

**Archaeological Investigations at
The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public Houses
Banbury, Oxfordshire**

**NGR: 45603 40621 &
NGR: 45497 40643**

**ASE Project no: 5148
Site Code: URB 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011272
Oasis id: archaeol6-114087
Accession No. OXCMS: 2011.173**



**By Giles Dawkes BA MIFA
with contributions from Lucy Allott, Luke Barber
Anna Doherty, Sarah Porteus, Trista Clifford
Lucy Sibun**

November 2011

**Archaeological Investigations at
The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public Houses
Banbury, Oxfordshire**

**NGR: 45603 40621 &
NGR: 45497 40643**

**ASE Project no: 5148
Site Code: URB 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011272
Oasis id: archaeol6-114087
Accession No. OXCMS: 2011.173**

**By Giles Dawkes BA MIFA
with contributions from Lucy Allott, Luke Barber
Anna Doherty, Sarah Porteus, Trista Clifford
Lucy Sibun**

November 2011

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk**

CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Archaeological Background
3.0	Archaeological Methodology
4.0	Results
5.0	Finds
6.0	Environmental Material
7.0	Discussion

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

TABLES

Table 1:	Quantification of site archive
Table 2:	Trench 1, Ye Olde Reindeer Pub
Table 3:	Trench 2, Unicorn Pub
Table 4:	Quantification of the finds assemblage
Table 5:	Ceramic phase chronology, occurrence and defining wares
Table 6:	Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type
Table 7:	Provisional CBM fabric series
Table 8:	Ceramic building material fabrics and forms by context
Table 9:	Residue quantification
Table 10:	Flot quantification
Table 11:	Quantification of animal bone by period

FIGURES

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Site plan
Figure 3:	Trench location
Figure 4:	Trench 1, Period 1.1: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 5:	Trench 1, Period 1.2: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 6:	Trench 1, Period 1.3: Plan, section and photograph
Figure 7:	Trench 1, Period 2.2 and 2.3: Plan and sections
Figure 8:	Trench 2, Period 2.3: Plan and section

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Oxford Scientific Films Limited to undertake a two-trench archaeological investigation at the Unicorn and Ye Old Reindeer public houses, Banbury, Oxfordshire. The works were undertaken as part of a television series for the History Channel and will be televised.

The earliest feature at the Ye Old Reindeer public house trench was a 12th / 13th century plot ditch, likely to have been part of the extension of the town to the west of the market place. This plot was in use for perhaps a century before a large masonry kitchen building with oven(s) was constructed in the 12th / 13th century. The masonry building was demolished by the late 16th century, possibly associated with a change in ownership. Previously in Banbury, medieval archaeological deposits have only been excavated at the site of the castle and this is the first time deposits relating to the medieval town have been recorded. A late 17th boundary wall and later post-medieval structures was also identified.

Trench 2 at the Unicorn pub encountered a previous unknown cellar of likely 18/19th date, which has almost certainly truncated all earlier deposits in the immediate vicinity of the building.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by Oxford Scientific Films Limited (OSF) to undertake a two-trench archaeological investigation at the Unicorn and Ye Old Reindeer public houses, in Banbury, Oxfordshire. The sites are centred on (National Grid References (NGR) 45603 40621 and 45497 40643 respectively; Figure 1). The investigations took place between 10th and 14th October 2011.

1.1.2 The pubs are located in the historic medieval core of Banbury, south-west of the site of Banbury Castle. Ye Olde Reindeer is on Parson's Street and the Unicorn pub is c. 200m to the east of it, in Market Square. Both trenches were located within the courtyard of each pub. Ye Olde Reindeer fronts onto Parson's Street to the south and is bounded by commercial properties to the east and west and the pub car park to the north. The Unicorn is on Market Square to the east and is bounded by commercial properties on all other sides.

1.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and Ben Sharp (Site Assistant) and was managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation analysis).

1.2. Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology is Lower Lias Clay above Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2011). The topography of the courtyards at both sites was level.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The works were undertaken as part of a television series for the History Channel and Channel 5 and will be televised. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE 2011) was produced in line with the Oxfordshire County Council Brief and Annexes 1-5 (OCC 2011) and duly approved by Richard Oram, OCC Archaeologist before the start of the work.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The following general aims for the investigations were outlined in the WSI (ASE 2011):

- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.
- To make public the results of the archaeological evaluation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

3.2 The following specific aims for the investigations were outlined in the WSI (*ibid*):

- Is there any evidence of the medieval or earlier town of Banbury?
- Is there any evidence associated with the construction of the Reindeer in the early to mid 16th century? Can anything be related to the later 16th and 17th century modifications?
- Are there any demolition horizons at the Unicorn likely to be part of the razing around the castle?
- Was the Reindeer affected by the 1628 fire or by the later Civil War destruction?

1.5 Scope of the Report

1.5.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological investigations and is written in line with the provisions outlined in the WSI (*ibid*).

2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 Settlement at Banbury is suggested by its place name, derived from 'burh' and 'Ban(n)a' or defended enclosure of a man called Ban(n)a, to have its origins in the Anglo Saxon period. The earliest settlement is believed to have focused around the early Minster church, possibly dating to the 7th century, now the site of St. Mary's church. The medieval parish of Banbury appears to have been established before the 10th century and Banbury became the centre of a large estate belonging to the Bishopric of Dorchester and later, after the see was removed there in 1072, to the Bishopric of Lincoln (Crossley *et al.* 1972, 10-42).
- 2.2 Alexander Bishop of Lincoln (1123-48) is known to have constructed the castle and to have laid out a new town between the river and the older settlement, laying out plots around a market-place close to the original village of Banbury. Although the town of Banbury appears never to have been contained by a defensive wall, Alexander Bishop of Lincoln (1123-48) constructed five gates (bars), one of which was North Bar. These bars may be associated with a possible town ditch and were built in order to enclose the Bishop of Lincoln's manor and define the limitations of the borough. Under the sway of Lincoln the 'planted' town prospered, the plots were taken up, the markets and fairs developed, trading connexions were established with distant places, and in the 13th century the town's ale and cloth began to acquire a reputation (Crossley *et al.* 1972, 10-42). Banbury has retained much of its medieval street pattern to the present day and the trenches are located within the core of the medieval settlement.
- 2.3 Despite Banbury's puritan and parliamentary sympathies for most of the Civil War, it was a strong royalist garrison and was besieged by parliamentary troops on a number of occasions. Two main protracted sieges are recorded, July-October 1644 and again starting in January 1646. This second siege lasted until the surrender of the Castle on the 6th May. The Victoria County History notes that;
- 'The 17th century saw the destruction by fire and siege of a great deal of the earlier town. The fire of 1628 was said to have destroyed about a third of the town, amounting to 103 dwellings and 660 bays of other buildings (including 20 malt-kilns)'* (Crossley *et al.* 1972, 18-28). Writings from the time, although perhaps exaggerated, suggest that only half the original town remained standing after the Civil War.
- 2.4 Despite the destruction caused by the siege and possible looting by royalist troops and the subsequent redevelopment, earlier archaeological evidence does survive within the area. Archaeological excavations in the 1970s recorded late Saxon gullies, possibly property boundaries, and a late 11th century pit c. 130m NE of the Reindeer pub (PRN 10715). The gullies were cut by a stone-lined pit, dated to the 13/14th centuries. There has been no recent archaeological investigations in the immediate area of the inns, however, the Reindeer is located c. 200m SE of the location of the original North Bar (PRN 1796). A series of geophysical surveys, targeted evaluation and excavations were carried out during the redevelopment of the Castle Quay shopping centre in the 1990s which suggested that there was fairly good survival of medieval and civil war deposits (EOX 1836).

