTS**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material. CBM refers to undifferentiated ceramic building material, which could be brick, tile or daub.

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

#### **Trench 1 (Figure 2)**

Trench 1 was located at the rear of No. 9 High Street, adjacent to and parallel with the alleyway created in the 1960s (Wessex Archaeology 2005) and north of the mobile phone mast. The trench was oriented north/south and measured 8m long by 1.5m wide. The depth of the trench was between 0.80m and 0.99m. At the south end the top of the trench was 72.28m OD, the base was 71.48m OD. At the north end the top was 72.12m OD and the base 71.13m OD.

The lowest lying deposit observed was the natural (1/14), a firm brown-orange slightly clay sand with mixed gravel: the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> gravel terrace. This was observed across the full extent of the trench, except at the very south end where it was cut by archaeological features.

At the south end of the trench (Section 1.1) the gravel was cut by a pit, or a possible ditch, 1/6, of which just 0.34m was revealed during the evaluation. Its shape was not fully exposed, only the northern edge; the eastern edge was truncated by a later ditch 1/8, and the western edge lay beyond the edge of excavation. The northern edge of the cut was sharp and the side was vertical; it was not bottomed due to the constraints of excavation. It was filled with (1/5), flinty dark grey- brown clay sand, similar to the natural, and containing pottery and tile. The pottery dated from after the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. The top of the feature was at 71.48m OD.

In the centre of the trench was a pit or linear feature 1/22 (Section 1.4), the form of which could not be ascertained due to its extending beyond the edges of excavation. The break of slope at the top of the feature was sharp on the north side, but truncated by a later post-medieval feature 1/19 on the south edge; the base was reasonably flat.

Figure 2. Trench 1



The cut measured 1.32m north/south, at least 0.7m east/west and was c. 0.6m deep. The fill (1/21) was a clay sand with distinct patches of charcoal tipping from north to south; no dating was recovered. Tile and bone were represented in the pit fill. What appeared to be a clay-rich garden soil 1/20 – see below – sealed the pit. The top of the pit was at 71.42m OD, with the centre slumping to 71.32m OD. If this is a ditch it may well be associated with the possible ditch 2/6 (Fig. 1) in Trench 2.

Just to the south of the undated pit was an undated posthole, 1/10, measuring 0.40m in diameter and 0.17m deep (Section 1.2), filled with dark grey-brown clay sand (1/9). It was cut by the post-medieval feature 1/19. The top of the posthole was at 71.52m OD. To the north of the pit, 2m from 1/10, was a second undated posthole, 1/12, (Section 1.3) measuring 0.33m across north south and 0.16m east west, filled with mid grey-brown clay sand (1/11) containing tile and bone. The top of the posthole was at 71.46m OD

The garden soil 1/20, which sealed the pit 1/22, also sealed the posthole 1/12. Given the similarity in size of 1/10 and 1/12 and that 1/20, which was also cut by the post-medieval pit 1/19 which cut 1/10, sealed them both, it is tempting to associate the postholes. It was not possible during the evaluation to determine whether they are part of a north/south alignment for a fence line, or the short end of a structure which would have been aligned roughly east/west.

The garden soil, 1/20, (Section 1.4) sealed the medieval pit 1/22 and the posthole 1/12. It was a dark grey-brown clay sand with mixed gravel and charcoal distributed evenly. It extended for more than 3m and beyond the northern edge of excavation. It was approximately 0.25m thick on the west side of the trench and thinned to the east, where it was observed to be only c. 0.15m thick. No finds were recovered from the deposit. The top of the deposit was at 71.67m OD.

The south extent of the garden soil 1/20 was cut by the post-medieval pit 1/19, (Section 1.4), the form of which could not be ascertained as it was truncated to the east by a service trench and extended beyond the western edge of excavation. Its north and south edges were roughly parallel running east/west, with a sharp break of slope at the top on the north side, but truncated by the garden bed, 1/4, visible on the 1881 OS map on its southern edge. It had a concave side at c. 60° on the north side and slightly convex north edge at 45°, with a rounded base. In profile it was a shallow U-shaped cut with two fills (1/18) and (1/17). The lower fill (1/18) was dark grey-brown silty sand with mixed gravels and tile; some tile had clearly been dumped in the uppermost part of this backfill. The overlying deposit (1/17) was a similar but paler deposit with less gravel and tile. Dating recovered from the pit yields a date from after the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

