SBTC11

Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at the Sainsbury's Bicester Town Centre

Updated Project Design and Assessment of Results

Client: Bowmer & Kirkland

Client's Archaeological Consultant: (CgMs)

October 2013

Version 1.0

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CONTENTS

SAINSBURY'S TOWN CENTRE, BICESTER

Client	Bowmer & Kirkland
National Grid Reference	SP 583 225
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Parish:	Bicester
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Faunal Assessment	Tim Holden
Fieldwork	Intermittent between 30th January 2012 – 15th May 2013
Report	July 2013

Executive Summary

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bowmer and Kirkland to conduct an archaeological investigation in a former car park off Manorsfield Road in Bicester town centre. This was in advance of the development of a new Supermarket (Sainsbury) and other commercial property space. The field work took place intermittently between 31st January 2012 to 15th May 2013 and was in compliance with the planning conditions placed by the local planning authority. The scheme of works was designed by CgMs (clients archaeological consultant; CgMs 2010) and was designed to investigate remains identified in earlier evaluative works (JMHS 2006). The scheme of works was approved by the Oxfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

Excavation of the western part of the site revealed evidence of medieval pits of various sizes and linear features thought to be post-medieval in date. The shallow depth of many features, suggests that this area of the site had been heavily truncated during clearance for construction of the car park. This interpretation is supported by the large amount of made ground comprising crushed concrete and services directly overlying the natural geology. Monitoring of works carried out on pre-selected areas on the remainder of the DA revealed evidence of undated linear and pit features thought to be associated with medieval activity.

This document presents an assessment of archaeological remains revealed during these investigations, the data-sets were assessed for their potential to address national and regional research agendas. The document also contains proposals for further analysis and publication of the data, and the methodologies and resources required to complete the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

A watching brief was undertaken on the western edge of the Development Area (DA) in June 2005 (JMHS 2005) which revealed the presence of a possible medieval ditch and an undated limestone built wall in the excavated foundation trench. An evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in May 2006 (JMHS 2006). This investigation did not record the presence of significant archaeological remains. A condition was placed on planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation (including dissemination of results and archiving of records and finds/ecofacts).

Bowmer & Kirkland commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to undertake the works associated with this investigation, which comprised open area excavation on the western area of the DA and a watching brief on other areas of the development.

The scheme of works was designed by CgMs (clients archaeological consultant; CgMs 2010) and was designed to investigate remains identified in earlier evaluative works (JMHS 2006). The scheme of works was approved by the Oxfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

1.2 Site Description and Geology

The DA is located in a car park off Manorsfield Road just south of Bicester town centre and centred on grid reference SP 5832 2262. The DA is bounded by Manorsfield Road to the south and shops to the north and east.

The geology comprised Great Oolitic Cornbrash and the site lies at a height of 71.30m OD.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The DA is located within the historic core of Bicester. Bicester is an Old English (Anglo-Saxon) place-name first recorded in Domesday Book (AD1086) as *Bernecestre*, which means either 'fort of the warriors' or 'Beorna's Fort'(Watts 2010, 54). The 'cestre' element derives from the Latin for fort and almost always applies to Saxon settlements near Roman fortified towns. In this case the modern town of Bicester lies just north of the site of the Roman town of Alchester, on the Roman road which linked Dorchester to Towcester. Alchester itself may have been sited on the boundary between the *civitates* of the Dubunni and Catuvellauni.

Archaeologically, little had been known about Bicester until relatively recently (cf Munby et al. 1975) who considered that the DA lay outside of the extent of the town in c. 1700. The Saxon occupation of Bicester is thought to have been centred on the church of St Edburg which is thought to stand on an earlier Minster Church (Blair 2003) to the south-east of the development. The two medieval manors of King's End and Market End developed at opposite ends of a causeway across boggy land along the line of the River Bure just south of the DA. During the 12th and 13th centuries Bicester

developed as an important market town with the Priory of St Egburd being founded in 1185 and suppressed in 1536 (Blair 1994).

A search of the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held no records of the medieval period for the DA; however evidence of medieval occupation appears in the surrounding area. The causeway (SMR 12387) lies close to the southern end of the DA and linked the two medieval settlements of King's End and Market End. Market End lies 100m south of the DA and Kings End 150m southeast. To the northeast of the DA lies Sheep Street which is of medieval date and associated Burgage plots extend on to the east side of the site. Bicester's market and fair were granted in 1239 and 1252 however the Black Death of 1348 is thought to have slowed the prospering town until the mid 15th century resulting in an increase of sheep farming and smaller enclosures.

Historical maps show the DA as been relatively undeveloped during the post-medieval period up to the present save for possible plot boundaries existing prior to the construction of the car park.

Recent excavations in the town have shed considerable new light on the origins and development of Bicester (Blair 2003). No evidence for prehistoric settlement has been found and very little for any Roman settlement. Excavations at Chapel Street uncovered sunken featured buildings, timber halls and ditches dating form the early and mid Saxon and early Norman periods (Harding and Andrews 2003), while evaluation south of the Priory revealed medieval ditches which might mark the southern limit of settlement (Oram 2005). Recent trial trenching (McNicoll-Norbury 2010) and excavations at the Church of Immaculate Conception (Lewis 2011) just to the south-east of the DA has revealed seventeen graves with at least two of the graves dating to the Middle Saxon period along with early medieval linear features and pits.

The archaeological potential of the DA was first established during a watching brief which revealed evidence of an early medieval linear feature and the remains of a possible wall (JMHS 2005). The potential of the DA was further highlighted in a desk based assessment (CgMs 2005) which was followed up by trial trenching consisting of six trenches across the DA which did not reveal any archaeological remains although a palaeo-channel was recorded on the western side of the DA (JMHS 2006).

1.4 Purpose of this Report

This report presents an assessment of the results of all stages of the archaeological investigations. An Updated Project Design is included, listing all the tasks that will be required to disseminate and archive the results of the fieldwork. The completion of these tasks will fulfil the criteria stipulated in the WSI (CgMs 2010), enabling the discharge of the archaeological planning condition by the LPA.

2. ORIGINAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

2.1 Introduction

A series of research aims were established in the project-wide WSI (CgMs 2010). These were necessary to ensure that the investigation was appropriately targeted in accordance with local, regional and national research priorities.

2.2 National Research Frameworks

At a national level, English Heritage's criteria for prioritising archaeological "sites" are evolving. It's funding criteria for rescue projects, as set out in *Exploring our past* (EH 1991), were similar to those it uses to define a "site" as being of schedulable quality. These included period, rarity, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability and potential. More recently a draft Research Agenda (EH 1997) built upon the earlier criteria, with the aim of developing an approach reflecting 'the greater determination to pursue research themes' and 'wider interests (*e.g.* in landscapes)'. These include goals such as advancing understanding of England's archaeology, supporting the development of national, regional and local research frameworks and promoting public appreciation and enjoyment of archaeology.

Although the Research Agenda was intended for projects seeking English Heritage resources, *i.e.* not those undertaken within the PPG 16 framework, its goals and objectives are relevant to the investigations occasioned by this development.

2.3 Regional and County-based Research Agendas

Broad national research priorities have been formalised by English Heritage in *Exploring our Past* (1991), updated in their draft Research Agenda (1997). On a Regional level the unpublished Thames and Solent resource assessment and research agenda (Allen et al 2009) for the central and southern counties. The study covers Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hampshire as well as Oxfordshire. Nevertheless, topographical and historical similarities (at a regional level) between these counties make the document a useful tool for assessing the significance of the archaeological remains within the development area.

2.4 Original Research Objectives

A number of research objectives, both generic and period-specific, were considered relevant to these works. They are set out below.

Objective / Theme	Research Aims/Themes	Source (Published or internally generated by Project Team)

Objective / Theme	Research Aims/Themes	Source (Published or internally generated by Project Team)
1.	Clarify the presence/extent of medieval archaeological deposits evidencing settlement at the site; specifically the 13th/14th century building previously identified and the 11th/12th century ditch.	CgMs 2010
2.	Clarify the relationship of the medieval building with the palaeochannel.	CgMs 2010
3.	Identify, within the constraints of the archaeological monitoring, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the DA.	CgMs 2010
4.	Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.	CgMs 2010

Table 1: Summary of original research objectives and themes

3. PROVISIONAL SUMMARY OF RESULTS

3.1 Methodological approach to assessing contextual data

The contextual data were rapidly assessed in order to establish whether they would provide a coherent spatial and chronological framework. A total of 66 contexts were assigned to provisional Assessment Groups, *e.g.* ditches, pits, *etc*. (Table 2). The allocation of individual contexts to specific sub-groups of contexts was made on the basis of the following criteria:

- Do the contexts form a coherent spatial unit *e.g.* ditch length, pit group *etc.*?
- Do the contexts represent key positions within the stratigraphic sequence?
- Do the contexts contain suitable dating material?

Fills and cuts were then assigned to sub-groups (e.g. primary fills of pit or Cuts of pits within the refuse pits) and sub-groups were then assigned to a number of distinct Groups (e.g. refuse pits), corresponding to larger coherent and contemporaneous spatial units. These Groups were then assigned to a number of Phases of human activity corresponding to broad, chronological periods, *e.g.* Phase 1 creation of Pits of the Medieval Period. This phasing was based on their artefactual assemblage, character and stratigraphic position.

Period – Medieval (AD1066 – AD1500)	
Group – 1: Pits *(This document is generally structured at this level of the hierarchy)*	
Sub-Group – Limited sub-group numbers have been assigned as detailed above	
Fill (049), Fill (048) of pit [047] Deposits and fills represented in text by (xx)	Cut of posthole [047] Cuts are represented in the text by [xx]

The text which follows is structured by chronological period, and discussed by Group, and, where relevant for detail (by context and/or sub-group); where relevant for making broad interpretations, the discussion utilises Phase and Period groupings.

Period	Phase	Group	Sub-Group	Description	No. of features	No. of Contexts
Medieval	1	1		Construction of Pits	5	5
		1.1		Primary fills of pits	5	5
		1.2		Final fills of pits	2	2
		2		Construction of intercutting pits	2	2
		2.1		Primary fills of pits	2	2
		2.2		Final fills of later pits	2	2
		3		Construction of linear features	5	5
		3.1		Primary fills of linear features	5	5
		3.2		Final fills of linear features	2	2

Period	Phase	Group	Sub-Group	Description	No. of features	No. of Contexts
		4		Construction of pits and primary fills	7	7
		4.1		Primary fills of pits	1	1
		4.2		Final fills of pits	7	7
Post-Medieval	2	5		Construction of oven feature	1	1
		5.1		Brickwork of feature	1	1
		5.2		Usage of feature	1	2
		5.3		Disuse deposits in feature	1	7
Modern	3	6		Construction of car park, made ground and services	-	10

Table 2: Summary of provisional phasing

3.2 Structural Illustrations

A series of Illustrations are enclosed which break the remains up by Period and Group. It is often the case that elements of remains from one period (e.g. medieval ditches) are present in later periods (e.g. post-Medieval). By showing remains from several periods together, it allows the reader to appreciate the effect that later features may have had on 'earlier' landscapes.

3.3 Summary of Contextual data results

Period: Medieval (AD1066-AD1500)

Phase 1

G1: Pits

Five pits of various sizes associated with the medieval period were revealed during the excavation [007] [020], [011], [013] and [023] containing a small amount of datable evidence. The two largest pits [013 and 023] were found on the south-western edge of the DA with diameters of 1.55m and 2.6m and depths of 0.52 and 0.44m. Three smaller pits were also revealed containing one or two deposits with diameters of around 0.85m and with depths up to 0.38m. The primary fills of these pits all comprised of a dark grey silty sand but did not contain any organic or industrial material.

Two of the pits [020 and 023] contained more than a single deposit. The upper deposit of pit [020] (022) contained no finds and was significantly different to other identified deposits consisting of a more brown silt. The upper deposit of [023] (025) in comparison contained sherds of medieval pottery and was only somewhat different from the earlier deposit suggesting the period in which the deposits formed was broadly contemporary.

