

1 – 6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire; An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

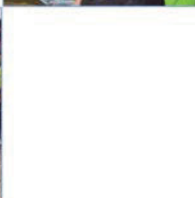
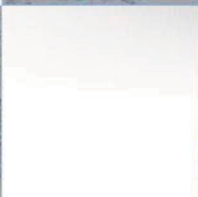
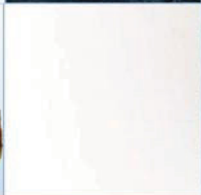
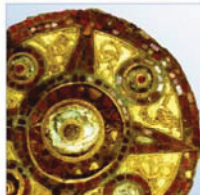
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National Grid Reference Number: SU 6950 8650

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1 – 6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Fieldwork:	4th January to 12th June 2012
Date:	June 2012

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group, on behalf of Manorgrove Homes (UK) Ltd, between the 4th January and 12th June 2012 at the site of 1–6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire. The watching brief monitored ground reduction for the removal of former petrol tanks, the insertion of new water tanks, and the excavation of foundations for the extension of existing properties and the construction of new properties.

The sequence of deposits identified during the watching brief are of limited archaeological significance, primarily representing the accumulation of undisturbed soil horizons occurring in the central area of the site, with significant levels of horizontal truncation of natural sandy clay deposits present in the southern area of the site. The earliest archaeological feature encountered was a truncated chalk lined well, with an unknown date of construction, although it was recorded as being backfilled during the late 18th to 20th century. Two brick-lined wells/soakaways and part of a backfilled basement associated with the 19th century were also identified. All features were sealed by modern made ground horizons. The features encountered appear to be associated with former 19th century residential properties once present on site or in close proximity to it.

No further work is required. The results of the archaeological investigation will be summarised for inclusion in the Oxfordshire Archaeology Round-up and published via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website. The archive will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site of 1 – 6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire.
- 1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 6950 8650 (Figure 1), located centrally within the village of Nettlebed close to the junction of Watlington Street with the High Street. The site is irregular in shape and covers an area of approximately 0.2ha (Figure 2).

2. Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is South Oxfordshire District Council. Archaeological advice to the Council is provided by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council.
- 2.2 The archaeological works are required as a condition on the granting of Planning Permission for the site (Application Ref. P09/E0591). The condition based on PPS 5 states:

No development shall take place until a professionally competent archaeological organisation, as approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, has been commissioned to carry out a full watching brief during the period of construction works. The watching brief shall preserve by record any archaeological features which may arise in the course of works and shall include limited archaeological excavation where necessary and the retrieval of artefactual evidence.

Reason: To secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with Policies CON11, CON13 and CON14 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

- 2.5 In line with Policies CON 11, 13 and 14 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan (2011), an archaeological watching brief is required as a condition on the granting of the Planning Application for the site. A brief (OCC 2011) for the watching brief was supplied by Richard Oram and this WSI is compliant with that brief.
- 2.3 The proposed development scheme comprises the demolition of offices, dwellings and outbuildings and the construction of seven new dwellings and extensions to existing buildings.
- 2.4 The property of 6 Watlington Street is a Grade II Listed Building. The adjacent properties of 7 and 8 Watlington Street are also Grade II Listed properties. Several listed properties are located on the High Street, to the southwest of the development site, which includes the Church of Bartholomew.
- 2.5 The site does not lie within or within the immediate vicinity of any Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas. No World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields lie within 1km of the site.
- 2.6 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Manorgrove Homes (UK) Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief. The methodology was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011). This document detailed how the watching brief on the ground works would be undertaken and was approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council.

3. Geology and Topography

- 3.1 British Geological Survey (British Geological Survey 1998) map Sheet 254 'Henley on Thames' solid and drift edition indicates the solid geology of the site consists of the Lambeth Group which in turn overlies the Upper Chalk. No recent superficial deposits are denoted as being present on site.

- 3.2 The site lies at approximately 188m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is relatively flat. The surrounding landscape is fairly undulating with the ground rising to the north towards Priest's Hill and Windmill Hill.
- 3.3 Geotechnical investigations took place on the 13th September 2011 identifying undisturbed clay with flint deposits at a depth of between 0.45m and 1m, overlain by made ground deposits. Chalk dominated the lower sequence of deposits (JPN 2011).

4. Archaeological And Historical Background

4.1 Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.1.1 A Mesolithic lithic working site was discovered during an excavation at Windmill Hill, c. 480m from the proposed site. This is situated on the current site of the Nettlebed Reservoir. There are also several findspots within 1km of the proposed site, where Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork has been retrieved, including a Mesolithic pick.
- 4.1.2 A Neolithic axe was discovered on Wanbourne Lane, located c. 200m north of the proposed site. This is now on display at Reading Museum.
- 4.1.3 An isolated Neolithic hammerstone was found within a field just north of Huntercombe End Lane, which is situated c.600m northwest of the proposed site.
- 4.1.4 During the Nuffield-Ascott Pipeline Construction (1982), three possible prehistoric features were excavated, including two burnt hearths and one curvilinear posthole. All three features contained worked flint flakes. One of the hearths, however, contained medieval pottery.

4.2 Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.2.1 Situated 190m southwest of the proposed site, a Roman coin of Vespasian (AD 9-79) was discovered by Master P. Thompson, son of the principal of Nettlebed Junior School in 1954. It was found on the surface of land newly cleared of scrub for use as a private allotment garden, in close proximity to the school grounds.
- 4.2.2 Elsewhere in Henley-on-Thames, Roman finds and features including coins, brooches and cut features have been recorded at several locations, but at a greater distance from the proposed site.