- 2.5 The Reindeer public house on Parson's Street, formally called Gropecunt Lane in the medieval period, is one of Banbury's oldest inns and the building is dated to the early/mid 16th century with additions in 1570, 1624 and 1637. The front was remodelled in the 18th century (PRN 12644). The front gates are carved with the names of John and Joan Knight and David Horn and dated 1570. John Knight was probably the baker who seems to have founded the Knight family's fortunes. Members of the family certainly owned the property in 1706 and had probably held it continuously since 1590. The Inn suffered from declining trade in the 18th century and part of the building was sold off as a private dwelling in 1795. This may have been due to Parson's Street being too narrow for the growing coach traffic. The inn is supposedly on the site of an earlier 16th century bake house and Oliver Cromwell is believed to have stayed at the inn whilst besieging Banbury Castle and planned the Battle of Edgehill in the Globe Room (Rob Kinchin-Smith *pers. comm.*).
- 2.6 The Unicorn public house, also on Parson's Street, originally dates to the mid-17th century with 18th century additions and is, like the Reindeer, a Grade II listed building. The Unicorn is believed to lie within the part of the Bishop of Lincoln's planned earlier medieval town and was part of the area near the castle razed by the royalists in the Civil War to create an open field of fire from the castle walls. The construction of the Unicorn building dates to immediately after this razing (Rob Kinchin-Smith *pers. comm.*).

3.0 Archaeological Methodology

- 3.1 Two trenches were investigated, one at the Unicorn pub measuring c. 2.5m by 2m and one at the Reindeer pub measuring c. 1.5m by 5m. The existing hard-standing and modern overburden was removed by machine from the two trenches before further excavation was undertaken by hand. The fieldwork was monitored by Richard Oram OCC Archaeologist.
- 3.2 Trench locations were surveyed using a GPS survey system and tied in to the National Grid.
- 3.3 Where mechanical excavation was involved a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was employed. Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin along with any hard standing was removed by machine. All machining was undertaken under the supervision of archaeologists.
- 3.4 On conclusion of the excavation, the trenches were backfilled by machine, in appropriate sequence, spread evenly and compacted to ensure a surface flush or nearly flush with the ground surface. The original surface was reinstated as agreed with OSF.
- 3.5 The surface of exposed archaeological horizons was cleaned for the purpose of clarifying the remains and archaeological features were only sufficiently sample excavated to characterise and date them. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. A metal detector was used to scan all excavated material and *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- 3.6 Plans were drawn at the scale of 1:20 and sections at the scale of 1:10 as necessary. Plans were drawn on plastic film. A full black & white and colour slide photographic record was kept of the work. Comparative site levels were recorded for each feature or important context with reference to an OS bench mark.
- 3.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard *pro forma* record sheets used by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.8 Medieval masonry elements were exposed in Trench 1 at the Reindeer pub—these were left *in situ* and not excavated. The central portion of the trench in between this masonry was excavated all the way down to the natural clay. Inevitably, where archaeological deposits were not fully excavated, lower stratigraphic relationships remain unknown and some relationships can only be postulated.
- 3.9 A brick-vaulted cellar encountered in Trench 2 at the Unicorn pub was initially investigated by exposing the upper surface of the vault by machine and subsequently by drilling a 40mm diameter hole through the brickwork and lowering a plumb-bob through the aperture to the floor of the cellar.
- 3.10 ASE informed Oxfordshire Museums Service (OMS) prior to the commencement of the fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and accession number OXCMS: 2011.173 was issued. On completion of the post excavation analysis and reporting, the archive will be deposited with OMS.

4.0 Results

Type	Quantity	Notes
Context sheets	50	Individual context sheets
Section sheets	5	A1 multi-context permatrace sheets
Digital plans	1	Multi-context DWG plan
Photos	80	Black and white transparency Colour slide Digital
Environment sample sheets	4	Individual sample sheets
Context register	2	
Environment sample register	1	
Photographic Register	5	
Drawing register	1	
Small finds register	1	

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.1 Trench 1: Ye Olde Reindeer Pub

Medieval Period 1 Phase 1: 12th / 13th century

(Figure 4)

- 4.1.1 Natural blue alluvial clay [1/044] was encountered in the central portion of the trench at 1.66m below ground level, 96.95m AOD.
- 4.1.2 Cut into the natural was an irregular linear feature [1/043] aligned north-east to south-west and extending beyond the limits of the trench. The north-west side of the feature was near vertical and partially stepped and up to 0.3m deep. The south-east side of the feature was a shallow gradient and it was not possible to define the extent. To the east in the base of the linear feature was a sub-circular posthole [1/048] made by a sharpened driven post. Posthole fill [1/047] was brown silt clay with no finds. The posthole is almost certainly contemporary with the linear feature.
- 4.1.3 The linear feature was filled with mottled yellow and grey silty clays [1/041 & 1/042] containing five sherds of 12th / 13th century pottery. The environmental sample from the fill produced a rich assemblage of macrobotanicals including cereals, weeds from disturbed or cultivated ground, hazelnut shells and eggshell fragments. This assemblage is characteristic of an open ditch rather than a structural cut and suggests that the feature [1/043] represents a boundary, possibly defining a burgage plot to the rear of a domestic building.

Medieval Period 1 Phase 2: 12th / 13th century

(Figure 5)

- 4.1.4 A wall [1/024], a beaten yellow clay floor [1/029] and a possible oven [1/033] of a substantial 12th / 13th century masonry building were recorded. These features were not fully excavated and stratigraphic relationships therefore remain unknown.
- 4.1.5 Wall [1/024] was of a substantial ironstone masonry construction and apparently formed the north external wall of the building. The wall had been built free-standing within a large construction cut [1/049] which had a stepped rubble base [1/050]. Only a small section of the base of this construction cut was seen in a small sondage excavated in the north-western corner of the trench. The wall extended beyond the western and eastern limits of the trench.
- 4.1.6 The foundation of the wall (c. 1m high) was constructed of unfaced, uncoursed rubble. The upper part of the wall was of roughly faced ironstone blocks set in irregular courses. The size of the foundations indicates that this was an imposing masonry building probably of at least two stories. No mortar or bonding material was evident although the wall was not excavated.
- 4.1.7 The wall was aligned roughly east to west with a battered internal face and a vertical external face. It was slightly thicker in the east (0.6m) than the west (0.5m) although no reason for this was apparent.
- 4.1.8 Only the base of the construction cut [1/049] was seen and distinguishing between the construction cut backfill and later overlying layers was not possible due to the limited size of the trench. In the base of [1/049] a sub-circular posthole [1/045], which was overlain by backfill [1/025, 1/037, 1/038] indicating the post was only in use during the construction of wall -perhaps part of external timber scaffolding.
- 4.1.9 A yellow, presumably internal, beaten-clay floor [1/029] was recorded to the south of the wall [1/024] and this contained a single sherd of residual late 11th / 12th century pottery. Two internal features were found to the south of the wall; both were later than the beaten clay floor suggesting that it was laid during the initial construction of the building.
- 4.1.10 An oven [1/033] partially survived as an area of red and brown burnt clay and although this was mostly truncated, the oven base was likely to have been roughly circular and of at least 0.6m in diameter. The feature was not excavated however, and could simply represent an area of heat-affected clay floor caused by the later oven [1/019] –see below.
- 4.1.11 A sub-circular posthole [1/040] with surviving packing stones [1/039] *in situ* for a squared post measuring c. 0.12m by 0.12m was recorded. The function of this post remains unknown.