To the southeast of pit 1/19 and truncated to the east by the service trench which ran the length of Trench 1 was a narrow gully 1/8. The gully was oriented north/south, parallel with the burgage plot boundary, and at least 3.3m long. It was not visible in the northern part of the trench, beyond (1/18) (Fig. 2). It measured at least 0.45m wide and although not bottomed due to excavation constraints was at least 0.35m deep. It was filled with dark grey-brown clay sand containing a significant amount of gravel – c. 40%. It contained tile and pottery dating from after the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Figure 3. Trench 2 Plan & Sections

The garden bed 1/4 cut through the top of both gully 1/8 and the pit 1/6. This squared feature was observed during machining to be 0.5m from the top. It measured 3.15m north/south and 1m east/west, extending under the western edge of excavation. The sides of the cut were cut well defined at 45°, with a flat base, and was 0.2m deep, filled with dark grey-brown silty sandy loam (1/3), containing occasional flint and charcoal. Pottery recovered from it dated from after the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Sealing the garden bed was a deposit of black-brown loam (1/2) with much mixed brick and tile (not retained) between 0.12m and 0.24m thick, which extended the length and breadth of the trench, and which yielded pottery dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This late garden soil was sealed by hardcore and the present tarmac surface (1/1).

### **Trench 2 (Figure 3)**

Trench 2 was located to the west of Trench 1. It was oriented north/south and measured 10m by 1.5m. The depth of the trench was between 0.84m and 1.07m. At the south end the top of the trench was 72.13m OD, the base was 71.06m OD. At the north end the top was 71.97m OD and the base 71.13m OD. Two service pipes were present in the trench. One was located at the south end, the second was in the northernmost third, partially overlying postholes 2/16 and 2/18. The results of a watching brief, carried out on the excavation of the footings for the development on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2009, is included here below.

The natural (2/14) was observed to rise from south to north between 71.06m and 71.13m OD, and was the same 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> terrace gravels as in Trench 1 (Sections 2.1 & 2.6). A band of gravel (2/5), measuring 1.3m wide was observed running for more than 2.6m (east/west) across the evaluation trench and footings trench. The deposit appeared to be natural, although its very defined nature cannot absolutely preclude an anthropogenic origin. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

Immediately north of the gravel band (2/5) was a shallow rubbish pit or ditch 2/8 measuring 0.85m (north/south) and more than 1.5m (east/west), 0.2m deep. The cut had a sharp break of slope at the top, more gradual at the flat base with straight sides at 60°. It extended into the foundation trench (Sections 2.1 & 2.6). This feature was filled by red-brown silty sand with charcoal flecking (2/7) and contained tile and bone as well as pottery dating from after the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It was clearly seen to be sealed by a layer of buried garden soil (2/13), which is described below.

Also sealed by the garden soil (2/13) were a number of postholes at the north end of the trench. The posthole 2/18 (Section 2.3) was round, measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.24m deep, with straight sides at c. 85° and a flat base. It was filled with grey-brown clay sand (2/17), with mortar present, and containing pottery, bone and tile. The pottery yielded a date from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The posthole 2/16 (Section 2.3) cut the north edge of 2/18. It was round and measured 0.4m diameter and 0.27m deep with concave sides at c. 75° and a rounded base. The fill (2/15) was similar to (2/17), if stonier – 20-25% – and with charcoal and CBM flecking. No dating was recovered from this posthole. The east sides of these postholes were overlain by garden soils (2/13) and (2/2), which were supporting a service which extended partly into the trench.

To the north was a further pair of postholes: 2/9 which cut 2/11 (Section 2.2). The posthole 2/11 was only partly observed as it was located in the northeast corner of the trench. The posthole, as observed, measured 0.2m x 0.25m and at least 0.42m deep. The sides were concave at c. 60° and the feature was not bottomed. It was filled with a similar soil matrix to (2/15) and (2/17) with occasional mixed gravel (2/12). Pottery recovered from the posthole indicates a date after the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The posthole 2/9 was fully revealed. It was sub-rounded and measured 0.5 x 0.45m and was 0.25m deep. It was filled with (2/10), which was similar to (2/9), with charcoal flecking. A single potsherd from the fill dates from after the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Tile fragments were also present in the fill, as was stone packing associated with the post still present.