4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

- 4.3.1 The site is located within the area of medieval settlement and the High Street is very likely to have been the main medieval street of the period (OCC 2011). As such there is potential for medieval activity on Watlington Street (OCC 2011).
- 4.3.2 There was evidence of a medieval pottery kiln located on the proposed Nuffield-Ascott Pipeline (1982). An initial magnetometer survey was undertaken in Soundess Field revealing a kiln and a possible workshop. Excavation works found varying pottery forms including cooking pots, jars, bowls and jugs. There was a small selection of glazed vessels and two types of firing fabrics using iron rich and iron free clays were identified. The kiln was producing pottery during the late 14th-15th century.
- 4.3.3 Documentary evidence suggests a medieval pottery kiln is located at Crocker End, Nettlebed, c. 500m southeast of the proposed site. There is historical reference of the kiln in use dating between 1417 and 1442 and again throughout the 16th century.
- 4.3.4 As previously noted, one sherd of medieval pottery was excavated within a possible prehistoric hearth on the site of the Nuffield-Ascott pipeline, just over 1km northwest of the proposed site.

4.4 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (AD 1536 – present)

- 4.4.1 There are several post-medieval structures within close proximity to the proposed site, including 31 Grade II Listed Buildings dating from 17th century to 20th century. A large proportion of these are situated along High Street, Nettlebed, including The Rectory and Myrtles, 17th century red-brick structures.
- 4.4.2 The proposed development includes alterations to the dwelling at 6 Watlington Street. This is a Grade II Listed Building originally 17th century in date with 20th century alterations. It is a rendered timber-framed, red-brick cottage.
- 4.4.3 There is evidence of a late 17th century brick kiln located on Old Kiln Lane, c. 125m southeast of the proposed site. This is a unique structure as it appears to be the last remaining kiln of its period and design. Despite several alterations, it stands conical in shape, 10m high and 7m in diameter at the base.
- 4.4.4 St Bartholomew's Church is historically noted to be medieval in date, but there is no solid dating evidence. This was revealed during excavations in the church in 1993 where earlier floor levels, to the 18th century structure, were uncovered. The church has clear alterations from the 18th century including the tower and the chancel (1845-6).
- 4.4.5 The Bull Hotel, High Street, is located less than 100m away from the proposed site and resembles structural date of 16th or 17th century with its Georgian façade and timber framed interior. The structure is generally 18th century in date with evidence of wall paintings. The structure is an example of great technical design of wall panels of Elizabethan or Jacobean date.

5. Strategy

5.1 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable the archaeology advisor to Oxfordshire County Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
 - To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.
- 5.1.2 The specific aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- To determine the presence of any features or artefacts which may indicate prehistoric activity, especially of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.
 - To identify any evidence of medieval activity in the area of the proposed development. Is there evidence of Watlington Street being occupied in this period?
- 5.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

5.2 Methodology

- 5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (English Heritage 2006, IfA 2008).
- 5.2.2 The watching brief monitored several phases of construction activity. Trench 1 monitored the excavation of a foundation trench for the construction of an extension to the rear of No.4 Watlington Street; Trench 2 monitored the extraction of a former fuel storage tank; Trench 3 monitored the instillation of modern storage tank; Trench 4 and 5 monitored the excavation of foundation trenches in the central and southern areas, respectively (Figure 2).
- 5.2.3 Prior to commencing work a unique site code (**OXCMS:2011.207**) was provided by Oxford County Museums Service and was used as the site identifier on all records.
- 5.2.4 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 4th January and 12th June 2012.
- 5.2.5 Levels for each context were established based on data contained within the site engineer's specifications.
- 5.2.6 The archaeological watching brief was conducted by the author under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The site was monitored by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council.

6 Results

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 Surface of Trench = 189.13m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
189.13-189.03m	0.00m	(100)	Garden Soil. Soft, black, clayey silt.
189.13-188.97m	0.00m	(112)	Concrete.
188.53-188.43m	0.00m	(103)	Tarmac.
189.03-188.01m	0.10m	(101)	Formation Deposit. Firm, cement and sand.
188.97-188.53m	0.16m	(106)	Garden Soil. Soft, black, sandy silt.
188.65-188.50m	0.48m	(107)	Made Ground. Soft, dark brown, sandy clay. Chalk and CBM inclusions.
188.53-187.98m	0.60m	(108)	Soil Horizon. Soft, mid brown, silty clay.
187.98-187.35m (NFE)	1.15-1.77m	(109)	Natural. Firm, yellowish brown, sandy clay.
187.81-187.45m (NFE)	1.32-1.77m	(110)	Natural. Hard, brown mottled grey, flinty clay.

- 6.1.2 Trench 1 was located in the central area of the site to the rear of 4 Watlington Street. The area impacted measured 8.50m by 6m (Figures 3 & 4; Plate A).



Plate A. Trench 1 Looking Northeast

- 6.1.3 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 1 was a hard, brown, natural flinty clay (110). The deposit primarily appeared in the southeast corner of the trench covering an area 3m by 0.80m, reaching a maximum height of 187.81m AOD. Overlying natural flinty clay (110), and present throughout the base of the foundation trench, was a layer of firm, yellowish brown, natural sandy clay (109) in excess of 0.60m thick. Layer (109) was recorded at a height of 187.98m AOD. Located above natural sandy clay (109) was a soft, mid brown, silty clay soil horizon (108) recorded as up to 0.55m thick. The soil horizon contained moderate chalk flecks, occasional small fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), and a single sherd of residual late medieval pottery.
- 6.1.4 Observations made in the southern section of the trench identified that soil horizon (108) had been truncated by a 3m wide vertically sided cut [111] for cellar structure [105] which extended for a depth of at least 1.20m. The northern wall of cellar [105] was present in Trench 1, consisting of a single skin of red bricks measuring 230mm by 110mm by 75mm. The bricks appeared to be industrially made during the 19th century, incorporating a shallow frog. The cellar wall had been constructed using stretcher courses bonded together by a firm, pale yellow sandy mortar. Cellar [105] had been backfilled by modern demolition rubble (104) associated with a silty sandy matrix following removal of related structures.
- 6.1.5 Overlying soil horizon (108) in the area immediately to the north of cellar [105] was a 0.15m thick layer of soft, dark brown, sandy clay made ground (107) which contained flecks of chalk and CBM (Figure 4). Made ground (107) extended from the eastern limit of excavation for a distance of 6m east-west. This horizon of made ground did appear in the western or northern area of the trench meaning its north-south extent could not be established. Sealing made ground (107) and occupying the full area of Trench 1 was a soft, black, sandy silt garden soil (106), up to 0.45m thick, which contained a small range of late 18th to 20th century pottery fragments and glass bottles. Cut into the garden soil (106) was a 0.25m wide 20th century red brick boundary wall [102] in excess of 6m in length, which formerly defined the southern limit of excavation. Wall [102] was constructed using red bricks measuring 225mm by 110mm by 75mm, bonded using a cementitious mortar. The wall was completely removed during the course of the excavation. Previously abutting wall [102] on its northern side and sealing garden soil (106) in the eastern area of the trench, was a uniform light cement mix (101) 0.10m thick previously used as the formation deposit for a previously existing garden path. Formation deposit (101) had later been sealed by a 0.10m thick horizon of soft, black, clayey silt modern garden soil (100). Abutting the southern side of wall [102] and sealing the modern