Medieval Period 1 Phase 3: 12th / 13th century

(Figure 6)

- 4.1.12 At some point, the internal layout of the building was apparently altered to and a series of internal masonry features and clay floors were added. These overlay the posthole [1/040] and oven or burnt area [1/033].
- 4.1.13 The north-east remains of a masonry oven [1/019] were exposed. This appeared to be circular or oval in plan. The masonry sides survived to a height of 0.35m.
- 4.1.14 The oven was built of irregularly-coursed masonry [1/018] and [1/019] with a partly surviving clay and stone rubble core [1/023]. The oven floor was of heavily-burnt red stone cobbles [1/022] abutting a stokehole floor of squared flag-stones [1/021] with an external stone cobble kerb. The latter was cracked but not obviously burnt.
- 4.1.15 The stone marking the entrance of eastern stokehole wall [1/019] was a reused finely-tooled splayed block. This is in contrast to the unfaced stone blocks used in the rest of the oven walls. The western stokehole wall [1/020] was built on top of the floor [1/021], and was at a slightly different angle to wall [1/019], suggesting that the western wall was perhaps a later rebuild or addition.
- 4.1.16 At the north end of the trench, abutting wall [1/024], was stone block floor [1/031] and stone tank [1/032]. The floor only occupied an area c. 0.6m immediately south of the face of wall [1/024] and the reason for this is not apparent, but it may carry on beyond the limits of the trench. The stone tank had a cobble floor [1/034] set into the underlying clay layer [1/029]. The function of the tank remains unknown, but may have been for storage of dry products as it did not appear to be water-tight, or alternatively it may have been a below ground ash-pit for a fireplace with an iron grate as the course of stone work above the tank was noticeably burnt. The tank had silted-up with grey silt [1/030]. Located on the surface of the cobble floor [1/034] a bone knife handle RF<2> was found.
- 4.1.17 Abutting the south side of the stone floor [1/031] was red and brown burnt clay floor [1/026-27] although this may be the burnt surface of floor [1/029]. The floor contained a single sherd or 12th / 13th century pottery.
- 4.1.18 Overlying the burnt clay floor [1/026-27] and stokehole floor [1/021] was a mottled black and grey charcoal-enrich silt layer [1/028], which may be the rake-out from the oven. Environmental samples from the floor [1/026-27] and rake out [1/028] both contained rich macrobotanical remains including cereals, arable weeds, some pulses as well as eggshell fragments, fishbones and small mammal bones, potentially indicating some of the foodstuffs being used in the oven(s).

Post-Medieval Period 2 Phase 1: Late 15th / Late 16th century

(Figure 7)

- 4.1.19 Abutting the external face of north wall [1/024] were a series of layers which were collectively over 0.5m thick ([1/025, 1/037, 1/038]) and containing finds of 15th century to late 16th century pottery, animal bone and rusty aerated smithing slag RF<1>.
- 4.1.20 After the building was abandoned, a grey silty layer [1/012] containing six sherds of late 15th / late 16th century pottery, formed above stone floor [1/031] indicating that the shell of the structure had been abandoned before part of wall [1/024] collapsed into the building with rubble tumble [1/015] overlying grey silt [1/012]. At some subsequent point the ruins of the building were deliberately backfilled with yellow clay silt [1/010] and grey clay silt [1/009] containing 3 sherds of late 15th / late 16th century pottery.

Post-Medieval Period 2 Phase 2: 17th century

(Figure 7)

- 4.1.21 Dug through the remains of the medieval building was east-west aligned stone wall footing [1/003], built of large unworked ironstone blocks laid in foundation trench [1/017]. To the east of the trench, the standing wall forming the east boundary of the pub had a scar of a western return, aligning with wall footing [1/003] in the trench.
- 4.1.22 The only contemporary feature was pit [1/013], largely seen in section, filled with green grey silt [1/014], possibly representing a cess-pit. Any floors associated with wall [1/003] had been truncated by a later concrete floor.

Post-Medieval Period 2 Phase 3: Late 19th / 20th century

(Figure 7)

- 4.1.23 Abutting wall [1/003] was concrete floor [1/002] in the south and levelling layer [1/006]. Cut into the latter was drain [1/005] running north-south and constructed of red bricks set on edge. Above the drain and sealing the trench was modern tarmac surface [1/001].

Context Number	Type	Description
001	Deposit	Tarmac
002	Masonry	Concrete floor
003	Masonry	Wall
004		VOID
005	Masonry	Drain
006	Masonry	Cobble floor
007	Cut	Drain cut
008	Fill	Backfill of drain
009	Deposit	Grey clay dump
010	Deposit	Yellow clay dump
011	Deposit	Occupation layer
012	Deposit	Trample
013	Cut	Pit
014	Fill	Pit fill
015	Deposit	Rubble demolition/collapse
016	Cut	Drain cut
017	Cut	Wall cut
018	Masonry	Outer wall of oven
019	Masonry	East stokehole wall
020	Masonry	West stokehole wall
021	Masonry	External oven floor
022	Masonry	Internal oven floor
023	Deposit	Internal clay layer
024	Masonry	North wall of building
025	Deposit	Wall backfill
026	Deposit	Red burnt clay floor
027	Deposit	Brown burnt clay floor
028	Deposit	Oven rake-out?
029	Deposit	Yellow clay floor
030	Fill	Stone tank fill
031	Masonry	Stone floor and kerb
032	Masonry	Stone tank
033	Masonry	Red burnt clay floor
034	Cut	Cobble floor of stone tank
035		VOID
036	Fill	Posthole fill
037	Fill	Wall backfill
038	Fill	Wall backfill
039	Fill	Stone posthole setting
040	Cut	Posthole
041	Fill	Linear feature fill
042	Fill	Linear feature fill
043	Cut	Ditch? Beam slot?
044	Deposit	Natural
045	Fill	Posthole
046	Fill	Posthole fill
047	Fill	Posthole fill
048	Cut	Posthole
049	Cut	Cut for north wall
050	Masonry	Foundation of north wall

Table 2: Trench 1, Ye Olde Reindeer Pub

4.2 Trench 2: Unicorn Pub

Post-Medieval Period 2 Phase 3: 18th / 19th century

(Figure 8)

- 4.2.1 When opened, the trench revealed the top of a brick vaulted ceiling [2/005]. This was constructed of a broad sprung arch with bricks set end on. The upper surface of the vault had been covered with a thin lime mortar scree. Above the vault [2/005] was blue alluvial clay [2/004] with occasional red brick fragments and brown clay [2/003]. Above these layers was modern levelling layer [2/002] and stone flags [2/001] of the current hard-standing surface.
- 4.2.2 A small hole was made in the top of the vault and a plumb bob was lowered down to measure the depth of the cellar floor which was at 94.45m AOD, 2.2m below a brick-vault ceiling.

Context Number	Type	Description
001	Masonry	Modern flag floor
002	Deposit	Modern levelling layer
003	Deposit	Redeposited clay
004	Deposit	Redeposited clay
005	Masonry	Cellar

Table 3: Trench 2, Unicorn Pub

5.0 FINDS

5.0.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the archaeological investigations Ye Olde Reindeer Pub, Banbury. Finds are washed and packaged in accordance with IFA guidelines and quantified by count and weight. Table 4 shows an overview of the assemblage.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
Base of 1/002	12	450	2	202	3	48			1	114		
1/037											1	10
1/011	2	10			5	290	1	20				
1/037	5	36			18	696	1	16				
1/009	2	28			8	32						
29	6	78			3	16						
41	3	12			2	2						
1/003	4	14	5	332								
30					2	4						
1/012	1	8										
1/025	5	118			8	56						
1/026	1	20			1	32			1	10		
2/012	5	12			9	250	1	10				
1/008	5	422									1	630
1/006	3	14			3	74	1	10				
1/038	5	66			4	68			1	238		
1/001	1	20									2	76
1/015			2	124	1	10						
1/005			2	6482								
1/010	1	6			13	66						
Total	61	1314	11	7140	80	1644	4	56	3	362	4	716

Continued overleaf

Context	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)	White metal	Wt (g)	Pb	Wt (g)
Base of 1/002	5	110					1	14				
1/037			1	< 2								
1/011												
1/037												
1/009					1	8						
29												
41												
1/003												
30												
1/012												
1/025												
1/026												
2/012												
1/008	4	278	2	2			2	232				
1/006	6	194										
1/038					1	112						
1/001	5	106							1	6	1	32
1/015												
1/005												
1/010												
Total	20	688	3	2	2	120	3	246	1	6	1	32

Table 4: Quantification of the finds assemblage

5.1 The Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

5.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 61 sherds with a total weight of 1324g. It comprised entirely medieval and later material. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXAC: *Cotswold-type ware*, AD975-1350. 4 sherds, 14g.
 OX234: *Banbury ware*, L 11th – L 14th century. 5 sherds, 71g.
 OX68: *Potterspury ware*, Late 13th - 17th century. 1 sherds, 7g.
 OXBK: *Medieval Shelly Coarseware*, AD1100-1350. 3 sherds, 38g.
 OXAM: *Brill/Boarstall ware*, AD1200 – 1600. 7 sherds, 80g.
 LOXAM: *Late Brill/Boarstall Ware*, 15th – mid 16th century. 8 sherds, 144g.
 OXCL: *Cistercian ware*, 1475-1700. 8 sherds, 44g.
 OXAMTG: *Brill/Boarstall 'Tudor Green' wares*, 1475-1600. 3 sherds, 6g.
 OXST: *Westerwald stoneware*. c. 1590-1800. 1 sherd, 6g.
 OXBESWL: *Staffordshire slip-trailed earthenware*, 1650 – 1750. 1 sherd, 11g.
 OXEAH: *Midland Blackware*, L 16th – 17th C. 1 sherd, 5g.
 OXBEW: *Staffordshire manganese wares*. c. 1700-1800. 1 sherd, 24g.
 WHEW: *Mass-produced white earthenwares*, 19th - 20th C. 18 sherds, 874g.