A further posthole or possible pit 2/23 (Section 2.1) measuring 0.85m (north/south) by more than 0.5m (east/west) and 0.4m deep was located on the west edge of the evaluation trench; it was filled with loose mid brown silty sand (2/24) containing occasional charcoal flecking and bone, tile and pottery. The pottery dates from the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

To the south of the gravel band (2/5) was a small, shallow posthole 2/22 (Section 2.5), which measured 0.5m across and 0.11m deep. It was filled with dark grey brown clay sand with 5% mixed gravels. No finds were recovered. To the north the posthole 2/20 (Section 2.4) – a square cut, with rounded corners, measuring 0.4 x 0.3m and 0.3m deep – was filled with a similar, if stonier, soil matrix. Only tile was recovered from this feature.

During the watching brief, a further two postholes were observed east and west of posthole 2/20. To the east was posthole 2/30, which was circular, measuring 0.3m in diameter and filled with compact mid brown silty sand (2/29), and to the west was the cut 2/27, also filled with compact mid brown silty sand, with 2% charcoal (2/28). The feature 2/27 was not fully exposed and it is not clear whether this was a posthole or small pit.

Sealing the postholes was a layer of post-medieval garden soil (2/13) of slightly loamy clay sand with occasional stones and tile and brick through it. None of the ceramic building materials were retained. The garden soil was visible in the northern half of the trench and was observed for c. 5m within the trench, extending beyond the north, east and west limits of excavation. It was a maximum of 0.2m thick, although at its south extent it ran out above the pit 2/8.

The post-medieval garden soil (2/13) was sealed by a later early modern or Victorian garden soil (2/2), which was dark brown almost black clay sand loam with tile, brick and pottery through it. A straight-sided pit 2/4 was cut into the deposit (Section 2.6). The pit was not fully observed and its shape is unknown, although it had straight sides and rounded corners, measuring 1.85m (north/south) and at least 0.4m (east/west). It was 0.3m deep, filled with a soil matrix (2/3) similar to the garden soil (2/2), and contained tile, ceramic garden furniture, bone and pottery, which dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

To the south, the Victorian garden soil (2/13) was truncated by a mixed deposit of natural and black-brown sandy silt (2/31), itself apparently cut by a straight sided cut 2/32, which was filled with grey-brown silty sand with stone (2/33) (Section 2.6). The

relationship between 2/32 and (2/31) was not clear, and could not be easily ascertained as the concrete post-setting to the southwest was unstable. The fill (2/33) was disturbed by a tree-throw on the northeast edge, which also resulted in the redeposition of (2/2).

Services disturbed much of the southern end of Trench 2 and the southwest corner of the footings trench. A further service pipe extended into the northern end of the evaluation trench. An access chamber was also located on the west side of the footings trench, which also resulted in extensive disturbance.

The hardcore and tarmac yard surface (2/1) sealed all deposits.

## 4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological evaluation took place during dry and sunny weather on April 30<sup>th</sup>; the weather was dry and overcast, with sunny spells, on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The site was monitored by Richard Oram of the Oxfordshire County Museum Services who visited on both days. The watching brief action was carried out on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

## 5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

### 5.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 106 sherds with a total weight of 3,612g. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 13 sherds, 199g.

OXST: Rhenish Stoneware, AD1480 – 1700. 2 sherds, 15g.

OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 12 sherds, 539g.

OXCE: Tin-glazed Earthenware, 1613 – 1800. 1 sherd, 6g.

OXFM: Staffordshire White-glazed English Stoneware, 1730 – 1800. 1 sherd, 2g.

WHEW: Mass-produced white earthenwares, 19th - 20th C. 77 sherds, 2,851g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

The bulk of the assemblage comprised 19<sup>th</sup> century white earthenwares, mostly from a single context, 2/3, but earlier pottery was present. The medieval assemblage consisted entirely of Brill/Boarstall wares (fabric OXAM), and a few sherds were stratified. These were mainly of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, including a fragment of a late 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century OXAM ‘Tudor Green’ type cup, but fragments of earlier vessels, dateable to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries were noted, all of which had been redeposited. The rest of the pottery was post-medieval, but indicates that there was activity at the site from around the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, although there also appears to have been considerable post-medieval disturbance of earlier deposits.