G2: Intercutting pits

Two pit features [015] and [026] were revealed to have been created later than those in G1 based on stratigraphic evidence. Pit [015] was located adjacent to that of [013] and a small truncation was recorded between the two large pits. The extent of the relationship between the two could not be determined due to the presence of a concrete

footing (JMHS 2005) truncating both features. The primary deposit of this pit is also its last suggesting it was dug and then deliberately filled. The initial cut of pit [026] truncated the final deposit (025) of pit [023] itself 1.6m in diameter and 0.58m deep. The primary fill like others consisted of dark grey silty sands. The pottery suggests that it was cut soon after the original pit was filled.

Two later deposits make up the stratigraphy of pit [026] with a small amount of animal bone recovered from the intermediate deposit (028) and the latest deposit (029) sustaining truncation in more recent times. The three deposits of [026] are not clearly defined and could in fact be a single deposit.

G3: Ditches
Five linear features were recorded in the DA, three ditches in Area 1 and a gully [005] and ditch [017] in Area 4a. The ditches [047, 050 and 063] were aligned NW-SE and NE-SW respectively and contained similar dark grey silty sand deposits, although ditch [047] contained a second deposit of brown silt also, both had the same width of 1.09m and had depths of 0.34 and 0.39m. Ditch [063] was slightly smaller at 1.05m wide with a depth of 0.28m but this could be attributed to the heavily truncated ground in which it was located. The linear features in 4a were aligned NE-SW with widths of 0.70m [005] and 1.10m [017]. The deposits of the five features are all similar to the medieval deposits recorded in pits in Area 4a. All five linear features are most likely to be parts of property boundaries dating to the post-medieval period; Medieval origins are not demonstrable, although quite likely.

G4: Pits
A further seven pits were identified across the DA [009], [031], [033], [052], [054], [056] and [058] whilst these contained no finds it is likely that these are form the same Medieval phase of activity.

A large pit [033] was recorded in Area 3a measuring 1.04m in diameter and 1.12m deep. A primary deposit (034) of 0.08m thick grey clay was revealed, no similar deposits were identified on the DA. A smaller pit [031] was recorded in Area 1 measuring 1.02m in diameter and 0.56m deep. No finds were recovered however the single deposit of dark grey silty sand is similar to other datable features on the DA. A small shallow pit [009] was revealed in Area 4a measuring 0.80m in diameter and 0.12m deep. The pit was filled with dark grey silty sand (010) similar to that of other pits on the site. No organic or industrial waste was found in any of these three pits.

The last deposit in pit [033] comprised 1.04m dark grey silty sand (035). The upper deposit is similar to the medieval deposits identified in Area 4a. No datable artefacts were recovered.

A small number of pits [052], [054], [056] and [058] were exposed and recorded in footings. No datable evidence was recovered from these features however animal bone comprising horn cores was found and Pit [052] was the most plentiful. So much so, that it may indicate the presence of butchery nearby (Appendix 3). This would not be unusual so close to the centre of a Medieval market town.

Period: Post-Medieval
Phase 2: Construction of Oven (036)

During construction of the main culvert on the DA the remains of an oven were recorded in section. It was constructed from bricks measuring 230mm x 110mm x 60mm. Although the bricks showed evidence of burning no in-situ burnt deposits were identified, the contents of the oven comprised modern backfill.

Period: Modern (AD1900-present)

Phase 3: Modern activity
Cartographic evidence show that the DA has been relatively untouched by building works from 1875 up to the construction of the car parks in the 1970's and 1980's. Stratigraphic evidence recorded during the archaeological works suggest that this work and the subsequent laying of services had an unknown impact on the archaeological horizon. No remains of topsoil/subsoil were present anywhere on the DA suggesting that all prior overburden had been previously removed.

4. ANALYTICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DATA

4.1 Introduction

For the following discussion, the datasets recovered during the investigations have been divided into three main classes: contextual; artefactual; and ecofactual.

- ***Contextual*** data relate to the identification of individual events such as the digging of a ditch, its primary infilling *etc*. These have been recorded as context records during the open area excavation. All contexts have a detailed record sheet; many have a plan and section drawing along with photographs.

- ***Artefactual*** data comprise manmade objects recovered during the open area excavation. These have been divided for ease of discussion into different materials *e.g.* pottery, flint, metal etc. (including registered artefacts and bulk finds, such as industrial residues).

- ***Ecofactual*** data comprise natural materials found within excavated deposits. These are able to yield information on the nature of past human activity and its environmental setting. They include animal bones.

Contextual data are discussed first in the following sections, as they have provided the framework for the preceding summary of results and the subsequent dataset discussions. The methodological approach taken with each dataset is discussed, followed by sections dealing with quantification, provenance (spatial and chronological) and also condition. All these factors are important in deciding the potential of the material for analysis.

4.2 Contextual Data

Quantity of records

Table 3 presents a breakdown of the total quantity and type of contextual records. These comprise the written description/interpretation of a deposit/feature (context sheets), a map-like drawing showing the location and inter-relationship between features, including digital mapping (a plan), a profile drawing through a feature and its fills (section), and photographs.

Contexts	Plan Sheets	Sections	Photographs
65	3	11	127

Table 3: Quantity records

Survival and condition of remains encountered

The majority of the remains identified were from the medieval period. Due to the level of disturbance on the DA no phasing within this period is possible.

The archaeological remains have been affected by 20th century development in the area. Ground reduction and levelling has taken place across the DA resulting in a degree of truncation of archaeological deposits. Truncation associated with the most recent

development of the previous car park and associated access roads/services have had the greatest impact. This included deep pipes, soakaways and footings of buildings all of which truncated deposits down to natural geological layers. Despite this truncation, relatively un-disturbed deposits were investigated and datable pottery and faunal remains (particularly horncores) were recovered.

The distribution of certain types of artefact (*e.g.* pottery) has assisted in identifying where settlement activity was focused. The presence of a concentration of pottery from pit features G1 may help to identify what type of activity was taking place here and may provide further information on the landscape of Bicester during this period. The large amount of animal bone recovered from features in G4 may suggest that that particular area of the DA was used for rearing of animals more than the area covered by Area 4a.