5.1.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 5. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of medieval fabric types is typical of sites in the North Oxfordshire region (eg Mellor 1994, Figs. 24 and 36), and consists of a mixture of relatively local sources in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire itself.

5.1.3 The range of vessel types also appears typical of sites in the region. The early medieval assemblage comprises largely jars, along with a few fragments of jugs, but by the late medieval period, cups in OXCL and OXAMTG are very common. The post-medieval assemblage comprises largely cups, jugs and dishes or bowls, which is again what would be expected.

Chronology

5.1.4 Each stratified, context-specific pottery assemblage has been given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of ware and vessel types present. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table 5.

5.1.5 It would appear from the data in Table 5 that the earliest activity at the site dates to the late 11th or 12th century, and that this then continues into the mid-late 13th century. There then may have been a break in activity, as Potterspury Ware does appear somewhat under-represented, as does OXAM types of the 13th – 14th century, although some sites in Banbury often demonstrate a paucity of these wares at that time (*ibid*). The site then appears to have been re-occupied in the mid-late 15th century, and then abandoned again before the mid/late -16th century. There then appears to have been very little activity at the site until the 17th century.

Phase	Defining wares	Date	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds
CP1	OX234	L11 th -12 th C	4	25
CP2	OXBK	12 th – 13 th C	6	84
CP3	OXAM	13 th – 15 th C	2	10
CP3a	OX68	M13 th - 15 th C	0	0
CP4	LOXAM	15 th – L 15 th C	4	66
CP5	OXAMTG, OXCL	L15 th – L16 th C	19	214
CP6	OXEAH	L16 th – 17 th C	0	0
CP7	OXST	17 th C – M17 th C	3	13
CP8	OXBESWL	M – L 17 th C	4	14
CP9	OXBEW	L 17 th – L 18 th C	1	24
MOD	WHEW	19 th C +	18	874
Total			61	1324

Table 5: Ceramic phase chronology, occurrence and defining wares

Table 6: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	OXAC		OX234		OXBK		OXAM		OX68		LOXAM		OXAMT G		OXCL		OXEAH		OXBEWS L		OXST		OXBE W		WHEW		
Cntx t	N o	Wt	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	W t	N o	Wt	No	Wt	N o	W t	N o	W t	No	Wt	N o	W t	No	Wt	N o	Wt	Date
1																							1	24			CP9
2																									13	45 0	MO D
3															3	3			1	11							CP8
6															1	2	1	5			1	6					CP7
8																									5	42 4	MO D
9															2	29											CP5
10															1	8											CP5
11							2	10																			CP3
12							1	11			4	11			1	2											CP5
25							1	23			2	91	2	4													CP5
26					1	21																					CP2
29	2	2	2	23																							CP1
37			1	4			2	22	1	7			1	2													CP5
38	1	10					1	14			2	42															CP4
41	1	2	1	10	1	1																					CP2
42			1	34	1	16																					CP2
Total	4	14	5	71	3	38	7	80	1	7	8	14 4	3	6	8	44	1	5	1	11	1	6	1	24	18	87 4	

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.2.1 A total of 13 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 6811g were recovered from 5 contexts during the excavation. The assemblage contains brick, possible floor tiles, peg tile and mortar of post-medieval date.

Methodology

- 5.2.2 The assemblage has been recorded on pro forma record forms for archive and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. A provisional fabric series has been drawn up with the aid of a X10 binocular microscope (Table 7). Fabric samples have been retained for archive and the remainder of the material (approximately 90% by weight) has been discarded. A summary of the assemblage by context is given in Table 8.

Fabric	Form	Description	Date range
T1	Floor tile?	Orange fabric with abundant medium sized quartz	C16th-C18th?
T2	Peg tile	Orange fabric with fine cream silt streaking and sparse fine quartz	C18th-C19th
B1	Brick	Orange fabric with fine cream silt streaking and sparse black iron rich inclusions with chunky cream silt inclusions	C18th-C19th

Table 7: Provisional CBM fabric series

Late medieval to early post-medieval

- 5.2.3 Contexts: [1/003], [1/015].

A small assemblage of probable floor tile fragments were recovered from contexts [1/003] and [1/015] the tile was of 20mm thickness, unglazed with vertical edges and fine sanding on the base and slight abraded surface. The form of the tiles is not easily datable and may be of later medieval or post-medieval date, a broad date range of 16th to 18th century date is probable.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.4 Contexts: [1/002], [1/003], [1/005], [1/008]. Peg tile in fabric T2 is of 18th to 19th century date and was recovered from contexts [1/003] and the base of [1/002].
- 5.2.5 Brick samples were recovered from context [1/005]. Both bricks were unfrogged and in fabric B1 were of uniform size, 230 by 115 by 70mm, slightly larger than standard bricks. On each brick one stretcher edge was abraded and slightly discoloured suggesting they had perhaps been laid on edge in flooring. The bricks probably date to the 18th or 19th century.
- 5.2.6 Context [1/002] (base of) also contained a fragment of grey cement mortar conglomerate of late 19th to 20th century date and a fragment of salt glazed drain pipe of 19th to early 20th century date. A fragment of yellow sandstone was recovered from context [1/008] with mortar adhering.

Summary

- 5.2.7 Possible floor tiles of later medieval or early post-medieval date were recovered from two contexts, the remainder of the assemblage is of later post-medieval date. Including two brick samples which may previously been laid on edge in flooring.

Context	Fabrics	Forms
Base of [1/002]	Mortar salt glazed pipe, T2	Mortar, salt glazed pipe, peg tile
[1/003]	T1, T2	Floor tile? Peg tile
[1/005]	B1	Brick
[1/008]	Stone	Stone fragment
[1/015]	T1	Floor tile?

Table 8: Ceramic building material fabrics and forms by context

5.3 Nails by Trista Clifford

- 5.3.1 Three iron nails were recovered from two separate contexts. Tarmac layer [1/001] contained a large heavy duty nail (wt 62g) with a domed head, probably for structural use, together with a small general purpose nail (wt 14g). Wall backfill [1/037] contained a general purpose nail (wt 10g) with square section and head. A late post medieval date is probable, though not definite.

5.4 Other metalwork by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 A large iron object was recovered from drain backfill [1/008]. The object is completely obscured by corrosion, but possibly represents a figurative door knocker or horse mount of 19th or 20th century date. Finds from tarmac layer [1/001] include a modern white metal rectangular plate and lead sheet waste.

5.5 The Shell by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 Four contexts produced single valves from the edible species the Common oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). Upper valves were recovered from trample layer [2/012] and occupation layer [1/011], while lower valves came from cobble floor [1/006] and wall backfill [1/037]. No parasitic activity or further diagnostic features were observed.

