

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2014 work began on the erection of six new affordable homes on land adjacent to 1 Church Close, Back Lane, Onibury, Shropshire.

1.2 The development site is located adjacent to the assumed line of a postulated Roman road from Ashton (Herefordshire) to Marshbrook (Historic Environment Record [HER] No 02613) which appears to be a continuation of Margary's Route 613 (Ariconium to Ashton). The route is tentatively located along the current road (Back Lane) running from Onibury village to Bromfield. .

1.3 The proposed development site was considered to have a low but not negligible archaeological potential. (The sinuous route taken by this section of the road makes it an unlikely alignment of the route). There was a possibility that archaeological remains might be encountered and impacted on during the groundworks for the development.

1.4 Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource, it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief. Following consultation with the Senior Archaeological Advisor, Shropshire Council, it was agreed that the programme of archaeological work should comprise an archaeological watching brief on the initial topsoil strip for the development. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by Kitwe Developments Ltd to undertake the archaeological work.

1.5 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

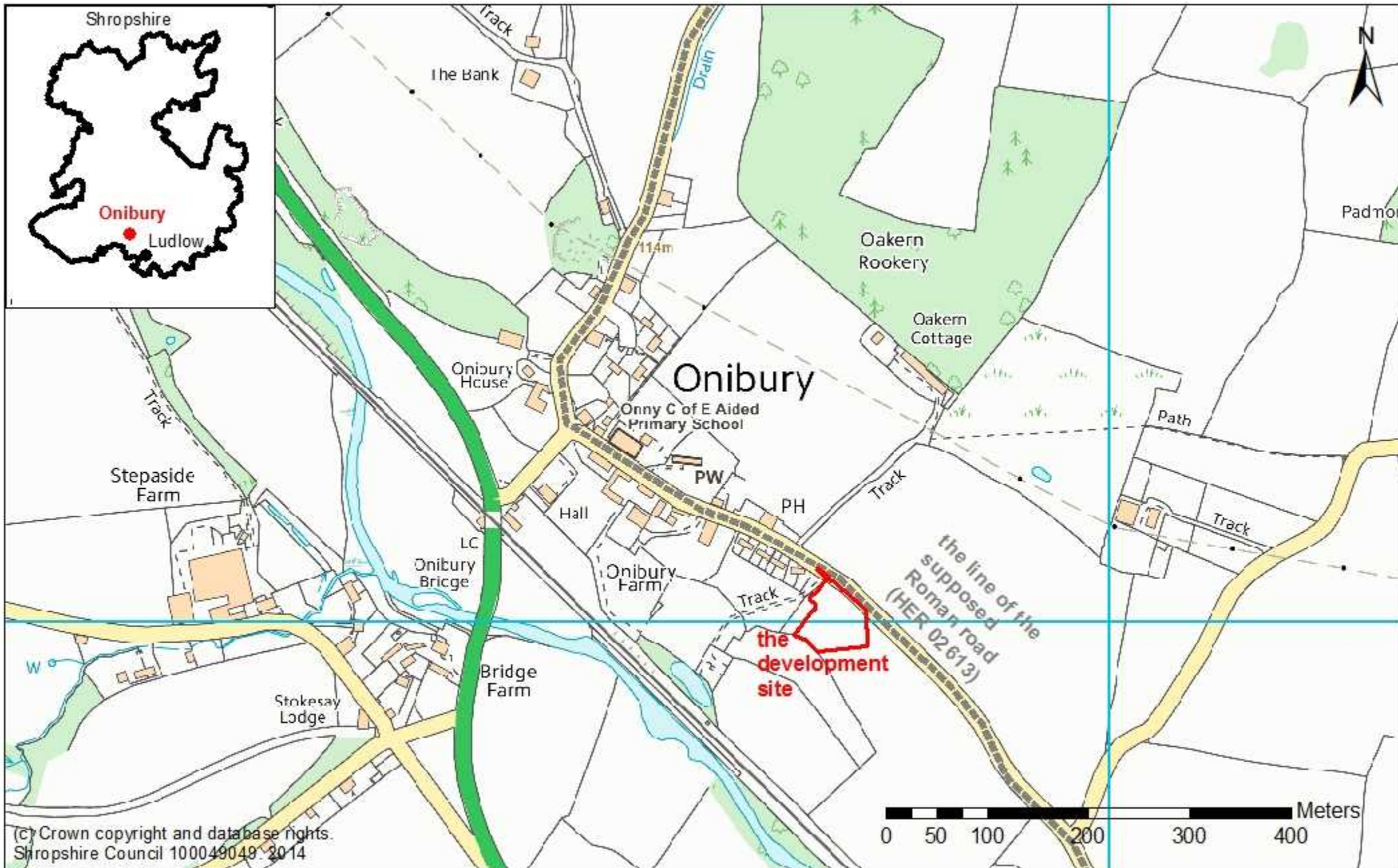
2.1 The site was visited on two occasions in January following the topsoil strip of the site.

2.2 The topsoil comprised a dark brown sandy clay loam about 0.25m in depth, which overlay a reddish brown sandy clay subsoil.

2.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

3 REFERENCES

Houghton A W J, 1964. *A Roman Road from Ashton, North Herefordshire , to Marshbrook, Salop*, Trans Shropshire Archaeol Hist Soc Vol 57 Part III. pp185 - 190



BACK LANE, ONIBURY 2014

Figure 1: The location of the development site

Archaeology Service

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