4.3 Artefactual Data

The finds reports are presented as Appendix 2 and finds data and results are tabulated therein (Tables 9 to 12 inclusive). Appendix 1 details methodological approaches and provides and overview of the finds assessment.

Overall, the assemblage is predominantly comprised of medieval pottery from the 11th - 12th century with residual Roman and Saxon material. The phasing therefore is based on these features and the stratigraphic similarities with other features recorded during the archaeological work.

The pottery clearly show activity in the early medieval period. The finds are generally locally produced oxford wares, with a handful of residual Roman and Saxon finds. The majority of the assemblage was made up of pottery with a small amount of ceramic building materials. Table 9 (Appendix 1) provides a summary of the finds assemblage by Phase and group. The dating evidence provided by the finds is summarised in Table 9 (Appendix 1). Tables detailing individual find types (Tables 10 to 11) are included in Appendix 2.

Ceramics (Appendix 2):
Pottery (Tables 9 and 10)
The total assemblage amounted to 55 sherds with the assemblage predominantly consisting of sherds from similar sources and dates with many of the contexts containing only a small amount of sherds, the largest amount of sherds recovered from any one context comprised 15 sherds weighing 217g, the remaining datable contexts containing far less.

The assemblage is reliably stratified and fairly typical of sites in the region. It is related to domestic and possibly to butchery (Appendix 3; Faunal assessment); both functions to be expected in this location close historic core of Bicester.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM (Appendix 2) (Table 11)
A fairly small assemblage of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) (Table 11) was recovered, totalling 4 kg in weight. The forms comprise a mixture of roman and medieval tile and a later medieval brick (Table 11). Due to the small assemblage the CBM has a low potential for further study.

4.4 Ecofactual Data

Faunal Remains (Appendix 3 – Tables 13 and 14)
The animal bone assemblage totalled 6.584kg in weight and was distributed across the site in Phase 1 a summary of the number of fragments and weight can be found in Table 14, Appendix 2.

The majority of the bone was well preserved with good surface preservation and further analysis may reveal further evidence of usage.

4.5 Potential of Datasets to Address Original Research Objectives

The potential of each dataset to contribute to the project's original research objectives is summarised in Table 4.

	Objective	Contextual	Other Artefacts	Pottery	CBM	Animal Bone	Molluscan Remains	Plant Remains	Charcoal
1	Clarify the presence/extent of medieval archaeological deposits evidencing settlement at the site; specifically the 13th/14th century building previously identified and the 11th/12th century ditch.	Low	-	Low	-	Low	-	-	-
2	Clarify the relationship of the medieval building with the palaeochannel.	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
3	Identify, within the constraints of the archaeological monitoring, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the DA.	Low	-	Low	-	Low	-	-	-
4	Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.	Low	-	Low	-	Low	-	-	-

High	Dataset is able to contribute direct, significant data which can expand our knowledge in this area.
Medium	Dataset can contribute direct data which will be relatively standard for this chronological period and region.
Low	Dataset has a relatively low potential to augment our knowledge of this subject. It may be of only minor relevance to the research aim, or may help to add to a database of 'less significant evidence' which, when combined, is useful in recognising patterns, e.g. pottery assemblages, settlement types.
-	Dataset has no potential to provide useful information on this subject.

Table 4: Potential of recovered datasets to address the original research objectives

5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR POTENTIAL ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

Following assessment of the various datasets, it has been possible to refine and add to the original objectives (Table 4). The ways in which these research objectives will be addressed are listed below, with reference to national and regional research frameworks. Original research objective 1 has been amended and objective 2 has not been retained due to the absence of evidence for the building and palaeochannel during the excavation.

5.2 Revised research objectives

Table 5 summarises the potential (Low, Moderate, High) of each dataset.

Clarify the presence/extent of medieval archaeological deposits evidencing settlement at the site.

The archaeological works have revealed small amounts of medieval occupation in this part of Bicester. Given that it is thought that the western part of the site during this period was considered to be marginal land due to its location near the River Bure, the small amount of medieval pits suggests that a degree of settlement took place here during the medieval period. The shared character and morphology suggests a similar date and function in the Medieval period.

Clarify the relationship of the medieval building with the palaeo-channel.
The excavation did not reveal any evidence of a building or a palaeo-channel in Area 4a.

Identify, within the constraints of the archaeological monitoring, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the DA.

The features recorded during the archaeological work are of medieval origins with several undated features being found also. It is likely based on similar stratigraphic sequences that these undated features share a similar date to the medieval pits.

Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

The archaeological deposits were all truncated and revealed below the former car park foundations. The deposits were found at 69.65-70.8m AOD which was between 0.50-1.10m below current ground level. The natural geology was observed to be covered entirely by recent deposits which were in turn overlain by the tarmac of the car park suggesting that the DA had been previously stripped and made up. This meant that preserved archaeological deposits were located within features cut into that natural geological deposit (rather than in layers or upstanding remains above it). Other archaeological deposits were seen to have been truncated by modern services which cut deep into the natural geology from the car park foundations above.

	Objective	Contextual	Documentary Sources	Other Artefacts	Pottery	CBM	Animal Bone	Molluscan Remains	Plant Remains	Charcoal
1	Clarify the presence/extent of medieval archaeological deposits evidencing settlement at the site; specifically the 13th/14th century building previously identified and the 11th/12th century ditch.	Low	-	Low	Low	-	-	-	-	
2	Clarify the relationship of the medieval building with the palaeochannel.		-		-	-	-	-	-	
3	Identify, within the constraints of the archaeological monitoring, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the DA.	Low	-	Low	Low	-	-	-	-	
4	Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.	Moderate	-	Low	Low	-	-	-	-	

High	Dataset is able to contribute direct, significant data which can expand our knowledge in this area.
Medium	Dataset can contribute direct data which will be relatively standard for this chronological period and region.
Low	Dataset has a relatively low potential to augment our knowledge of this subject. It may be of only minor relevance to the research aim, or may help to add to a database of 'less significant evidence' which, when combined, is useful in recognising patterns, e.g. pottery assemblages, settlement types.
-	Dataset has no potential to provide useful information on this subject.