5.6 The Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 The archaeological work recovered glass from four independently numbered contexts. On the whole the material is in good condition with often large fragments being present (ie to 102g). All of the material is of the 18th, or more commonly, 19th centuries.
- 5.6.2 Context [1/001] produced a 60g fragment of a green octagonal spirits bottle, three green beer/wine bottle fragments (40g) and a body fragment from a cylindrical bottle in aqua coloured glass (8g). No pieces are corroded and all can be placed in a 19th-century date range.
- 5.6.3 Context [1/002] contained three (70g) fragments from cylindrical mineral water bottles in aqua coloured glass, including part of one with Codd-type stopper. Two fragments from an aqua coloured glass panel bottle were also recovered. A mid/late 19th-century date is likely for all.
- 5.6.4 Context [1/006] produced the earliest glass from the site. Six (194g) quite heavily corroded green wine bottle fragments were recovered from this deposit. Unfortunately, too little is present to be certain of form, however, they appear to be quite squat and as such an early to late 18th- century date is suspected though not certain.

5.6.5 The glass from [1/008] is again of mid/late 19th- century date and includes fragments of two aqua vessels: the base of a mineral water Hamilton bottle (102g) and the base from a preserve jar. (98g). Two clear pieces of glass were also recovered. These consist of a 25mm diameter phial base (36g) and a piece of internally ribbed window glass (46g).

5.7 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Only two plain stem fragments were recovered from the site (contexts [1/002] and [1/008]). Both are unabraded and consist of types generally datable to between the mid 18th and 19th centuries.

5.8 The Slag by Luke Barber

5.8.1 Context [1/009] produced an 8g fragment of aerated, lightweight grey/purple slag possibly from iron smithing. A definite piece of denser, rusty aerated smithing slag (114g) was also recovered from [1/038]. Both could be waste from a blacksmith's shop but the quantities are too low for this to be very close to the trench.

5.9 Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.9.1 Only three pieces of stone were recovered during the archaeological work, all of which are unworked and of relatively local origin. Context [1/002] contained a 114g fragment of brown fine-grained calcareous sandstone while contexts [1/026] and [1/038] produced pieces of fossiliferous limestone. These are probably Cornbrash from the local Great Oolite Series.

5.10 The Registered Finds by Trista Clifford

5.10.1 Registered finds are washed, air dried or cleaned by a conservator as appropriate to the material requirements. Objects have been packed appropriately in line with IFA guidelines (2001). All objects are assigned a unique registered find number (RF<00>) and recorded on the basis of material, object type and date (shown in Table 9)

RF no	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
1	1/025	Sheet	COPP	MED	14
2	1/030	HAND	BONE	MED	40
3	1/002	HOOK	IRON	PMED	410

Table 9: The registered finds

5.10.2 Only three Registered Finds were recovered. A fragment of highly corroded copper alloy sheet came from wall backfill [1/025]. This possibly formed part of a vessel or was a repair patch. Stone tank fill [1/030] contained a one piece bone handle from a tanged implement, formed from a cattle metapodial (RF<2>; length 101mm). The handle has been shaped to form a square section, with incised collars and notches at the blade end. The handle is perforated axially at both ends, but the perforation is not complete.

5.10.3 A substantial iron object, RF<3>, with large socket and spiral terminal came from concrete floor [1/002]. This is most probably the hook end of a whipple tree, the

spacer bar between a draught animal and its' load (Julian Bell pers. comm.) It is 19th-early 20th century in date.

6.0 Environmental Material

6.1 Environmental Samples: Macro-botanicals By Karine Le Hégarat

- 6.1.1 A total of four bulk soil samples were taken from a linear feature and three deposits during the course of the archaeological investigation in the courtyard of Ye Olde Reindeer Public House in Banbury to retrieve environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, bones and shells.
- 6.1.2 Sample <4> was extracted from a possible 12th/13th century ditch/beam slot (context [1/043]).
- 6.1.3 The remaining three samples came from three deposits within a masonry building dated possibly to the 13th / 15th century. Sample <3> originated from burnt beaten clay floor (context [1/026]), sample <01> from the possible rake-out (context [1/028]) of masonry oven and sample <2> was extracted from a trample layer (context [1/012]) formed over a stone floor after a possible burning event.
- 6.1.4 Sampling aimed to provide material which could help characterise the medieval occupation of the site prior to the construction of the inn in the early-mid 17th century. More precisely, it aimed to recover material which could clarify the function of the linear feature and material which could elucidate the use of the masonry building.
- 6.1.5 Samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank, the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were sieved through 8mm, 4mm and 2mm geological sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 9). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and an overview of their contents recorded (Table 10). Preliminary identifications were made for the macrobotanical remains by comparing them with specimens documented in reference collection and manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004).

Results

- 6.1.6 Sampling produced small but relatively rich flots which contained fairly similar archaeobotanical material. The wood charcoal fragments were infrequent but the samples produced moderate sized assemblages of charred grains accompanied by charred seeds but no cereal chaff elements. In addition, bones were also present in all samples. On account of the overall similarity of the environmental remains within these samples, the results are presented together.

Cereals

- 6.1.7 Two of the four major cereals cultivated in medieval England were present in the samples: wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). They appear to be present in about equal proportion, although slightly smaller amount of barley could be represented in samples <3> and <4>. Grains of free-threshing varieties were evident amongst the assemblage of wheat, however due to the absence of rachis segments no further identifications have been provided. Both the hexaploid bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) and the tetraploid rivet wheat (*Triticum turdidum* s.l.) types could therefore be present in the assemblage. One of the earliest finds of rivet wheat was made not far from Banbury at High Ferrers (Moffett 1991) and it is now

increasingly recognised during excavations on local sites. Evidence indicates a Late Saxon date with the use of the cereal spreading during the medieval period. Grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) were recorded and the presence of asymmetrical lateral grains indicates that six-row barley was represented within the assemblage. Oat (*Avena* sp.) was present very sparsely; however in the absence of florets, it was not possible to confirm if the caryopses represented the wild or cultivated taxa. Rye (*Secale cereale*) which represents the fourth cereal grown during this period (Greig 1996) was not present in the assemblage, although it was recorded as a minor crop at the nearby sites of Old Grimsbury in Banbury (Pelling 2000) and Bicester (Pelling 2002).

Pulses

- 6.1.8 Pulses were recorded in all samples although they were not numerous. They included seeds of small surface dimension (<3mm) but also larger ones which indicate the presence of cultivated species (Pelling 2003). However, hila and testa were insufficiently preserved to identify the types of pulses and the assemblage of large sized pulses could include small Celtic/broad bean (*Vicia faba* var *minor*) and vetch/pea (*Vicia/Pisum* sp.). Large cultivated pulses would have usually been used for human consumption. Nonetheless, assemblages of cultivated vetch (*Vicia sativa* ssp. *sativa*) have recently been recovered in Drayton (Oxfordshire) from 10th century contexts (Pelling 2003). This additional crop could have been used as fodder or as part of the crop rotation system.

Weeds, nuts and fruits

- 6.1.9 Charred wild/weed seeds were well represented in the samples. They included common arable weeds, grassland taxa and seeds associated with disturbed/waste grounds. Seeds of cabbage/turnip (*Brassica/Sinapis* sp.) are more likely weeds of cultivation although they could represent a cultivated variety. Wild radish (*Raphanus* ssp. *raphanistrum*) is indicative of acidic soils and is a likely weed from cultivated or disturbed ground. Characteristic arable weeds growing with cereals included stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). Stinking chamomile points to the use of heavy and poorly drained soils and although scentless mayweed can also occur on clay soils it can equally be found on soils of medium texture. Both stinking chamomile and cleavers (*Galium aparine*) are often associated with winter-sown cereals such as wheat. Seeds of the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family and dock/knotgrass (*Polygonum/Rumex* sp.) can occur in spring-sown crop such as barley, although they can also represent seeds of disturbed grounds. Leguminous plants such as vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) can be found as arable weeds but can also occur in grassland. Another plant of grassy vegetation is thistle (*Cirsium* sp.); it can also be found on waste grounds. Sedges (*Carex* sp.) can indicate the presence of wetter ground.
- 6.1.10 Infrequent small hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments were present in the residue from sample <4> (context [1/043]) and uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds were recorded in all four samples. They could have both been consumed. The wild taxa so far identified indicate the presence of plants found in hedgerows, grassland, damp environments, waste/disturbed places and cultivated grounds (arable fields and smaller plots). It should be noted that a large proportion of the plants could occur as arable weeds with some species indicating that the crops could have been cultivated around the town, on the heavy clay soils (Lower Lias clay).

