



Cherwell School Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Ref: 20/03194/FUL
Accession Number: OXCMS:2021.43
Ref: 239201.03
July 2021

Document Information

Document title	Cherwell School, Oxford
Document subtitle	Archaeological Evaluation
Document reference	239201.03
Commissioned by	S&C Slatter Limited
Address	Hill Cottage Enborne Berkshire RG20 0HA
On behalf of	Cherwell School
Address	Marston Ferry Road Oxford OX2 7EE
Site location	Cherwell School, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford
County	Oxfordshire
National grid reference	451440 208880 (SP 51440 08880)
Planning authority	Oxford City Council
Planning reference	20/03194/FUL
Museum name	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Museum accession code	OXCMS:2021.43
OASIS Id	wessexar1-426468
Date of fieldwork	13 - 14 July 2021
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Quality Assurance

Issue	Date	Author	Approved by
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by S&C Slatter Limited on behalf of Cherwell School, Oxford to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 2.9 hectare parcel of land prior to the construction of a new football pitch with associated hardstanding, vehicular access and floodlight system. The evaluation was carried out in playing fields immediately east of Cherwell School, north of Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, centred on NGR 451440 208880.

Three trenches measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width which comprised of a 2% sample of the 0.89 hectare development area, were mechanically excavated. No archaeological features were observed and no pre-modern finds were recovered. Areas of modern disturbance were recorded within each trench and this was especially prominent to the south of the site, close to Marston Ferry Road. The likely cause of the disturbance is related to the use and abandonment of former allotments on the site and the subsequent landscaping works associated with the construction of the school playing fields.

The evaluation was carried out on the 13th and 14th of July 2021.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank S&C Slatter Limited and Cherwell School, Oxford for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of David Radford Oxford City Council Archaeologist, who monitored the project for Oxford City Council, and to David Beecroft Limited for their cooperation and help on site.



Cherwell School, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by S&C Slatter Limited on behalf of Cherwell School ('the client'), to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.87 ha parcel of land located east of Cherwell School, north of Marston Ferry Road, Oxford. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 451440 208880 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a new football turf pitch (FTP) with associated hardstanding, vehicular access, installation of a new floodlight system and equipment stores. A 4.5 m high ball stop fence and 2.00 m high pitch barrier, with associated entrance gates, are to be installed as part of the development.

1.1.3 A planning application (20/03194/FUL) submitted to Oxford City Council, was granted 25th March 2021, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 4 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work comprising stage 1) trial trenching and stage 2) archaeological recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.

All works shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, including prehistoric and Roman remains, as per Policy DH4 of the Oxford Local Plan.

Scope of recording: The archaeological investigation should consist of stage 1) trial trenching Stage 2) further mitigation as required (including archaeological excavation if appropriate). The archaeological investigation should be undertaken by a professionally qualified archaeologist working to a brief issued by [Oxford City Council].

1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the agreed written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The Oxford City Council Archaeologist approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation comprised three (30m long) trial trenches (equating to a 2 % sample of the development area) and was undertaken on the 13 – 14 July 2021 and which followed an earlier geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2020) which informed the trench locations.



1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource and will facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located immediately east of buildings forming the northern Cherwell School campus, in the Summertown area of Oxford, approximately 2.5 km north of the centre of Oxford. The site, comprising 2.9 ha of recreational land, is bounded to the south by Marston Ferry Road and by allotments to the east. Agricultural land borders the site to the north-east, with additional recreational land positioned to the north-west.
- 1.3.2 The site is generally flat with existing ground levels mapped as 54 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation overlaid by superficial deposits comprising Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed during a previous geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2020) which considered publicly available resources combined with the results of Wessex Archaeology's previous investigations in the area. The following summary combines this assessment with the consultation of the historic environment resource within a 500 m radius of the site. Relevant entry numbers from the Oxford Historic Environment Record (OHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are included, and additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Geophysical survey (2020)