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Tr	Cntxt	OXAM		OXST		OXDR		OXCE		OXFM		WHEW		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	2	3	125			1	13	1	6	1	2	14	187	19thC
1	3					2	73							M16thC
1	5	1	3			1	31							M16thC
1	7	1	9			1	8							M16thC
1	11	1	3											15thC
1	17	1	9			1	246							M16thC
2	2					2	45					3	22	19thC
2	3			1	7	3	112					60	2642	19thC
2	7					1	11							M16thC
2	10	1	4											15thC
2	12	1	4	1	8									16thC
2	17	3	36											15thC
2	24	1	6											15thC
	Total	13	199	2	15	12	539	1	6	1	2	77	2851	

## 5.2 Other Finds

A catalogue of other finds is presented below; none of the finds have undergone any further analysis.

Material	Context	No. Items	Weight (g)
Tile	(1/2)	1	12
	(1/3)	3	176
	(1/5)	12	681
	(1/17)	6	471
	(1/7)	1	37
	(1/11)	11	195
	(2/3)	6	1990
	(2/7)	9	276
	(2/10)	6	472
	(2/12)	1	15
	(2/19)	7	141
	(2/24)	13	437
Bone	(1/2)	3	144
	(1/11)	2	52
	(2/2)	1	7
	(2/7)	14	108
	(2/12)	8	14
	(2/15)	2	58
	(2/17)	4	134
	(2/19)	5	20
(2/24)	2	37	
Brick	(1/2)	1	678
	(2/3)	2	>2000
	(2/7)	1	185

Material	Context	No. Items	Weight (g)
Glass	(1/2)	1	<1
	(1/7)	1	18
Flint	(2/24)	1	3
Shell	(2/12)	1	<1
Clay Pipe	(2/3)	1	6

### 5.3 Environmental Remains

No palaeoenvironmental samples were taken.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation carried out to the rear of 10 High Street, Thame revealed a range of late medieval to post-medieval features. These comprised pits and/or ditches as well as a number of postholes. From the limited dating recovered from these features they would appear to span the latter part of the 15<sup>th</sup> through to the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The features confirm that the rear of the burgage plots – suggested on maps as early as J L Davis's 1797 map of Oxfordshire – was in use. The exact nature of the complex of features is unclear, but they comprise rubbish pits and possible internal divisions of the burgage plots. The postholes may well be part of such internal spacing arrangements, although equally they may well represent remains of outhouses, stabling or similar structures. It is not possible to propose any structures based on the observed postholes.

These features were sealed by an apparently sterile post-medieval garden soil (1/20)/(2/13). The absence of later 17<sup>th</sup> through to early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery can be possibly ascribed to the slump the town experienced at this period. This may well explain these relatively undisturbed deposits observed in both trenches of garden soil, which was up to c. 0.45m thick.

Clearly by the 19<sup>th</sup> century the gardens had been brought back into use, as evidenced by the presence of a Victorian garden soil, which interestingly in Trench 1 did have sherds of late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware, possibly indicating movement of soil from elsewhere within the property; equally, it may be derived from off-site. In Trench 1 a garden bed was observed, which corresponds to an area visible on the 1881 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey 25" map (Wessex Archaeology 2004, Fig. 3). In Trench 2, the cut 2/32 and the tree-throw to the north may well be the boundary indicated in, what was at the same point, the adjacent property (*ibid*). To the south of this internal boundary is what appears to be an orchard. It is possible that the compacted gravel band 2/5 is indeed an old internal division in the same location. However, within the context of the evaluation and watching brief the fill of the putative feature was not wholly convincing, and it is not certain that it is an anthropogenic feature.

The recording action carried out to the rear of 10 High Street, Thame indicates that the site was used in the latter part of the medieval and early post-medieval period. To the north, the property fronts onto High Street. Early medieval activity, which was absent to the rear of the burgage plot, can be anticipated to have been focussed to the



north, where depending on the depth of the footprints of present structures, earlier activity might be expected to survive.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

Mellor M, 1984 A summary of the key assemblages. A study of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other finds from fourteen pits, dating from the 16th to the 19th century in TG Hassall et al, *Excavations at St Ebbe's Oxoniensia* **49**, 181-219.