Charcoal

- 6.1.11 Both the linear feature and the three deposits produced very little charcoal. The wood charcoal fragments in the flots and residues were predominantly small with some occasional large-sized fragments >4mm. No identifications have been provided for this small assemblage as they are too limited to provide significant information regarding the use of structural wood, fuel use and local woody vegetation.

Other remains

- 6.1.12 The samples produced some burnt and unburnt mammal bones, infrequent fish bones and some very small eggshell fragments. In addition, small amounts of pottery and burnt clay were recorded in the residues.

Discussion

- 6.1.13 Sampling has produced an interesting assemblage of charred crops (principally cereal grains) and weeds with very few charcoal fragments and no chaff. Although it has provided evidence for the use of various cereals, their exact usage seems unclear.

Preservation of the charred material

- 6.1.14 Several grains were heavily pitted indicating charring at a relatively high temperature. Many grains, pulses and seeds were abraded, preventing identifications beyond the genus level although other remains were better preserved. It appears therefore that the charred material originated from more than one fire event and that the remains were not in their primary deposits. They seem to represent slightly mixed redeposited material, moved around, maybe as part of a clean-up. Distortion was infrequent; it was noticed principally at the apex/distal end of some wheat grains as well as along the lateral edges of some barley grains, where some material was exuding. This could be associated with unripe grains or grains stored slightly damp (Pelling 2002).
- 6.1.15 During the medieval period oat and wheat as well as oat and barley were sometimes used together in brewing and the masonry oven as well as the potential oven bases found on site could have been used during the malting process, to halt the germination. However, there was no evidence of germinated grains amongst the assemblage. Brewing could still have taken place on a domestic level, as the ovens could have fulfilled a number of functions and without their *in situ* contents it is difficult to infer on their usage.
- 6.1.16 Differential destructions caused by charring could explain the absence of chaffs and straw in the assemblage of charred macrobotanical remains (Boardman and Jones 1990). However, the significant number of charred seeds indicates that the chaff and straw elements were actually missing from the initial assemblage.

Composition of the assemblage

- 6.1.17 The absence of charred chaff, straw and stem fragments is interesting. They would be expected in assemblages associated with flooring, animal bedding and/or feeding and thatching. The presence of charred grains with the charred weed seeds is more likely to indicate the presence of semi-cleaned grains. A large majority of the seeds are typical arable weeds and could have been brought back with the grains as the larger weed seeds and the large composite seed heads of the stinking chamomile and scentless mayweed would have stayed with the grains after sieving. The grains could be stored in this semi-clean state with the final processing being carried out on site at a later stage. The assemblage could therefore represent stored grains. They could have been accidentally charred while drying before storage or before grinding.

It is possible that the grains could have been used for baking, malting or general human consumption either in soups or porridges.

- 6.1.18 The scarcity of charcoal is also interesting. The small assemblage suggests a background scatter and the remains do not seem to indicate a large fire event unless the latter was followed by extensive clearance of the debris.

Conclusion

- 6.1.19 Sampling as produced an interesting assemblage of charred grains and charred weeds, and although it consists of a mixed assemblage and cannot provide direct evidence for the exact use of the oven(s), the remains almost certainly represent domestic kitchen waste probably representing stored grains prior to being used for baking, malting or general consumption. Current interpretations of these samples are based on preliminary observations and would benefit from full analysis and identification. Similar assemblages have been found locally for instance at the Old Grimsbury (Pelling 2000) however the assemblage recovered from Ye Olde Reindeer public house is unusual as it is from the town rather than the surrounding countryside and may be more closely linked to the use of the crops and other plants rather than their supply. It is likely that other excavations in the town would reveal similarly rich assemblages.

Table 9: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Fishbone and microfauna	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
4	1/041	Fill of ditch/beam slot [1/043]	40	40	**	4	** <i>Corylus avellana</i> (shell frags.), <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., <i>Cerealia</i> , <i>Triticum</i> sp., cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	2	*	14			*	<2	Burnt clay */6g - Eggshell frags */<2g - Pottery */8g
3	1/026	Deposit - clay floor	20	20	**	2	* <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., <i>Cerealia</i> , <i>Triticum</i> sp.	<2	*	10					Pottery */18g
1	1/028	Deposit - oven rake-out	10	10	**	6	** <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Cerealia</i>	<2	**	12			*	<2	Eggshell frags. */<2g
2	1/012	Deposit - trample	8	8	**	2	* <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	<2	*	<2	*	<2			Pottery */<2g

Table 10: Flot quantification (*=1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds / fruits charred	Identifications	Preservation
4	1/041	8	28	28	5	10	** <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	*	*	**	***	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> s.l., <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> sp., cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	+ to ++	***	Asteraceae, <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae, <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> , <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Crepis</i> sp., <i>Lamium</i> sp., <i>Sinapis/Brassica</i> sp., <i>Raphanus</i> ssp. <i>raphanistrum</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp.	+ to ++
3	1/026	4	8	8	4	28	** <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	*	*	**	**	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> s.l., <i>Triticum</i> sp., Cerealia, <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	+ to ++	*	Poaceae	+ to ++
1	1/028	2	8	8	5	15	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	*	**	***	***	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> s.l., <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp., Cerealia, <i>Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	+ to ++	***	<i>Galium aparine</i> , Poaceae, <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae, Caryophyllaceae, <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> , <i>Anthemis cotula</i>	++
2	1/012	<2	2	2	25	2	** <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	*	**	***	**	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> s.l., <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> sp., <i>Avena</i> sp., Cerealia	+ to ++	**	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., <i>Polygonum/Rumex</i> sp., cf. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , Asteraceae, cf. <i>Cirsium</i> sp., Chenopodiaceae	+ to ++

6.2 The Animal Bone

- 6.2.1 A small dated assemblage comprising 46 fragments of bone was recovered. The bone was in a good state of preservation, with large fragments present.

Methodology

- 6.2.2 Wherever possible, bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using the in-house reference collection and Schmidt (1972). Where bone fragments were not identifiable to species or they have been recorded as cattle or sheep-sized. To assist with the MNE calculations and in an attempt to avoid the distortion caused by differing fragmentation rates, the elements have been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present. Each fragment was studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology.

The Results

- 6.2.3 The identified assemblage from dated contexts has been fully quantified and recorded in an excel spreadsheet. The table below shows the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) divided by taxon and phase. For the purposes of this report, fragments recorded as cattle or sheep sized have been included in the cattle and sheep totals respectively.

	Medieval phase 1	Medieval phase 2	Medieval phase 3	Post-medieval phase 1	Post-medieval phase 2
Cattle		1		19	1
Sheep	1	1	1	15	2
Pig				2	
Horse				2	
Bird				1	
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>3</i>

Table 11: Quantification of animal bone by period

Medieval

- 6.2.4 The medieval phases produced very little animal bone, with only single fragments from cattle and sheep (longbones and ribs) present. The sheep rib from medieval phase 3 has been burnt.

Post-medieval

- 6.2.5 The majority of the assemblage was recovered from post-medieval contexts, primarily phase 1. Cattle are represented by cranial fragments, including horn cores, longbones and ribs. Butchery evidence consistent with jointing was recorded on a single longbone fragment as well as knife marks associated with kitchen waste. The elements identified as sheep include metapodials, ribs and cranial fragments and represent a minimum number of two animals. A horn core fragment has been chopped through at the base, a metapodial shows evidence for carnivorous gnawing and two fragments have been burnt.
- 6.2.6 The two fragments of pig were a longbone and a juvenile mandible. Horse was represented by a single upper molar and a longbone. No other

information was available. A single domestic fowl metatarsus was also recovered.