- 2.2.1 A detailed gradiometer survey undertaken across the site identified the presence of an increased magnetic response indicative of sports fields and associated equipment, as well as underlying drains traversing the site on a predominantly north – south alignment. It is noted that the strength of this background response limited the effectiveness of the survey, resulting in the possibility that weaker archaeological anomalies had not been identified.
- 2.2.2 Nevertheless, a possible enclosure and several pit-like features were detected. It remains unclear whether these anomalies pertain to archaeological features or reflect a modern cricket wicket and surrounding field drains due to the high levels of disturbance previously discussed.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)

- 2.3.1 Early evidence for human activity within proximity to the site comprises the recovery of lithics dating to the Palaeolithic period (OHER 3577). The implements, of indeterminate type, are believed to have been found along Lonsdale Road, approximately 700 m north-west of the site.
- 2.3.2 Within the study area, the watercourse known as the River Cherwell (approximately 440 m to the east of the site) appears to have been the focus for human activity throughout the prehistoric period. Possible enclosures dating to this broad period have been located by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) on the Thames Gravel Survey (1993) (OHER 15408). An intensive complex of crop marks was also identified at Summer Fields School (approximately 310 m north-west of the site) by Archaeology Warwickshire (OHER MOX26714). Modern features (such as backfilled ha ha and removed field boundary) were identified, in addition to a probable Bronze Age ring ditch and associated feature (OHER 15407). Further, smaller, ring ditches are likely to represent hut circles of a similar date. Sinuous enclosure ditches, and an interrupted linear were also recorded.
- 2.3.3 However, unlike earlier prehistoric periods, there appears a paucity of records indicative of Iron Age activity within the environs of the site. An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd (TVAS) at God's Little Acre Ferry Pool Road (approximately 350 m north-west of the site) revealed the remains of an Iron Age ditch and pit or ditch terminal (OHER 15858; Ford 1996). An undated gully was also recorded. The sparsity of artefacts encountered during the works is indicative that associated activity was ephemeral, with a focal point located elsewhere. Indeed, subsequent investigations did not reveal any further archaeological remains.
- 2.3.4 Although no sites datable to the Romano-British period occur within the study area, a Romano-British coin (bronze Antoninianus of Emperor Aurelian) was found on the western bank of the River Cherwell in 1984 (OHER 13715). The coin indicates a level of background activity which is evident further afield. A farmstead was discovered on the gravel spur formed by the Summertown Radley terrace 1.3 km north-west of the site and excavations at Middle Way, Summertown recorded a sequence of wooden buildings (perhaps granaries) and areas of compacted ground within an enclosure dating from the Late Iron Age or early Romano-British period through to the 2nd or 3rd century AD (Williams 2007).

Romano-British (AD 43 - 410) – Anglo-Saxon (AD410 – 1066)

- 2.3.5 A late Romano-British or early Anglo-Saxon inhumation was uncovered by Archaeology Warwickshire during the excavation of a service trench at Summer Fields School (approximately 430 m to the north-west of the site) (OHER MOC26910). No grave goods were uncovered, and the inhumation was orientated east – west. Further examples of such burials were previously located in 1898 during the school's construction (OHER 6218). A group of graves were identified and associated finds comprising a shield boss, knife and spear were also recorded. The presence of multiple Anglo-Saxon graves suggests the presence of a cemetery within proximity to the site and, though no geophysical anomalies pertaining to such features were identified, its full extents are yet to be identified.
- 2.3.6 Indeed, human bone believed to be associated with the cemetery was found on the eastern side of Banbury Road, approximately 500 m north-west of the site (OHER 6218). A knife, disc brooch and string of 23 beads were also identified suggesting the presence of further burials in the immediate vicinity.



2.3.7 Anglo-Saxon activity is also evidenced by the presence of a spear head recovered 182 m north of the Oxford Bowls Club (west of the site), though it is noted that the spear head was not in situ when found in 1957.

2.3.8 Investigations undertaken at Summer Fields School also identified the presence of a former cultivation soil which directly overlay the graves and other, linear, features. The deposit comprised a dark yellowish brown silty clay (OHER MOC26910).

Medieval (1066 – 1500)

2.3.9 No estates are recorded in the area in the Domesday survey, though Oxford itself was owned by King William after the conquest (Open Domesday). Oxford was besieged for three months in 1142 during the Anarchy, the civil war between Stephen of Blois and Empress Matilda. Stephen surrounded Oxford with Matilda within the town, though she escaped to Wallingford and later Abingdon. The site is on the outskirts of the medieval city and so could potentially produce evidence of activity related to this episode.