cellar backfill (104) was a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac (103) forming the current driveway surface. On the northern side of Trench 1 garden soil (106) had been sealed by a 0.15m thick modern concrete yard slab.

6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 Surface of Trench = 188.23m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
188.23-187.98m	0.00m	(200)	Made ground. Loose, dark grey, rubble and flint in silty sand matrix.
187.98-187.68m	0.25m	(205)	Soil horizon. Soft, mid brown, silty clay.
187.68-186.83m (NFE)	0.55-1.40m	(206)	Natural. Firm, yellowish brown, flinty sandy clay.

6.2.2 Trench 2 was located in the southeast corner of the site, orientated north-south and measured 9.50m by 5.50m (Figures 5 & 6; Plate B).



Plate B. Chalk Lined Well (203) Looking West

- 6.2.3 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 2 was a firm, yellowish brown, natural flinty sandy clay (206) recorded at a maximum height of 187.68m AOD. Overlying the natural sandy clay (206) in northwest side of the trench, covering an area of approximately 7m north-south by 2.5m east-west, was a soft, mid brown, silty clay soil horizon (205) 0.30m thick.
- 6.2.4 Cut into soil horizon (205) and seen in the western section of Trench 2, was the remains of a vertically sided construction cut [204] for chalk lined feature (203). Cut [204] was not seen in plan, although it was recorded to be at least 0.30m wide by 1.00m deep, and presumed to have been approximately circular in shape. Within cut [204] was a lining of roughly dressed chalk blocks (203), built utilising regular courses, in order to construct either a well or soakaway. There was no evidence of a bonding material between the chalk blocks. The maximum size of block was 190mm by 110mm by 10mm. Only the upper 1.00m of structure (203) was seen. After the disuse of well or soakaway (203) the feature was backfilled by an soft, dark grey, sandy silt deposit (202) which contained occasional fragments of late 18th to 19th century pottery and glass. Following the accumulation of

deposit (202), feature (203) was capped using red bricks (201) measuring 230mm by 110mm by 70mm, which appeared to be manufactured during the 19th or 20th century. Subsequently, capping (201), and exposed deposits (205) and (206) across the area of the trench, were sealed by an extensive modern made ground horizon of loose, dark grey, rubble and flint in an silty sand matrix (200), which measured 0.25m thick.

- 6.2.5 Following the deposition of made ground (200) a substantial petrol tank and associated cut [207] truncated this horizon, occupying the full 9.50m by 5.50m area of Trench 2. Cut [207] also removed the majority of buried well or soakaway (203).

6.3 Trench 3

- 6.3.1 Surface of Trench = 188.53m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
188.53-188.33m	0.00m	(300)	Made ground. Loose, dark grey, rubble and flint in silty sand matrix.
188.33-186.73m (NFE)	0.20-1.80m	(301)	Natural. Firm, yellowish brown, flinty sandy clay.

- 6.3.2 Trench 3 was located in the eastern area of the site, orientated north-south and measured 6.00m by 1.30m (Figures 5 & 6; Plate C).



Plate C. Trench 3 Looking Southeast

- 6.3.3 The earliest deposit observed was a firm, yellowish brown, natural flinty sandy clay (301) recorded at a height of 188.33m AOD. Immediately above the natural sandy clay (301) was a modern made ground deposit consisting of a loose, dark grey, rubble and flint in a silty sand matrix (300), 0.20m thick.
- 6.3.4 No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified in Trench 3.

6.4 Trench 4

6.4.1 Surface of Trench = 189.13m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
189.13-189.05m	0.00m	(400)	Tarmac.
189.05-188.80m	0.08m	(401)	Formation deposit. Compact, greyish brown, chalk and gravel.
188.80-188.47m	0.33m	(402)	Buried topsoil. Soft, dark brown, clayey sand.
188.47-188.27m	0.66m	(403)	Subsoil. Soft, greyish brown, clayey sand.
188.27-188.09m (NFE)	0.86- 1.04m	(404)	Natural. Firm, yellowish brown, flinty sandy clay.