Mellor M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217

Airs, M., Rodwell K. & Turner H., 1974 Thame in Rodwell, K., 1974

Rodwell K. (ed), 1974 Historic Towns in Oxfordshire Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, Survey 3 Oxford

Wessex Archaeology, 2005 *9-10 High Street, Thame Oxfordshire Historic Site Assessment* Unpublished Client Report



**APPENDIX I**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

ID	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
<b>Trench 1</b>								
(1/1)	Layer	Make up; hardcore, tarmac	0.17-0.3m	>1.5m	>8m		Tarmac yard surface	Modern
(1/2)	Layer	Soft black brown sandy clay loam	0.12-0.24m	>1.5m	>8m		Garden soil	19 <sup>th</sup> C.
(1/3)	Fill	Soft dark grey brown silty sandy loam	0.35m	>1.2m	>3m	Pot, CBM	Fill of [1/4]	M16 <sup>th</sup> C.
[1/4]	Cut	Square-ended cut; filled by (1/3)	0.35m	>1.2m	>3m		Victorian garden bed	
(1/5)	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay sand	0.34m	>0.35m	>1.5m	Pot, CBM	Fill of poss. pit [1/6]	M16 <sup>th</sup> C.
(1/6)	Cut	Linear, truncated by modern service	0.34m	>0.35m	>1.5m		Medieval pit?	
(1/7)	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay sand	0.34m	>0.5m	3.3m	Pot, glass, CBM	Fill of [1/8]	M16 <sup>th</sup> C.
[1/8]	Cut	Linear; north/south 3.3x0.5x0.34m	0.04m	>0.5m	3.3m		Post-med gully	
(1/9)	Fill	Dark greyish brown clay sand	0.17m	0.4m	0.4m		Fill of [1/10]	
(1/10)	Cut	Round; sharp BoS @ top & base, flat base	0.17m	0.4m	0.4m		Posthole	
(1/11)	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay sand	0.16m	0.33m	0.33m		Fill of [1/2]	15 <sup>th</sup> C.
1/12	Deposit	Round; SHARP bOs @ top, gradual @ base; sloping	0.16m	0.33m	0.33m		Posthole	
(1/13)	VOID							
(1/14)	Layer	Loose mid orange brown clay sand & gravel		0.3m	>8m		Natural	
(1/15)	Deposit	Moderate grey brown sandy silt loam; gravel	0.8m	2.8m	>2m	CBM	Fill of pit [1/16]	
[1/16]	Cut	Unk. shape, sharp BoS @ top, gradual @ base, straight sides, rounded base	Unk.	0.4m	0.6m		Post-medieval pit	
(1/17)	Deposit	Soft grey brown silty sand; gravel	0.22m	1.7m	>1.5m	Tile	Fill of [1/19]	M16ht C.
(1/18)	Deposit	Dark grey brown silty sand; gravel & tile	0.42m	1.4m	>1.5m		Fill of [1/19]	
[1/19]	Cut	Linear?; sharp BoS @ top, gradual @ base, irregular, concave sides, rounded base, E/W oriented	0.64m	1.7m	>1.5m		Late medieval pit or ditch	
(1/20)	Layer	Compact dark grey brown clay sand	0.25m	>1.5m	>2.5m		Post-medieval? garden soil	