2.3.10 An archaeological evaluation undertaken at Oxford Middle School, produced two sherds of pottery dating to the period. However, these were recovered from later deposits believed to pertain to landscaping/levelling prior to the construction of tennis courts (Taylor 2001)

Post-medieval (1500 – 1800) – Modern (1800 – present)

2.3.11 A total of 21 Grade II/II* Listed buildings are recorded in the study area. These are largely attributed to the 17th to 19th century and are typically associated with residential dwellings and outbuildings.

2.3.12 Despite continued development to the west and east of the site, historic mapping indicates that the site remained open fields until becoming allotments, as depicted on the 1899 Ordnance Survey (OS) County Series Map of Oxfordshire. The site remained as such, with fields to the south shown as playing fields for the first time on the 1955 – 61 edition of the same series. The 1970 – 73 OS County series is the first to show the site as a playing field with no obvious change occurring in subsequent years. Indeed, a previous evaluation undertaken within the school grounds in 1996, in advance of new buildings and a play area, revealed nothing of archaeological significance with fragments of glass and ceramics dating to the 19th and 20th centuries comprising the only finds recovered (Ford 1996).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in compliance with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:



- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) were to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2020);
- identify any features which may be associated with prehistoric activity known to have occurred in proximity to the River Cherwell;
- determine the presence or absence of Iron Age remains which appear lacking in the environs;
- determine the presence or absence of Romano-British activity, also lacking within the vicinity;
- examine the artefactual and ecofactual potential of archaeological deposits, some of which may be waterlogged; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 Three trial trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m wide, were excavated in level spits using a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand.

- 4.2.4 Spoil from the machine stripping was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained as dating evidence.
- 4.2.5 The trenches once completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Oxford City Council Archaeologist were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Oxford City Council Archaeologist monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Oxford City Council Archaeologist.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 None of the three trenches excavated contained evidence of archaeological activity although all three trenches did demonstrate varying levels of modern disturbance (**Fig. 1**). All trenches were topped with a well establish turf.
- 5.1.2 The trenches are summarised below with detailed descriptions of individual contexts being recorded in the trench table (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows the trench locations together with the preceding geophysical survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2020).



5.2 Results

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 (**Plates 1 and 2**) reached a maximum depth of 0.67 m below ground level (bgl) . The stratigraphy consisted of a brown clay silt topsoil (**101**) 0.31 m bgl in depth, overlying a silty clay subsoil (**102**) 0.26 m bgl in depth which in turn overlaid a sandy clay natural (**103**) with fine flint gravels. Inclusions of modern glass, CBM and charcoal flecks were noted directly above the natural substrate.
- 5.2.2 Trench 2 **Plates 3 and 4**) reached a maximum of 0.81 m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of a brown clay silt topsoil (**201**) 0.21 m bgl in depth, which overlaid a compacted buried clay silt topsoil (**202**) with common inclusions of modern glass, coal, cinders and charcoal to a depth of 0.40 m bgl. Beneath this, a disturbed natural (**203**) of yellow brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal and occasional glass shards was noted to depth of 0.72 m bgl. Natural geology (**204**) of yellow brown sandy clay with fine gravel inclusions was exposed to a depth of 0.81 m bgl. A modern ceramic field drain spanned the trench on a north-east / south-west orientation.
- 5.2.3 Trench 3 (**Plates 5 and 6**) measured an average of 0.90 m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of brown clay silt topsoil (**301**) to a depth of 0.23 m bgl, which overlay a heavily compacted made ground deposit (**302**) composed of a brown silty clay which contained modern concrete fragments, CBM, glass and metal fragments up to 0.31 m bgl in depth. This directly overlaid a disturbed natural (**303**) of brown silty clay with common charcoal flecks and glass shards. Undisturbed natural geology (**304**), a yellow brown sandy clay with fine flint gravels was encountered at a depth of 0.82 m bgl. A modern field drain crossed the trench on an approximate north-east / south-west orientation.
- 5.2.4 No archaeological features were noted and no pre-modern finds encountered.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No finds were recovered from the Trenches as no significant deposits were uncovered.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No deposits or horizons were deemed suitable for environmental sampling and consequently no samples were taken.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 Three trenches were located to examine a series of geophysical anomalies in advance of the proposed development. The geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2020) suggested a series of pits and a possible enclosure might underly the playing fields although the possibility of later modern disturbance was not discounted. A series of later Romano-British / Anglo Saxon burials are also recorded close to the north-west of the site and it was thought possible similar activities might be present on site.