- 6.2.7 The post-medieval phase 2 assemblage includes cattle and sheep metapodials and single fragment of cattle rib. No further information is available.

Discussion

- 6.2.8 The small assemblage, which seems to be largely derived from kitchen waste, is of little value, other than identifying the species present during each phase.

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 In trench 1 at Ye Olde Reindeer Pub the possible burgage plot ditch was the earliest phase identified and indicates that Gropecunt Lane, the earlier version of Parson's Street, was formally laid-out and partitioned in the 12th / 13th century. Banbury had a market established by 1139 and this burgage plot is likely to have been part of the extension of the town to the west of the market place, a process which has also been suggested to the south and south-west (Crossley *et al.* 1972, 19) although this is the first time it has been demonstrated archaeologically.
- 7.2 The burgage plot was in use for perhaps a century before the large masonry building was constructed in the 12th / 13th century, overlying the ditch and this is clear evidence of a change in the lay-out of the land holdings. The kitchen was a substantial building, representing a significant capital outlay, and was likely to have been to the rear of a large high-status masonry building, and was probably accompanied by other ancillary buildings such as stables. Generally, whilst medieval kitchen ranges are frequently identified on monastic and manorial sites, kitchens associated with town houses are somewhat less common, and rarely have they been published in any more than summary detail. Such a notable building would have been built by a wealthy landowner, possibly the estate of the prebendary of Banbury, who is known to have owned much of Parson's Street in the later medieval period (Crossley *et al.* 1972, 20).
- 7.3 Both the masonry structures and the floor deposits displayed obvious signs of heat-affectation and this may have resulted either from the use of the building as a kitchen or alternatively from its destruction by fire. However, the lack of charcoal in the environmental samples suggests the latter is unlikely and the continual use of ovens and hearths caused the heat-affectation.
- 7.4 Whilst the environmental samples produced a rich in macrobotanical assemblage including cereals, pulses, fish bones and egg shells, unfortunately it could not exactly determine the use of the ovens. However, it does seem likely that the ovens were used for a variety of domestic uses, perhaps including brewing, and the identified macrobotanicals give a small insight into the range of foodstuffs being used. Finds of predominantly cattle and sheep bone indicate that this was a large part of the diet.
- 7.5 The masonry building was built in the 12th / 13th century and demolished by the late 15th / late 16th century, indicating a possible maximum existence of c. 400 years. However, there was a noticeable lack of the finds from the 14th century; this maybe simply due to a dearth of datable features within the relatively small trench, that the building was swept clean, or it could represent a genuine abandonment during this period. Elsewhere in Oxfordshire a general economic decline, possibly unrelated to the plagues, has been identified in the 14th century (Steane 2000, 9) and Banbury could have been similarly affected.
- 7.6 In the late 15th / late 16th century the building seems to have been abandoned, with a thin layer ([1/012]) forming on stone floor [1/031] before the building was deliberately demolished and levelled with clay dumps. The slighting of the building may have been associated with a change in ownership, with the

Knights, a family of wealthy bakers, taking ownership sometime in the second half of the 16th century (Crossley *et al.* 1972, 34).

- 7.7 Wall [1/003] was clearly associated with the existing eastern boundary wall of the pub and a scar was visible at the north end of the latter wall where the northern wall had been demolished, no doubt to afford better access. This boundary wall seems to have been a late 17th addition to the early 17th century stone and timber buildings fronting onto Parson's Street (*ibid.*).
- 7.8 Trench 1 succeeded in the first specific aim (section 3.2) of identifying evidence of medieval Banbury and previously in Banbury, medieval archaeological deposits have only been excavated at the site of the castle and significantly this is the first time deposits relating to the medieval town have been recorded. In addition, Trench 1 also succeeded the second specific aim, identifying 17th century modifications to the public house. No other specific aims were achieved.
- 7.9 Trench 2, at the Unicorn pub, encountered a previously unknown cellar of likely 18/19th date. This has almost certainly truncated all earlier deposits in the immediate vicinity of the building.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East, 2011 *The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public Houses, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 5LJ and OX16 5NA, Archaeological Investigation Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpublished report

Boardman, S, and Jones, G, 1990 'Experiments on the Effects of Charring on Cereal Plant Components', *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 17, I-I 1

Cappers, R T J, Bekker, R M, & Jans, J E A, 2006 *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Groningen Archaeological Series 4, Barkhuis, Netherlands

Greig, J, 1996 'Archaeobotanical and historical records compared – a new look at the taphonomy of edible and other useful plants from the 11th to the 18th centuries A.D.' in *Circaea, The Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology*, 12 (2), 211-47

Jacomet, S, 2006 Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites. 2nd ed. *Archaeobotany laboratory, IPAS, Basel University*, Unpublished manuscript

Moffett, L, 1991 'The archaeobotanical evidence for free threshing tetraploid wheat in Britain' in Palaeoethnobotany and archaeology, International Workgroup for Palaeoethnobotany, 8th symposium at Nitra-Nove Vozokany 1989, Acta Interdisciplinaria Archaeologica, 7, Nitra: Slovak Academy of Sciences

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

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

NIAB, 2004 *Seed Identification Handbook: Agricultural, Horticulture and Weeds*, 2nd ed. NIAB, Cambridge.

Oxfordshire County Council 2011 Brief and Annexes 1-6

Oxford County Council 2011 *The Reindeer, Banbury, Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Pelling, R, 2000 'The medieval charred plant remains', 346-380 in A, Hardy, 'The Excavation of a Medieval Cottage and Associated Agricultural Features at Manor Farm, Old Grimsbury, Banbury', *Oxoniensia* 65, 373-375.

Pelling, R, 2002 'Charred Plant Remains', 261-271. In Z. Kamash, D.R.P. Wilkinson, B.M. Ford & J. Hiller, Late Saxon and Medieval Occupation: Evidence from Excavations at Lincoln College, Oxford: 1997-2000. *Oxoniensia* 67, 199-286.

Pelling, R, 2002 'Charred Plant Remains', 167-170 in P A, Harding & P, Andrews, 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Settlement at Chapel Street, Bicester: Excavations 1999-2000', *Oxoniensia* 67, 141-179.

Pelling, R, 2003 'Charred Plant Remains', 303-307 in D, Challinor, D, Petts, D, Poore & D, Score, 'Excavations at Manor Farm, Drayton, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* **68**, 279-314.

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Steane, J, 2000 'Medieval Oxfordshire, 1100-1540', *Oxoniensia* **65**, 1-12

Websites

Alan Crossley (ed), Christina Colvin, Janet Cooper, N. H. Cooper, P. D. A. Harvey, Marjory Hollings, Judith Hook, Mary Jessup, Mary D. Lobel, J. F. A. Mason, B. S. Trinder, Hilary Turner, 1972 *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 10: Banbury hundred*, URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=63790>, Date accessed: 21 October 2011

British Geological Survey
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps>, Date accessed: 21 October 2011

Acknowledgements

The co-operation and assistance of Paul Blinkhorn, Rory McGrath, Rob Kinchin-Smith, the crew of Oxford Scientific Films Ltd and Richard Oram, Oxfordshire County Archaeologist is gratefully acknowledged.