6.4.2 Trench 4 was located in the central area of the site and measured 13m by 12m (Figures 3 & 4; Plate D).



Plate D. Trench 4 Sample Section Looking West

- 6.4.3 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 4 was a firm, yellowish brown, natural sandy clay (404) recorded at a maximum height of 188.27m AOD. The natural sandy clay (403) was overlain by a soft, greyish brown, clayey sand subsoil horizon (403), 0.20m thick.
- 6.4.4 Cut into the subsoil (403) was a circular construction cut [408] for a possible well or soakaway (406) located in the western area of the trench, which measured 1.25m in diameter. The possible well or soakaway (406) was of brick construction, 1m in diameter, formed of a single skin of red brick. Redeposited natural sandy clay (407) had been used to backfill construction cut [408]. A dark grey, sandy silt deposit (405) had accumulated within the interior of possible well or soakaway (406).
- 6.4.5 Sealing backfill deposit (406) and the surrounding subsoil (403) was a soft, dark brown, clayey sand buried topsoil deposit (402), up to 0.35m thick, which covered the full area of the trench. Overlying buried topsoil (402), adjacent to the northern boundary of the trench, was a compact, greyish brown, mixed gravel and chalk formation deposit (401) 0.25m thick. Formation deposit (401) was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac (400) representing the modern yard surface.

6.5 Trench 5

6.5.1 Surface of Trench = 187.75m AOD

Level (OD)	Depth BGL	Context Number	Description
187.75 – 187.69m	0.00m	(500)	Tarmac.
187.69 – 187.16m	0.06m	(501)	Made ground. Loose, dark grey, rubble and flint in silty sand matrix.
187.16 – 186.49m	0.59m	(502)	Natural. Firm, yellowish brown, sandy clay.
186.49 – 186.04m (NFE)	1.26-1.79m	(503)	Natural. Firm, yellowish brown, flinty sandy clay.

- 6.5.2 Trench 5 was located in the southern area of site, orientated north-south and measured 17.5m by 9.6m (Figures 5 & 6). The footprint of Trench 5 partially overlapped with the subsequently backfilled Trench 2.
- 6.5.3 The earliest deposit encountered in the trench was a firm, yellowish brown, natural flinty sandy clay (503) recorded at a height of 186.49m AOD, which was overlain by a natural yellowish brown sandy clay deposit (502) measuring up to 0.70m thick.
- 6.5.4 Cutting into the natural sandy clay (502) on the western side of Trench 5 was the vertically sided construction cut [509] for well (508). Construction cut [509] was circular in plan, measuring 1.50m in diameter by at least 1.80m deep. Lining cut [509] was a circular red brick structure forming well (508) which was 1.30m in diameter by 0.30m thick, utilising red bricks bonded by a soft, light brownish grey mortar. Infilling the space between cut [509] and brick well (508) was a firm, light brownish yellow, redeposited natural clayey sand deposit (507). Infilling the interior of the well (508) was a loose mixed deposit of bricks and general demolition debris (506).



Plate E. Trench 5: Well [509]

- 6.5.5 Sealing deposit (506) and the surrounding natural sandy clay (502) was a layer of modern made ground consisting of a loose, dark grey, rubble and flint in a silty sand matrix (501), up to 0.55m thick. In the eastern section of the trench made ground (501) was overlain by 50mm of tarmac forming the existing public footpath surface (500).

7 Finds

- 7.1 During the course of the watching brief a small assemblage of finds were recovered from three different contexts in two different trenches (see Appendix B). Fragments of late 18th to 20th century pottery, animal bone and a complete ink pot were recovered from context (106); fragments of ceramic building material and a residual sherd of late medieval pottery were recovered from context (108); and a fragment of a glass vessel and multiple fragments of late 18th to 20th century pottery were recovered from context (202).

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 The earliest deposit identified during the watching brief was a flinty sandy clay deposits recorded in Trench 5 at a height of 186.49m AOD. This was overlain by a natural sandy clay deposit which was recorded in all five trenches, between a height of 187.16m AOD and 188.33m AOD. These values are indicative of the general level topography across the site.
- 8.2 Overlying the natural sandy clay deposit was a subsoil horizon identified in Trench 1, 4, and the northwest corner of Trench 2. In Trench 1 and 2 this subsoil horizon had been cut by several features consisting of a brick-lined basement and several possible wells or soakaways. The earliest of these features appears to be the truncated remains of a chalk-lined well recorded in Trench 2. The materials used in the construction of the well cannot be closely dated, although the pottery recovered from the accumulated deposit present in backfilling of the well suggest the well had been abandoned by the 19th or 20th century. The largest of the features identified was the side wall of a basement located on the southeast side of Trench 1 which appeared to be associated with former 19th century property present on site. A possible brick-built well, potentially contemporary with the 19th century basement, was located approximately 14m to the west of the basement in Trench 4. Based on a similarity in construction materials used, a second potentially contemporary, brick-built well was recorded in Trench 5, although no finds or stratigraphic evidence was identified to support this interpretation.
- 8.3 Buried topsoil and garden soil deposits were recorded in the northern side of Trench 1 and 4 overlying the subsoil horizon as well as sealing the brick lined well identifying in Trench 4. The presence of a surviving soil sequence associated with these trenches indicates that the deposits in the central area of site have remained relatively undisturbed. In Trench 2, 3, 5 and the southern side of Trench 1, this deposit sequence is not replicated, as both the features in these locations and underlying natural deposits are immediately sealed by modern made ground. This strongly implies that the southern area of the site experienced a phase of horizontal truncation, removing the later deposits and any shallow features that may have existed, prior to development of the site during the 20th century. Horizons associated with the creation of modern yard areas in the central area of site were also identified.
- 8.4 During the course of the watching brief a limited range of archaeological features were identified, relating to a single chalk-lined well backfilled during the 19th or 20th century, two 19th century brick-lined wells or soakaways, and a 19th century basement. All of these features appear to be associated with 19th century residential properties either present on site or in close proximity to it. This

interpretation would concur with the known history of the immediate area. No features predating this phase of activity was identified, although modern horizontal truncation in the southern area of the site may have previously removed any evidence related to earlier phases of activity.

9 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 9.1 Due to the nature of the results of the archaeological investigation, publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Oxfordshire Archaeology Round-up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).
- 9.2 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of finds, paper records, drawings, digital and black and white photographs, will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service.