8.2 Discussion

- 8.2.1 The excavation of the three trenches confirmed that modern disturbance and landscaping was widespread throughout the evaluated trenches, this was especially intensive to the south of the site, close to Marston Ferry Road. Quantities of modern building rubble, 19th - 20th century ceramics and glass bottle shards were widespread throughout the deposits. Land use on the site is documented as being allotment gardens prior to the construction of



the school and it is likely the buried soils observed, in addition to the made-ground deposits relate to these activities and the subsequent landscaping and construction of the playing fields.

- 8.3 No evidence for the possible archaeological activities highlighted in the geophysical survey were identified.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Oxfordshire Museum Services has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **OXCMS:2021.43**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

- 9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records and graphics, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Oxfordshire Museum Services, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

- 9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the accession code **OXCMS:2021.4**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 airtight plastic boxes of artefacts, ordered by material type
- 01 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

- 9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

Finds archive

- 9.2.4 The finds will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Oxfordshire Museum Services, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

- 9.2.5 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

- 9.2.6 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic



selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.2.7 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.2.8 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Documentary records

9.2.9 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

9.2.10 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.3 Security copy

9.3.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.4 OASIS

9.4.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 1). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Oxford City Council Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however,



will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

- 10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

- 10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at corner of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 1		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.67 m
Easting 451361.43		Northing 208899.92		m OD 58.27
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Topsoil / turf. Dark brown clay silt with sparse flint sub-rounded gravel (3-7%, <10-40mm), sparse charcoal fleck (3%, <2-10mm), with modern disturbances (pottery, CBM etc.). The top 0.10m of layer consists of the turf. Highly bioturbated : rooting activity, worms and ants, etc. Clear boundary with subsoil. Soft compaction.	0–0.31
102		Subsoil	Light brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded flint gravel (1-3%, <10_60mm) and rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Soft compaction. Diffuse boundary with natural. Charcoal flecks also evident .	0.31–0.57
103		Natural	Yellow brown sandy clay with patches of sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel (15%, <10-40mm) and sparse manganese flecks (3-7%, <2-6mm). Contains more silt than subsoil. Soft compaction.	0.57–0.67+

Trench No 2		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.81 m
Easting 451420.06		Northing 208867.25		m OD 57.79
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Topsoil / turf. Dark brown clay silt with sparse flint sub-rounded gravel (3-7%, <10-40mm), sparse charcoal fleck (3%, <2-10mm), with modern disturbances (pottery, CBM etc.). The top 0.10m of layer consists of the turf. Highly bioturbated : rooting activity, worms and ants, etc. Clear boundary with subsoil. Soft and loose compaction. Possibly new topsoil placed on top of the old allotments layer?	0–0.21



202		Buried topsoil/made ground	The subsoil consists mainly in a mid dark brown silty clay soil mixed with modern pottery, CBM, charcoal, chalk and gravel, heavily disturbed. Very compact, similar to (302) in trench 3. Probably put in place to level the ground when getting rid of the allotments previously present in this play field or simply old allotment layer? Low rooting activity. Clear boundary with the layer underneath with some "leaking" into (203).	0.21–0.40
203		Disturbance	Disturbed Natural. Dark Yellow brown silty clay with sparse charcoal fleck (<3%, <2-6mm) and manganese flecks (3%, <2-6mm). Soft compaction. Differs from natural ; looks dirtier with some subsoil "leaks" in it. Very low bioturbations. Clear boundary with natural. Disturbed natural layer.	0.40–0.72
204		Natural	Yellow brown sandy clay with rare patches of sub-rounded and sub-angular gravel (15%, <10-40mm) and sparse manganese flecks (3-7%, <2-6mm). Contains more silt than subsoil. Soft compaction.	0.72–0.81+