Table 5: Research objectives for analysis and potential of datasets

6. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

6.1 Introduction

Due to limited amount of archaeological remains on the site this documents marks the end of the reporting process as the results will not be published as an 'article'. Instead, a note will be submitted to the editors of the South Midlands Archaeology (CBA) and the Oxford Journal of Archaeology. This will detail the main findings of the investigation/s. An archive will be produced and deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service, Accession Number OXCMS : 2012.13. It will contain all written, drawn, photographic and digital survey records and all material finds/ecofacts.

This section provides a task list for the archiving programme. Table 6 provides a description of the tasks associated with archiving and overall project management. Table 7 describes the project team and lists their initials, and Table 8 details the proposed timescale for completion of each key stage in the project.

Table 6: Summary of all tasks associated with Archiving

Task Names divided by Key Stage	Description of Task	Title/ Organisation initials	Person Days
Keystage 1: Dissemination			
Submission note to *Oxford Journal of Archaeology and CBA South Midlands*		-	
Amendments resulting from editor's comments		PO	0.5
Archive preparation (Structural)	On publication of the final report the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service, Accession Number OXCMS : 2012.13.	PO	1
Archive preparation (Artefacts)	In accordance with guidelines (Oxfordshire County Council 2008) 'Requirements for Transferring Archaeological Archives'	FS/HA	1
Archive preparation and liaison with Museum			1
Archive microfiching			-
Archive transfer (storage costs)			-
Archive transfer			0.5
Project management (Overall)			0.5
Project management (Headland)	The management of the project includes monitoring the task budgets, programming tasks, checking timetables, and liaising with all members of the project team.		0.5
Keystage 2: end of project			

6.3 The Project Team

To ensure a consistency of approach, the same specialists will be used (as far as possible) who have been involved in the assessment stage of the project.

Task	Organisation, Title and Name	Initials of Title
Daily management	Headland Archaeology (HA), Project Manager, Joe Abrams and Project Officer, Michelle Collings	PM/PO
Archiving	Michelle Collings, Andrea Tynan	PO Technician

Table 7: The project team

6.4 Timetable

Following acceptance by the client and AO of the assessment and Updated Project Design, Headland would like to proceed rapidly with archiving of the results. This would ensure that project momentum is maintained.

Table 9 sets out the two key stages within the archiving programme. An indication of the time required to reach the first three key stages is indicated, and these could serve as appropriate monitoring points, if required.

Task	Anticipated date of completion
Completion of KEY STAGE 1	
Submission of note to CBA South Midlands and Oxford Journal of Archaeology	December 2013-10-17
Deposition of archive	April 2014
Completion of KEY STAGE 2	

Table 8: Provisional timetable to complete the project

7. Bibliography

Allen et al 2009 Solent Thames Research Framework

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APPENDIX 1: FINDS ASSESSMENT: Introduction, Methodology and Summary

by Paul Blinkhorn and Julie Franklin

Introduction (HL2)

This report identifies, quantifies and interprets the finds recovered from the site. The assemblage consisted of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) dating from the Romano-British to medieval periods. A summary of the assemblage is shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Summary of the finds assemblage by context, quantified by number of finds

Context	Pottery (Roman)	Pottery (Saxon)	Pottery (Medi)	CBM (Roman)	CBM (Medi)	Dating
008			1			L11thC
010			1			L11thC
012			9			L11thC
014			18			12thC
016			13			12thC
018			2			L11thC
022				1		Roman
025			5	1		12thC
027			1			11thC
028			1			12thC
048				5		Roman
051		1		1		E/M Saxon
059					6	Medi
064	2	1				E/M Saxon
Total	2	2	51	8	6	

Methodology (HL2)

The finds were processed and recorded on an Access database. They were quantified by sherd count, though joining sherds from the same artefact were counted as one.

The pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXR	St. Neots Ware type	c AD850-1200
OXAC	Cotswold-type ware	AD975-1350
OXBF	North-East Wiltshire Ware	AD1050 – 1400
OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075 – 1350
OXBK	Medieval Shelly Coarseware	AD1100-1350

Summary (HL3)

The assemblage indicates that the deposits excavated represent in situ medieval stratigraphy, dating from the late 11th and 12th centuries. Residual Roman and early/middle Saxon material is also present.

APPENDIX 2: FINDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Pottery (HL3)

The pottery assemblage comprised 55 sherds with a total weight of 543g. It was mainly early medieval (11th – 12th century) in date. Early/middle Saxon hand-built wares and residual Romano-British material were also present. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 10. Each date in the table should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

The Romano-British pottery amounted to two sherds (10g) and was clearly residual. Two sherds (5g) of early/middle Anglo-Saxon (c.AD450-850) pottery are also probably residual. Each of the latter had a different fabric. The sherd from context (051) is granitic, that from (064) is tempered with oolitic limestone. Both types are reasonably well-known in Bicester (eg. Harding and Andrews 2002, 151).

The medieval assemblage is also fairly typical of sites in the region, and comprised entirely unglazed wares of the 11th – 12th century. All the vessels were jars or jugs. The sherds were all in good condition, and appeared reliably stratified.

Table 10: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	RB		E/MS		OXR		OXAC		OXY		OXBF		OXBK		
Context	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**Date**
008									1	16					L11thC
010									1	2					L11thC
012							1	3	8	114					L11thC
014									15	217	1	10	2	29	12thC
016									10	76			3	12	12thC
018									2	16					L11thC
025					1	9			3	9			1	3	12thC
027							1	11							11thC
028													1	1	12thC
051			1	1											E/MS
064	2	10	1	4											E/MS
Total	**2**	**10**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**9**	**2**	**14**	**40**	**450**	**1**	**10**	**7**	**45**	

Ceramic Building Material (HL3)

The ceramic building material assemblage comprised 13 fragments with a total weight of 4.297kg. It comprised a mixture of Roman and medieval tile, and a single late medieval brick. The occurrence per context is shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Ceramic building material

	RB tile		Medi Roof tile		Medi Brick	
Context	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**
022	1	6				
025	1	30				
048	5	610				
051	1	20				
059			5	2032	1	1605
Total	**7**	**660**	**5**	**2032**	**1**	**1605**

The Romano-British tile is of a fine sandy fabric with rare shell fragments up to 5mm. Two of the fragments, from contexts (048) and (051) are from box flues, and have external combing.