10 Bibliography

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Oxfordshire County Council (2011). *1-6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief.*

South Oxfordshire District Council (Adopted 2006) *South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.*



Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Plan Provided by the Client

Figure 2: Detailed Site / Watching Brief Location Plan

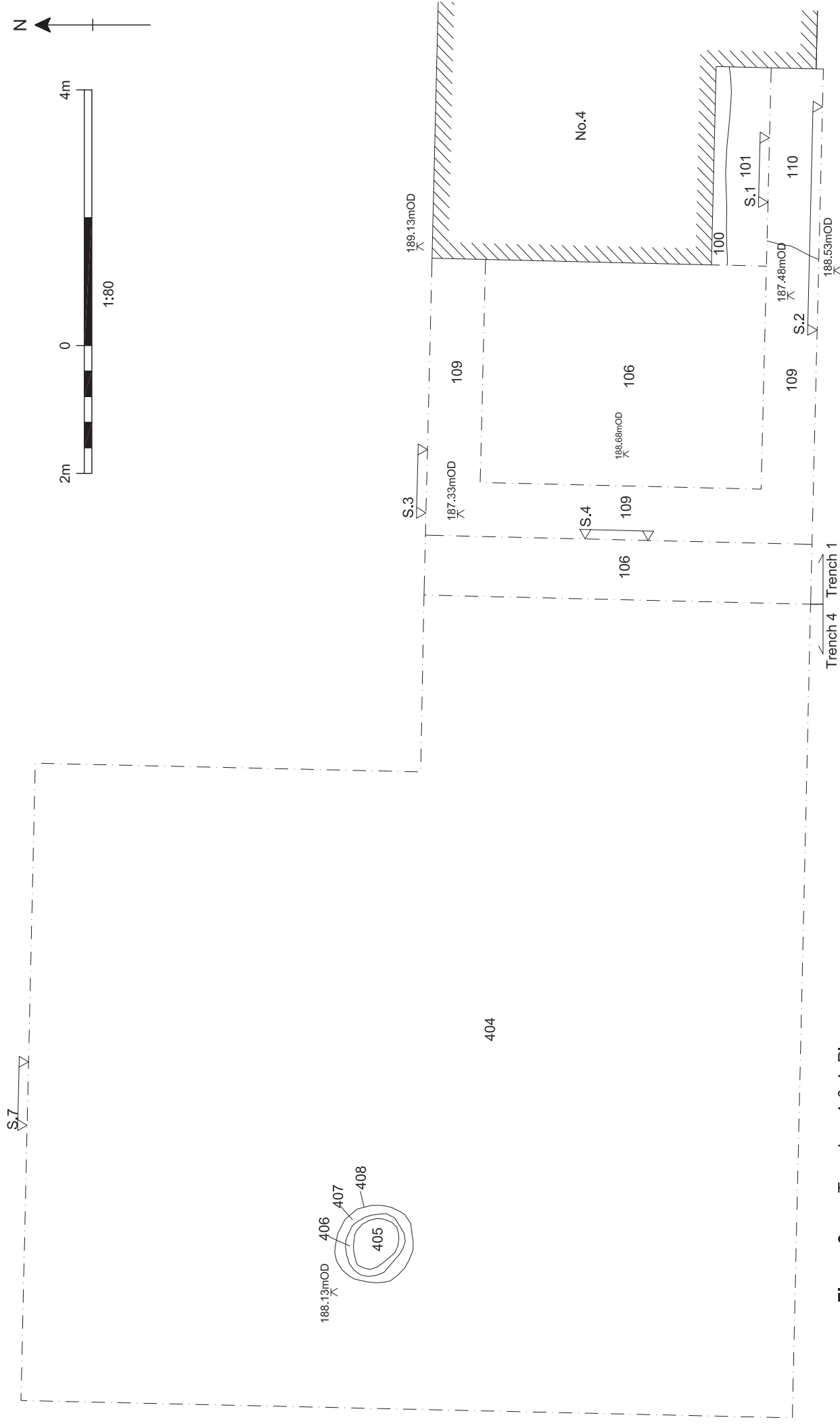
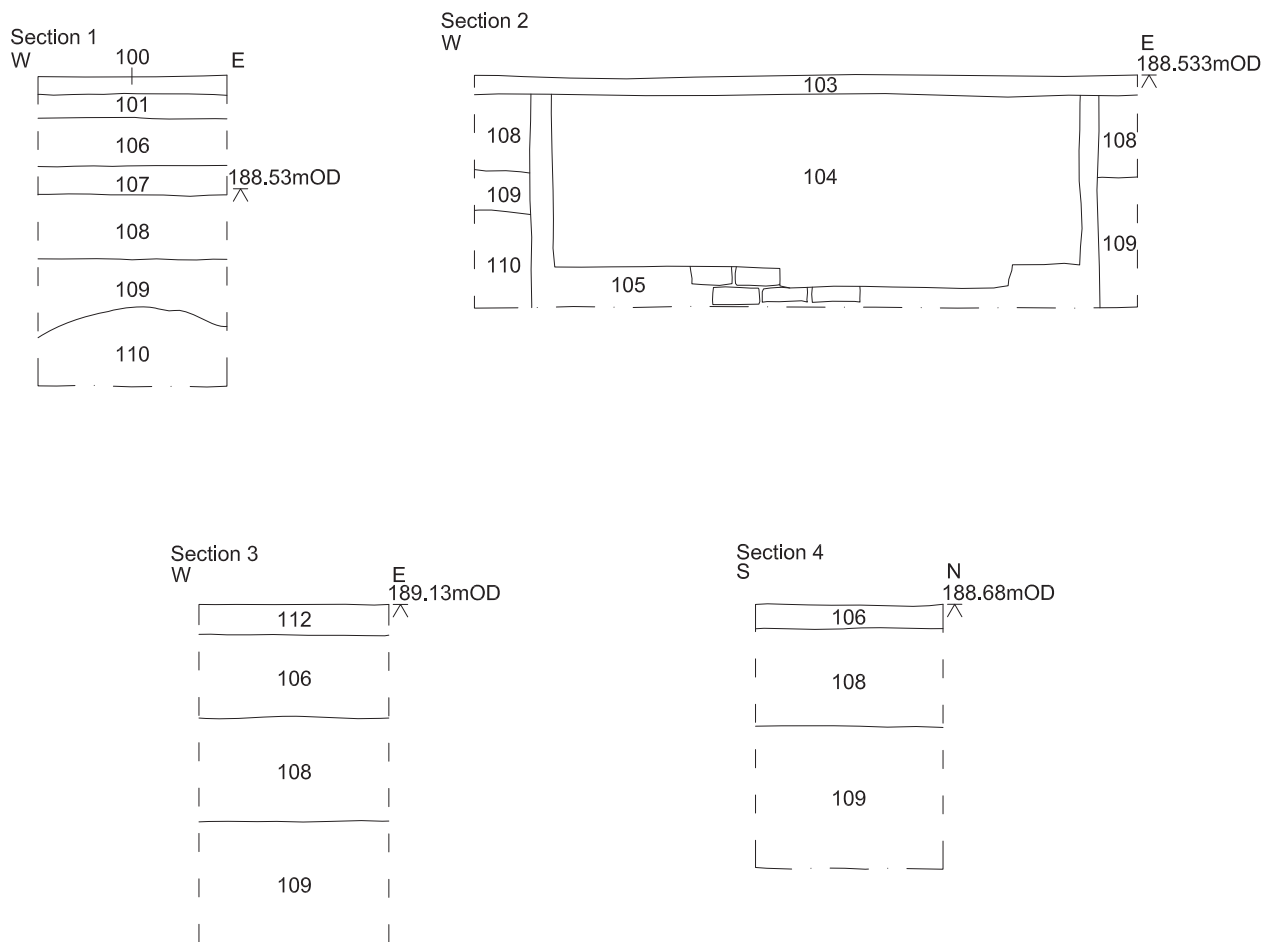