Trench No 3		Length 30 m	Width 1.80 m	Depth 0.90 m
Easting 451374.54		Northing 208828.31		m OD 58.12
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Dark brown clay silt, sparse sub-rounded flint gravel (7%, <10-40mm), rare charcoal flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). The top 0.10m forms the turf. Presence of few burrows. Highly bioturbated by roots, worms and small mammals likely. Clear boundary with the subsoil. Soft compaction. In some places, presence of modern material such as metallic objects / pieces, slate, bricks, etc.	0–0.23
302		Made ground	The made ground consists mainly of mid dark brown silty clay soil mixed with modern pottery, CBM, charcoal, chalk and gravel, heavily disturbed. Very very compact. Probably put in place to level the ground when getting rid of the allotments previously present in this play field. Low rooting activity. Clear boundary with the layer underneath.	0.23–0.54



303		Disturbance	Disturbed Natural. Dark Yellow brown silty clay with sparse charcoal fleck (<3%, <2-6mm) and manganese flecks (3%, <2-6mm). Soft compaction. Differs from natural ; looks dirtier with some subsoil "leaks" in it. Very low bioturbations. Diffuse boundary with natural. Disturbed natural layer.	0.54–0.82
304		Natural	Yellow brown sandy clay with rare manganese flecks (<1%, 2-6mm). Looks more yellow than (303) and more "clean". Soft compaction. This layer gets thicker towards the middle of the trench.	0.82–0.90+



Appendix 2 OASIS record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-426468

Project details

Project name	Cherwell School, Oxford
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by S and C Slatter Limited on behalf of Cherwell School, Oxford to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a 2.9 hectare parcel of land prior to proposed the construction of a new football pitch with associated hardstanding, vehicular access and floodlight system. The evaluation was carried out on an area of playing fields immediately east of Cherwell School, north of Marston Ferry Road, Oxford, centred on NGR 451440 208880. Three trenches measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width and which comprised 2% of the proposed development area, were mechanically excavated under constant archaeological supervision. No archaeological features were observed and no pre-modern finds were recovered. Areas of modern disturbance were recorded within each trench and this was especially prominent to the south of the site, close to Marston Ferry Road. The likely cause of the disturbance is related to the use and abandonment of former allotments on the site and the subsequent landscaping works associated with the construction of the school playing fields
Project dates	Start: 13-07-2021 End: 14-07-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OXCMS:2021.43 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	239201 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	20/03194/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE OXFORD OLD MARSTON Cherwell School, Oxford



Postcode	OX2 7EE
Study area	2.9 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 51440 08880 51.775771044961 -1.254340696043 51 46 32 N 001 15 15 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Oxford City Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Oliver Good
Project supervisor	Joe Whelan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	S&C Slatter Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Paper Media available	"Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Cherwell School, Oxford: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Whelan, J.



Other bibliographic details Unpublished client report ref. 239201.03

Date 2021

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Salisbury

Description A4 bound booklet

Entered by Rachael Capps (r.capps@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 21 July 2021