The medieval roof tiles are of a fine sandy fabric with rare calcareous material. Most had two round peg-holes at one end and where complete the tiles were 160mm wide.

The single brick is in a fairly fine, sandy fabric with occasional angular grog fragments up to 15mm. It was vitrified to a pale yellow colour on one of the wide faces. It is 210mm long, 102mm wide and 55mm thick

Recommendations (HL3)

The pottery and CBM assemblages provide useful dating evidence for the contexts in which they were found. However, they are not of themselves particularly large of remarkable collections of material. Thus no further work is recommended for these finds. Should more fieldwork be undertaken at this site, however, and a larger assemblage be recovered, these finds should be included in any publication of that material.

Table 12 Finds Catalogue

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Fabric/Object	Fabric Name	Spot Date
8	1	16	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350
10	1	2	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350
12	1	3	Pottery	OXAC	Cotswold-type ware	AD975-1350
12	8	114	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350
14	1	10	Pottery	OXBF	North-East Wiltshire Ware	AD1050-1400
14	2	29	Pottery	OXBK	Medieval Shelly Coarseware	AD1100-1350
14	15	217	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350
16	3	12	Pottery	OXBK	Medieval Shelly Coarseware	AD1100-1350
16	10	76	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350
18	2	16	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350
22	1	6	CBM	RB tile		Roman
25	1	30	CBM	RB tile		Roman
25	1	3	Pottery	OXBK	Medieval Shelly Coarseware	AD1100-1350
25	1	9	Pottery	OXR	St. Neots Ware type	AD850-1200
25	3	9	Pottery	OXY	Medieval Oxford ware	AD1075-1350

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Material	Fabric/Object	Fabric Name	Spot Date
27	1	11	Pottery	OXAC	Cotswold-type ware	AD975-1350
28	1	1	Pottery	OXBK	Medieval Shelly Coarseware	AD1100-1350
48	5	610	CBM	RB tile	Including box flue tile	Roman
51	1	20	CBM	RB tile	Box flue tile	Roman
51	1	1	Pottery	E/MS	Early/Middle Saxon	AD410-850
59	5	2032	CBM	Medi Roof tile	Peg tiles, two holes	Medi
59	1	1605	CBM	Brick		L.Medi
64	1	4	Pottery	E/MS	Early/Middle Saxon	AD410-850
64	2	10	Pottery	RB	Romano-British	Roman

APPENDIX 3: Ecofactual Assessment: Faunal Remains

by Laura Bailey

Introduction (HL2)

The animal bone assemblage comprised 163 hand-recovered specimens. The entire assemblage was recovered from six groups (see Table 13), from Phase 1, taken from features, including pit and ditch fill, dating to the medieval period. A summary of the assemblage is shown in Table 14.

Table 13- Phases of activity identified on site and the proportion of the assemblage

Group	*Context*	*Weight (g)*	*Total No of fragments (TNF)*
1.1	14	7	1
1.1	12	2	1
2.2	28	121	9
3.1	64	32	5
3.3	49	2836	49
4.2	55	337	56
4.2	59	3249	42
Total		6584	163

Methodology (HL2)

The aims of the assessment were to provide a basic quantification of the available data, to characterise the assemblage as far as possible and to help identify the potential of the data-set to benefit from further analysis.

Numbers of identifiable fragments were recorded, together with the preservation and any signs of modification of the bone in order to assess the quality, quantity and potential of the assemblage. Where possible, fragments were identified to species level using Schmid 1972. However, where bone was very fragmented and not possible to identify it was marked as indeterminate (Table 14).

Three principle techniques were used, where possible, to estimate the age at which animals were slaughtered. Bones were considered ageable if the state of epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) could be ascertained or if mandibles had one or more molar teeth present (Grant 1982, Payne 1973). However, the assemblage contains few mandibles, so the information will be limited. Also, the number of epiphyses was also limited, but some information is available to allow rudimentary analyses of age profiles.

Results (HL2)

The assemblage comprised 163 bone fragments, recovered from seven contexts, weighing 6584g in total (Table 14). The majority of the bone was well preserved with good surface preservation, suggesting that it did not lie exposed for a long period of time. Fragmentation was moderate throughout the assemblage and both ancient and modern breaks were visible.

Table 14 Summary of Animal bone assemblage

Context	Group	Weight (g)	Total number of fragments	*Cattle*	*Sheep/goat*	*Pig*	*Sheep/pig-sized*	*Unidentifiable*
12	1.1	2	1					1
14	1.1	7	1	1				
28	2.2	121	9	7			2	
49	3.3	2836	49	40	7			2
55	4.2	337	56	54		2		
59	4.2	3249	42	42				
64	3.1	32	5	5				
Total			163	117	3	1		3

Cattle dominated the assemblage (Table 13) and were present in all stratigraphic groups. Cattle horn cores were dominant in Context 59 where there were 41 fragments present. A fragmented cow scapula was also present in Context 59.

Three cattle horn cores, partially attached to frontal bone, were also present in Context 49 together with long bone, mandible, skull and a single vertebra fragment. Some of the long bones appear to have been split vertically prior to deposition, possibly for bone marrow extraction. Although the assemblage was dominated by cattle bone, sheep/goat long bones were also present. Some un-fused epiphyses were identified.

The assemblage from Context 55 comprised 45 cow skull fragments, 2 cow molars, an immature pig mandible, long bone fragment and pig incisor. Cattle premolars, skull fragments with parts of horn attached and 2 sheep/goat metatarsals were recovered from Context 28. Skull and long bone fragments were the most prevalent bone type in the.

Ribs were recovered from two contexts (064 and 065), a single vertebra and scapula were also noted in the assemblage.

Whole bones were rare in all contexts but complete articular ends and teeth were noted and these will permit the retrieval of some metrical data, allowing, for example, comparison with other assemblages, particularly if scaling methods are utilised (e.g. log ratios see Albarella 2002).