Figure 3: Trenches 1 & 4: Plans



Trench 1: Sections

Trench 4: Section

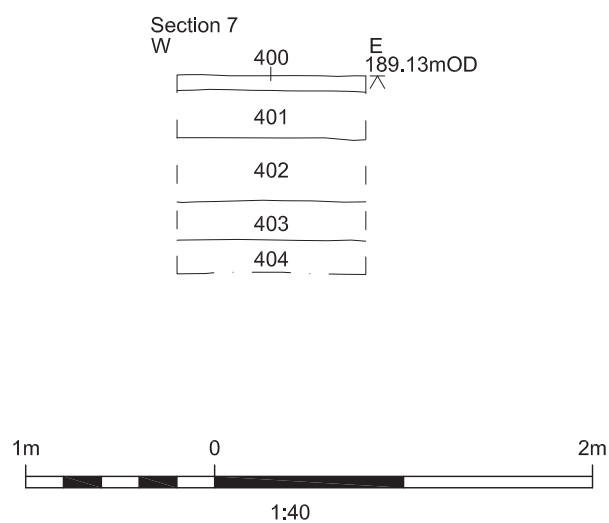


Figure 4: Trenches 1 & 4: Sections

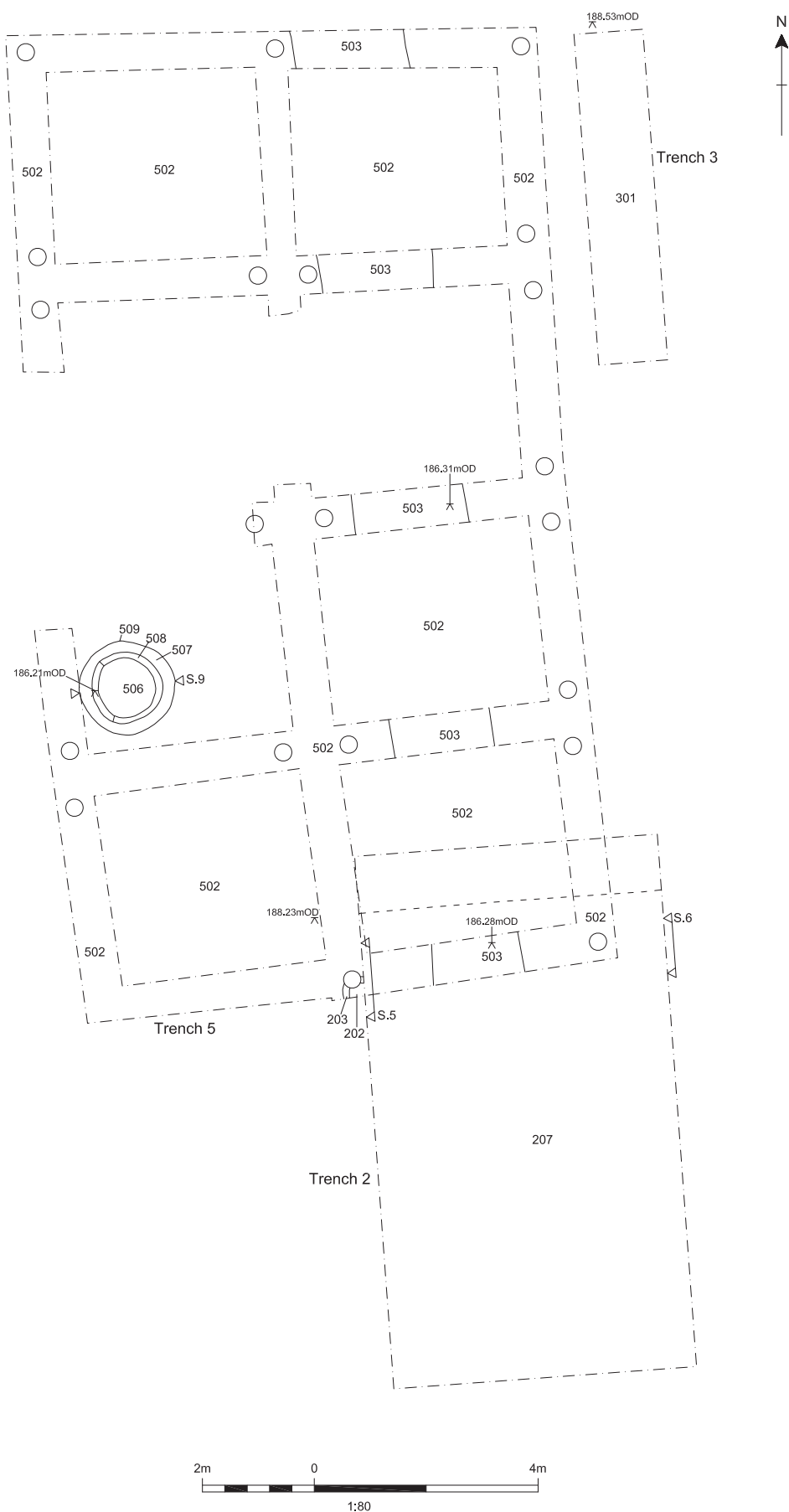
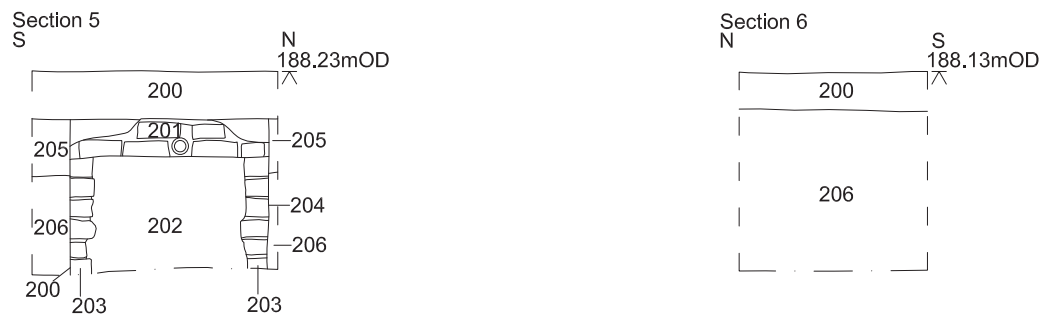