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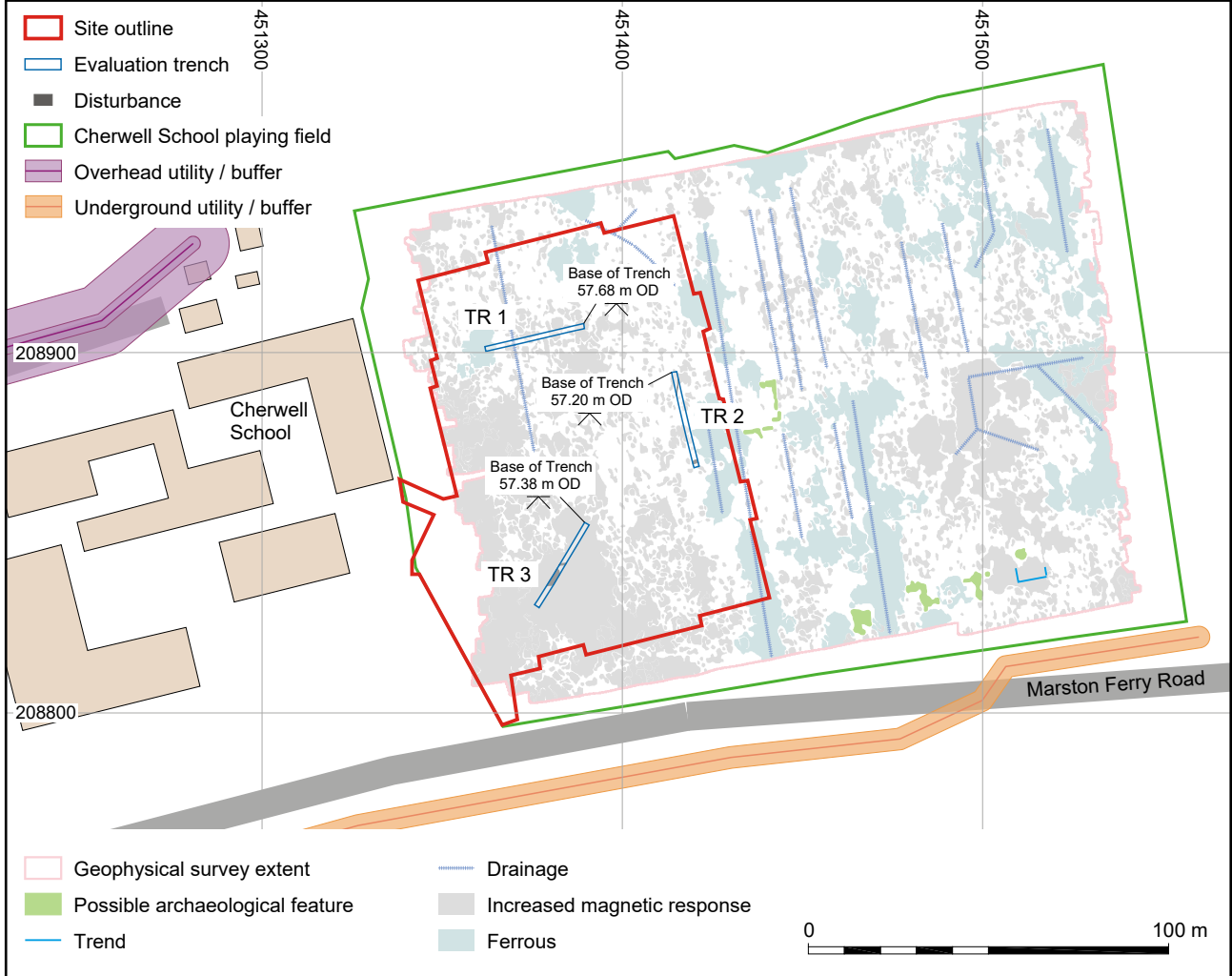
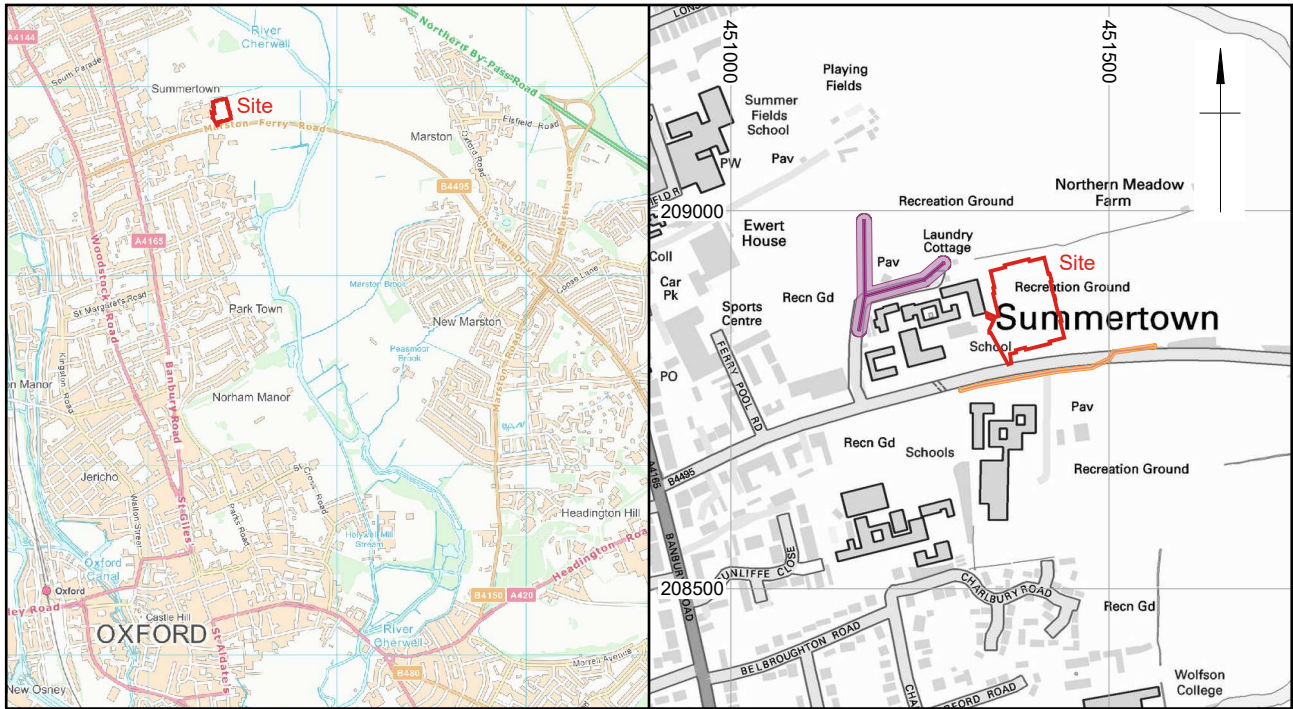
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Site location with trenches and geophysical data