Deposits of horn cores found at archaeological sites generally derive from sources including slaughter yards, tanyards and horn-workers premises. Butchers commonly left horns attached to the hide but could also remove the horns to sell directly to the horn worker, either as complete horns (i.e. with the outer sheath and bony core) or sheath only with the inner core removed (Armitage 1990). If the butcher sold the horn sheaths only the horn cores were discarded with the other unwanted slaughter yard waste. In many cases the horn core was attached to the parietal and frontal bones. In no cases were conjoined horn cores recovered although in some cases the right and left horns appear to have been removed separately. It is possible that the horn cores were purposefully left attached to the cranium in order to provide 'hand-holds' when the horn sheath was pulled off the core.

Given the presence of other animal bones and location of site within the historic centre of Biscester, next to the market square, it is likely that the slaughter house was not far removed.

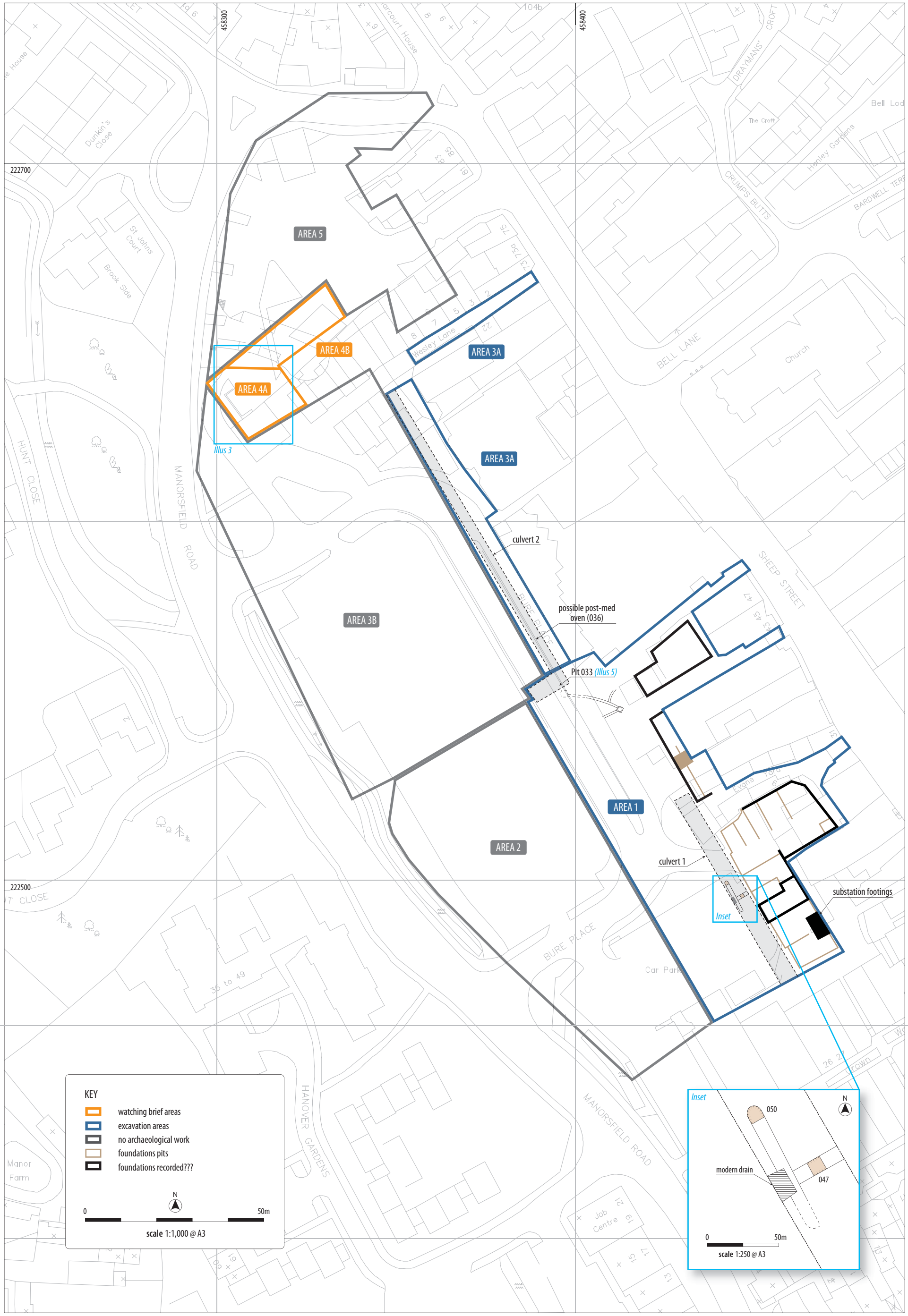
Summary (HL3)

Although the faunal assemblage is small, it is generally well preserved. It comprises the three main producing animals, cow, sheep & pig. It is dominated by Cattle bone, but a small amount of medium sized animal bones belonging to pig and sheep were also noted. There is a clear bias in body-parts present on site with skull and long bone fragments dominating the assemblage, suggesting some process where these elements were specifically being used (tanning or horn core extraction) or where all the better cuts of meat had been removed and taken elsewhere.