Figure 5: Trenches 2, 3 & 5: Plans



Trench 2: Sections

Trench 5: Section

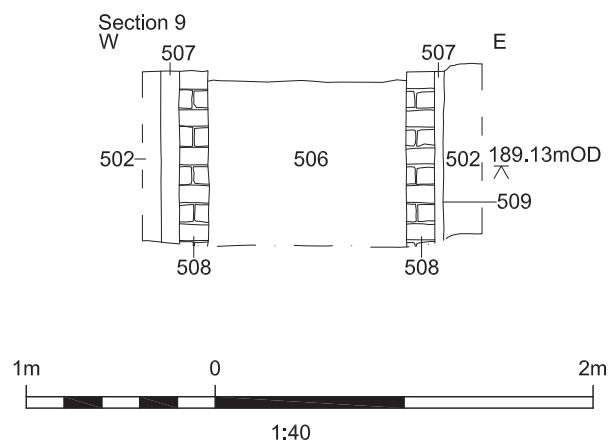


Figure 6: Trenches 2 & 5: Sections

Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
100	Garden Soil	8.50m	6.00m	0.10m
101	Formation Deposit	3.10m	0.80m	0.12m
102	Boundary Wall	8.50m+	0.25m	0.30m
103	Roadway	8.50m+	1.00m	0.10m
104	Backfill of Cellar	2.80m	0.10m+	1.20m+
105	Cellar Wall	3.00m	0.12m	1.20m+
106	Garden Soil	8.50m	6.00m	0.26m
107	Made Ground	6.00m	1.00m	0.15m
108	Soil Horizon	8.50m	6.00m	0.35m
109	Natural	8.50m	6.00m	0.30m+
110	Natural	3.00m+	1.00m+	0.44m+
111	Cut for [105]	3.00m	0.12m	1.20m+
112	Yard Surface	8.50m	1.00m+	0.16m
200	Made Ground	9.50m	5.50m	0.25m
201	Well Capping	0.85m	0.10m+	0.30m
202	Fill of (203)	0.86m	0.20m	0.60m+
203	Chalk Lined Well	1.04m	0.32m	0.60m+
204	Construction Cut for (203)	1.04m	0.32m	0.90m+
205	Soil Horizon	7.00m	2.50m	0.30m
206	Natural	9.50m	5.50m	0.85m+
207	Modern Cut	9.50m	5.50m	1.40m+
300	Made Ground	6.00m	1.30m	0.20m
301	Natural	6.00m	1.30m	1.60m+
400	Yard Surface	13.00m	2.00m	0.08m
401	Formation Deposit	13.00m	2.00m	0.25m
402	Buried Topsoil	13.00m	2.00m	0.35m
403	Subsoil	13.00m	2.00m	0.20m
404	Natural	13.00m	2.00m	0.18m+
405	Fill of [406]	1.00m	1.00m	0.10m+
406	Well/soakaway	1.00m	0.10m	0.10m+
407	Fill of [408]	1.00m	0.20m	0.10m+
408	Construction cut for [406]	1.25m	1.25m	0.10m+
500	Pavement	17.50m	1.00m	0.06m
501	Made Ground	17.50m	9.60m	0.53m
502	Natural	17.50m	9.60m	0.67m
503	Natural	17.50m	1.50m	0.45m

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
504	Modern Backfill	5.10m	1.00m+	1.25m
505	Modern Cut	5.10m	1.00m+	1.25m
506	Fill of [508]	1.07m	1.07m	0.93m
507	Fill of [509]	1.50m	1.50m	0.93m
508	Brick Well/soakaway	1.30m	1.26m	0.93m
509	Cut for [508]	1.50m	1.48m	0.93m

Appendix B – Specialist Finds Report

An Assessment of Finds From an Archaeological Watching Brief at 1-6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire

Site code: OXCMS:2011.207

by

Paul Fitz

Summary

A small, predominately ceramic assemblage from three contexts was recovered during watching brief conditions. One context (108) has a single medieval pot sherd. The other two contexts are mid-late 19th century in date.