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the north-east, with 1 m and 2 m scales



Plate 2: South-east facing representative section of Trench 1, with 1 m scale


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Plate 3: Trench 2 from the north, with 1 m and 2 m scales

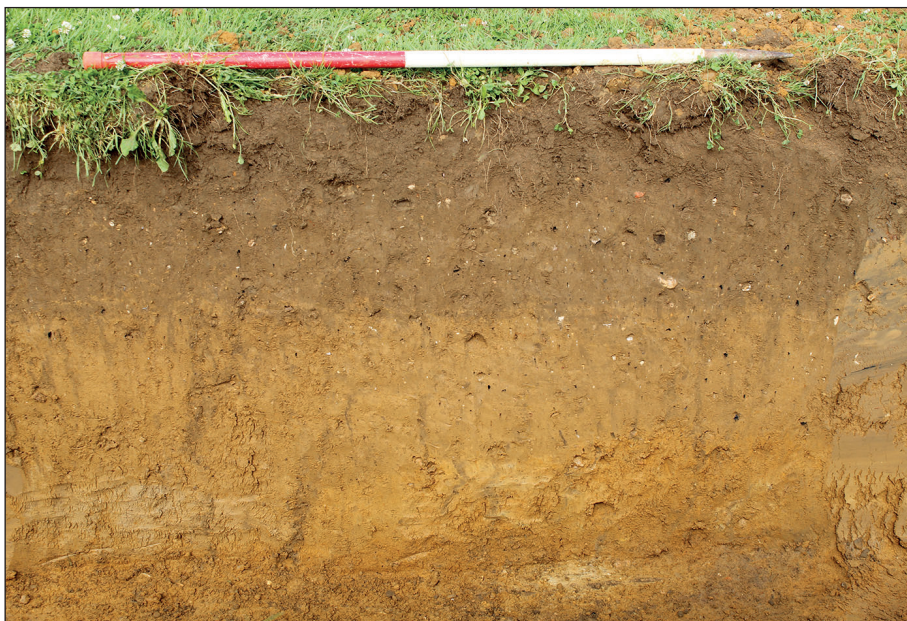


Plate 4: East facing representative section of Trench 2, with 1 m scale



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Plate 5: Trench 3 from the north-east, with 1 m and 2 m scale



Plate 6: North-west facing representative section of Trench 3, with 1 m scale

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FS 606559