ID	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
(1/21)	Fill	Soft mid brown silty sand charcoal patches	0.6m	1.25m	>1.5m		Fill of 1/22	
[1/22]	Cut	Unk. shape; gradual BoS N side & base, S edge truncated; E/W oriented?	0.6m	1.25m	>0.7m		Medieval pit or ditch	
<b>Trench 2</b>								
(2/1)	Layer	Tarmac & hardcore	0.25-0.40m	>1.5m	>10m		Modern yard surface	
(2/2)	Layer	Moderate, black brown gravelly clay sand loam	0.45-0.85m	>1.5m	>10m	Pot, CBM	Victorian garden soil	19 <sup>th</sup> C.
(2/3)	Fill	Moderate, black brown clay sand loam, gravelly; 300mm thick	0.45m	>2.2m	>2m	Pot, bone, CBM	Fill of Victorian pit [2/04]	19 <sup>th</sup> C.
[2/4]	Cut	Unknown shape, but roughly squared within trench, rounded corner (S); sharp BoS @ top, gradual @ base, concave sides @ 45°, flat base	0.45m	0.2m	>2m		Cut of Victorian pit	
(2/5)	Layer	Compacted linear deposit of gravel					Natural	
(2/6)	VOID	VOID					Natural	
(2/7)	Fill	Moderate, reddish brown gravelly silty sand	0.2m.	>0.6m	0.85m	Pot, bone, CBM	Fill of rubbish pit [2/08]	M16 <sup>th</sup> C.
[2/8]	Cut	Round? sharp BoS @ top, gradual @ base, concave sides @ 60°, flat base	0.2m	>0.6m	0.85m		Cut of rubbish pit	
[2/9]	Cut	Circular; sharp BoS with steep sides, flat base	0.15m	0.5m	0.5m		Posthole cut	
(2/10)	Fill	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay, occ. Charcoal; several large packing stones	0.15m	2.5m	>2m		Fill of posthole, with post-packing [2/09]	15 <sup>th</sup> C.
[2/11]	Cut	Circular; sharp BoS, steep sides	0.4m	0.35m	0.4m		Cut of posthole	
(2/12)	Fill	Loose greyish brown clay sand occ. small angular stone; stoneware & bone in fill	c. 0.15m	2.6m	>2m	Pot, bone	Fill of posthole [2/11]	16 <sup>th</sup> C.
(2/13)	Layer	Firm, light brown loamy clay sand, occ. stone and CBM	0.2m	>1.5m	>2.9m		Post-medieval garden soil	
(2/14)	Layer	Loose mid orange brown clay sand & gravel	Unk.	>1.5m	>8m		Natural	
(2/15)	Fill	Loose, mid greyish brown sandy clay, 20-25% small stone, charcoal, CBM staining; 0.27m thick				Bone	Fill of small posthole [2/16]	

ID	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
[2/16]	Cut	Circular, 0.4m Ø; sharp BoS @ top & base, sides @ 85°	0.27m	0.4m	0.4m		Cut of posthole	
(2/17)	Fill	Moderate, mid greyish brown, sandy clay, 45% mortar	0.24m	0.5m	0.5m	Pot, bone, CBM	Fill of posthole [2/18]	15 <sup>th</sup> C.
[2/18]	Cut	Circular; sharp BoS @ top & base, sides at 90°	0.24m	0.5m	0.5m		Cut of posthole	
(2/19)	Fill	Moderate, dark greyish brown sandy clay, 10% small stone	0.3m	0.3m	0.4m		Fill of posthole [2/20]	
[2/20]	Cut	Oval; sharp BoS @ top & base, concave sides, flat base	0.3m	0.3m	0.4m	CBM	Cut of posthole	
(2/21)	Fill	Loose, dark greyish brown, sandy clay, 5% small stone, 0.11m deep	0.11m	0.5m	0.5m		Fill of posthole [2/22]	
[2/22]	Cut	Circular; gentle BoS @ top & base, concave sides flat bottom	0.11m	0.5m	0.5m		Cut of posthole	
[2/23]	Cut	Oval; sharp BoS @ top, gradual @ base, concave base	0.4m	0.5m	0.85m		Cut of posthole	
(2/24)	Fill	Loose, mid brown, sand occ. small angular stone & occ. charcoal	0.4m	0.5m	0.85		Fill of posthole [2/23]	15 <sup>th</sup> C.
[2/25]	Cut	Circular	Unk.	0.15m	0.15m		Cut of small posthole	
(2/26)	Fill	Compact mid brown silty sand, 2% charcoal	Unk.	0.15m	0.15m		Fill of posthole [2/25]	
[2/27]	Cut	Circular?	Unk.	0.4m	0.4m		Cut of posthole or small pit	
(2/28)	Fill	Compact mid brown silty sand	Unk.	0.4m	0.4m		Fill of posthole/pit [2/27]	
(2/29)	Fill	Compact mid brown silty sand	Unk.	0.3m	0.3m		Fill of posthole [2/27]	
[2/30]	Cut	Circular	Unk.	0.3m	0.3m		Cut of posthole	
(2/31)	Layer	Mixed natural with black brown sandy silt, occ small angular stone	0.75m	0.85m	>0.6m		Modern deposit	
[2/32]	Cut	Linear	0.75m	0.6m	>0.63m		Cut of modern linear feature or large pit	
(2/33)	Fill	Compact, greyish brown sandy silt, occ. small angular stone	0.75m	0.6m	>0.63m		Fill of [2/32]	