THE POTTERY

Context (106)

16 sherds of pottery (578 grams) were retrieved from this context, with fabric/vessel forms described below;

1 x mocha ware bowl <1780-1900>

1 x pearlware plate rim with blue feathered rim decoration <1770-1850>

1 x white glazed earthenware plate with blue feathered/mocha decorative design

3 x plain white glazed earthenware vessels

1 x china ware cup with thin silver band below rim

1 x blue and black banded decoration cream ware

1 x large sherd of north midlands pantheon ware. <Likely 18th-19th century> Internal cream glaze, external brown glaze

1 x English stoneware 'pork pie' ink pot <1700-1900+> (common late nineteenth-early twentieth Century)

2 x pearlware with willow type transfer pattern <1770-1850>

3 x green and white transfer printed plate pieces - 'WICKER' design <1825-1900+>

1 x blue/white willow transfer pattern <1780-1900+>

Context (108)

One partial base sherd of possible late medieval small bowl (54 grams) was recovered from this context. It is of a pinkish orange colour with biscuit/grey inner fabric. It has occasional orange splash glaze evidence externally.

Context (202)

12 sherds (277 grams) were recovered from this context and are described below;

2 x plain White china egg cup (45 grams). Incomplete, but full profile - 62mm tall <1745-1900>

2 x white glazed earthenware.(cup, or small bowl). red painted leaf and floral decoration. <1750-1900>

1 x white glazed earthenware bowl base piece <1750-1900>

7 x blue and white willow transfer patterned small plate (65 mm diameter) <1780-1900+>

BRICK AND TILE

2 peg tile pieces and a fragment of red brick were retrieved from context (108), weighing 131 grams combined. No piece was complete; the tiles are 13mm and 15mm in thickness.

GLASS

A single body sherd from a clear bottle vessel (27 grams) was recovered from context (202). It has an embossed makers/product mark though it is not clear. It is almost certainly late nineteenth/early twentieth century in date.

ANIMAL BONE

A single leg bone from a small mammal was collected in context (106). No butchery marks are evident.

Discussion/Recommendations

The finds assemblage is small in size and has little significance on a local or national level. The pottery is useful to date the contexts , though being the only sherd from context (108) it is difficult to say with conviction if this is a medieval context (should the sherd be residual)

The finds will be catalogued and packed to Oxford Museums archive guidelines.

Material for illustration

None

Analysis of potential

The ceramic provides broad dating evidence for the features in which they occur. The sherd from (108) could be referenced with other medieval assemblages from the area.

Significance of the data

International and national

The assemblage is not of international or national significance.

Regional and local

The assemblage is not of Regional or Local significance.

Further work required

None

Preparation for deposition in the archive and conservation

None

Appendix C – OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-114644

Project details

Project name 1-6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the site of 1 - 6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire. The watching brief monitored a programme of residential construction works. The sequence of deposits identified during the watching brief are of limited archaeological significance, primarily representing the accumulation of undisturbed soil horizons occurring in the central area of the site, with significant levels of horizontal truncation of natural sandy clay deposits present in the southern area of the site. The earliest archaeological feature encountered was a partial chalk lined well, with an unknown date of construction, although it is recorded as being backfilled during the late 18th to 20th century. Two brick lined wells/soakaways and part of a backfilled basement associated with the 19th century, were also identified. All features were sealed by modern made ground horizons. The features encountered appear to be associated with former 19th century residential properties once present on site or in close proximity to it.

Project dates Start: 04-01-2012 End: 12-06-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any project codes associated reference 32052 - Contracting Unit No.

Any project codes associated reference P09/E0591 - Planning Application No.

Any project codes associated reference (OXCMS) 2011.207 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE NETTLEBED 1-6 Watlington Street
Postcode	RG9 5AA
Study area	29500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 469500 186500 50 -1 50 57 53 N 001 19 52 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 187.00m Max: 188.00m

Project creators

Name	of AOC Archaeology
Organisation	
Project originator	brief Oxfordshire CC
Project originator	design AOC Archaeology
Project director/manager	Melissa Melikian

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Contractor
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Manorgrove Homes (UK) Ltd
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Oxford County Museum Service
recipient

Physical Archive ID OXCMS:2011.207

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Physical Archive 1pot sherd is possible late medieval
notes

Digital Archive Oxford County Museum Service
recipient

Digital Archive ID OXCMS:2011.207

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography"
available

Paper Archive Oxford County Museum Service
recipient

Paper Archive ID OXCMS:2011.207

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
available

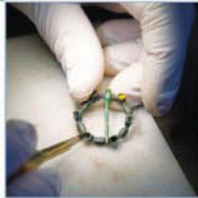
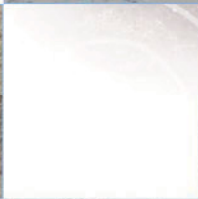
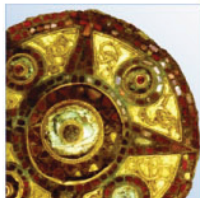
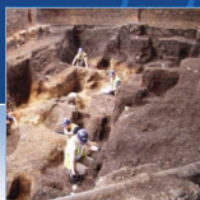
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1-6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fidler, T.
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text with illustrations

Project bibliography 2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1-6 Watlington Street, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, C.
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	AOC South
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 portrait size. full colour. 5 illustrations

Entered by Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on 27 June 2012



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