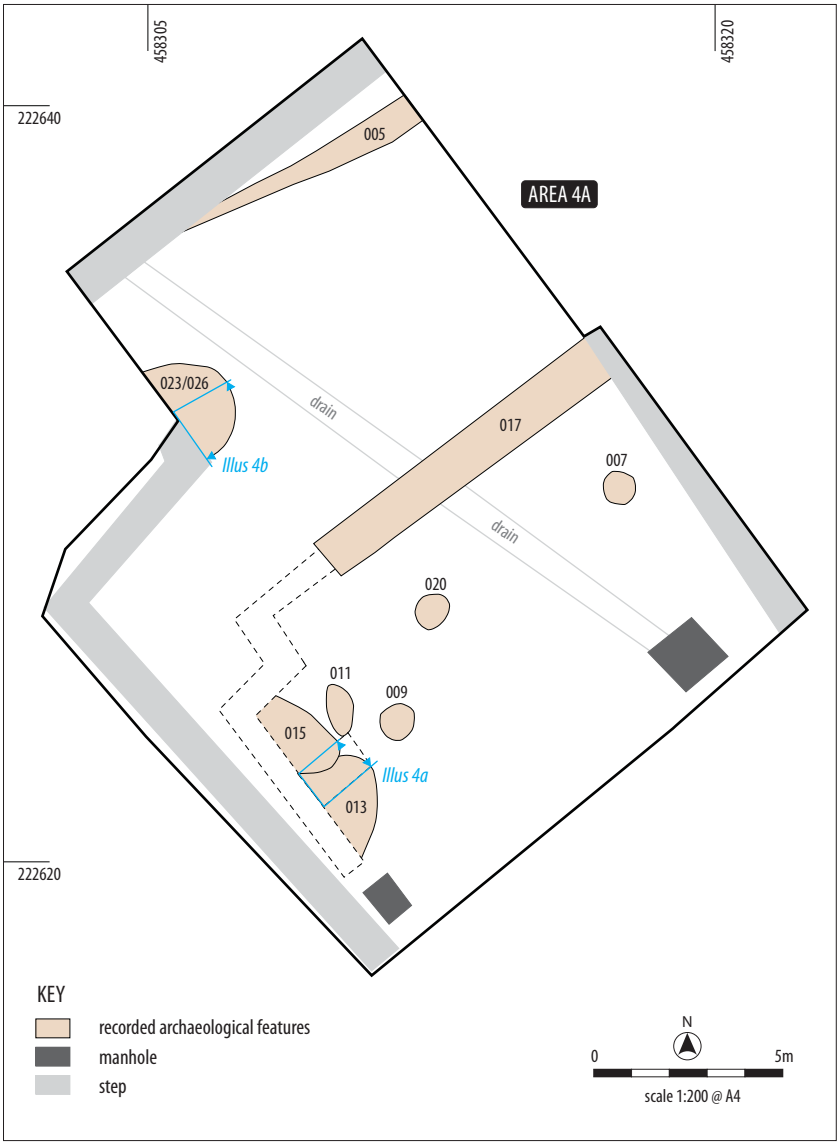
Recommendations (HL3)

In terms of statistical analysis the assemblage from Sainsbury's Bicester is limited; a minimum of 300 bones is suggested for reliable analysis (Hamilton-Dyer 1999). Information on the relative importance of species would be limited to low level presence/absence information.

Illus 1
Site location

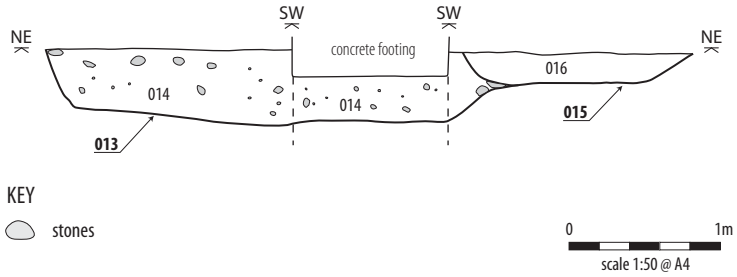


Illus 2
Plan of monitored areas

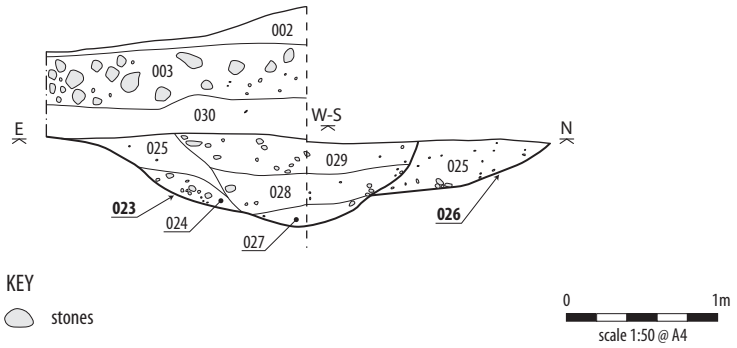


Illus 3
Excavation plan of Area 4a

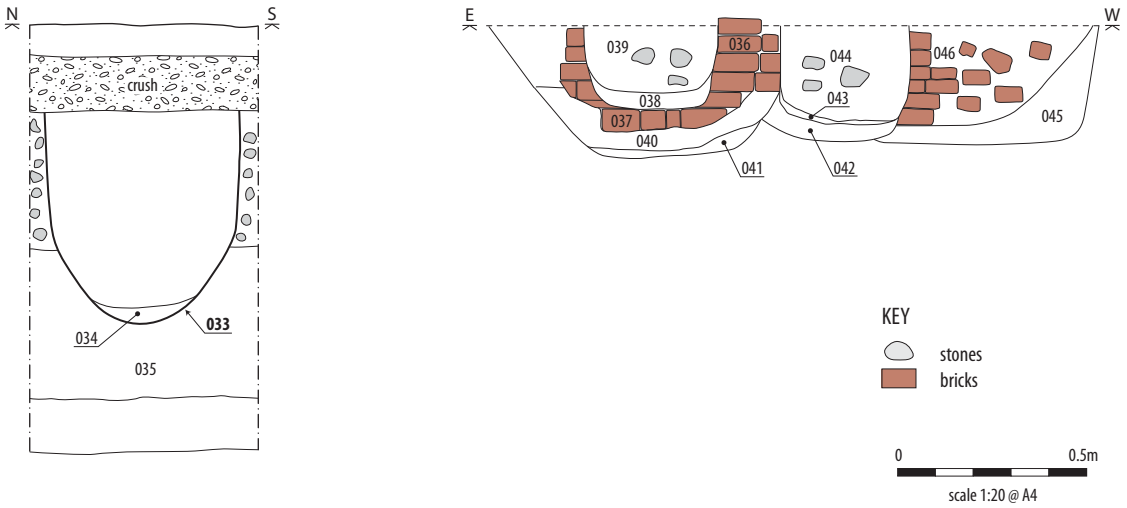
a *Section of Pits 013 & 015*



b *Section of Pits 023 & 026*



Illus 4
Sections in Area 4a



Illus 5

West facing section of Pit [033] and representative section of culvert in Area 3a