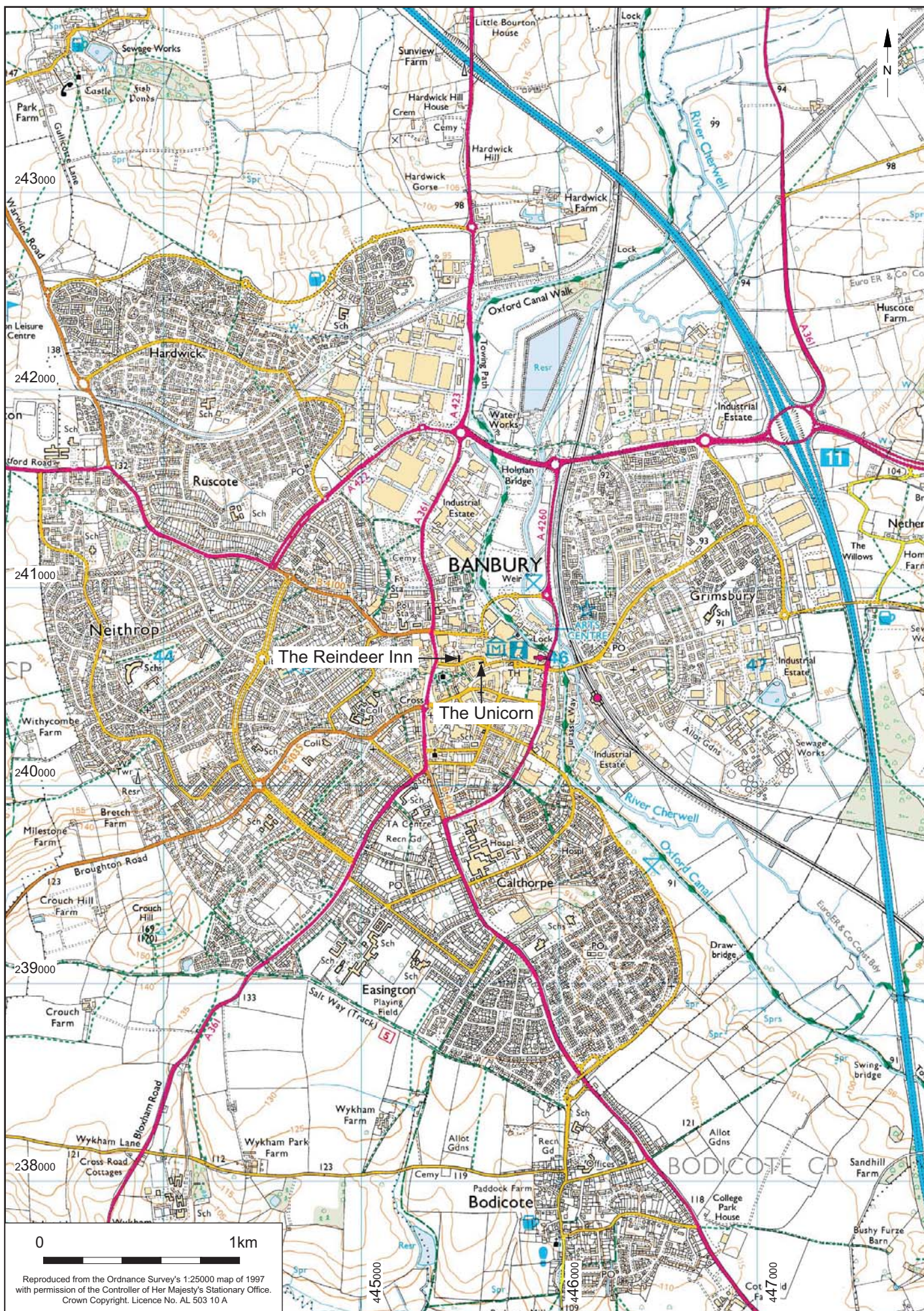
OASIS FORM

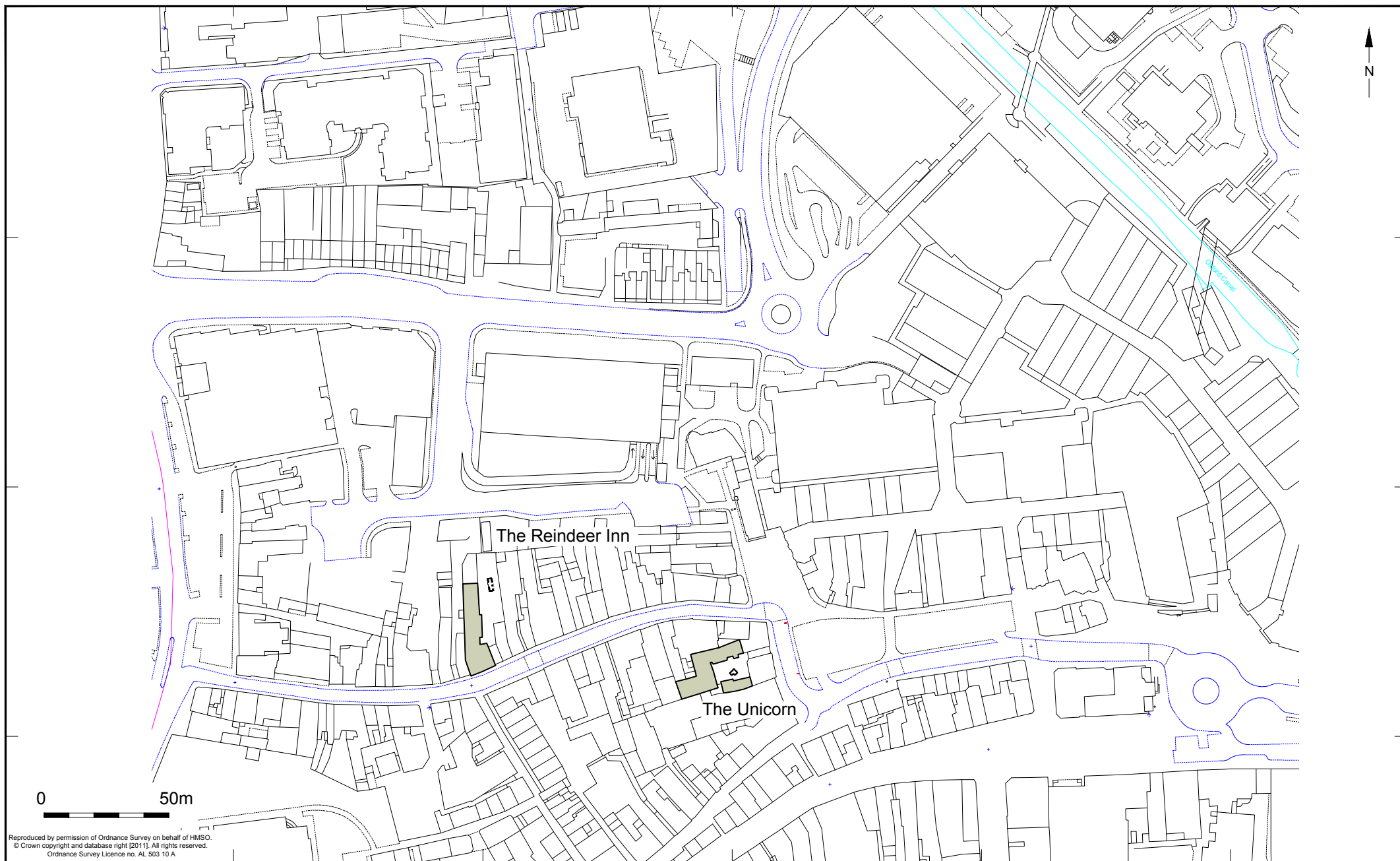
OASIS ID: archaeol6-114087

Project details

Project name	The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public Houses
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Oxford Scientific Films Limited to undertake a two-trench archaeological investigation at the Unicorn and Ye Old Reindeer public houses, Banbury, Oxfordshire. The works were undertaken as part of a television series for the History Channel and will be televised. The earliest feature at the Ye Old Reindeer public house trench was a 12th / 13th century plot ditch, likely to have been part of the extension of the town to the west of the market place. This plot was in use for perhaps a century before a large masonry kitchen building with oven(s) was constructed in the 12th / 13th century. The masonry building was demolished by the late 16th century, possibly associated with a change in ownership. Previously in Banbury, medieval archaeological deposits have only been excavated at the site of the castle and this is the first time deposits relating to the medieval town have been recorded. A late 17th boundary wall and later post-medieval structures was also identified. Trench 2 at the Unicorn pub encountered a previous unknown cellar of likely 18/19th date, which has almost certainly truncated all earlier deposits in the immediate vicinity of the building.
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2011 End: 14-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	URB11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	5148 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	OXCMS: 2011.173 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	WALL Medieval
Monument type	OVEN Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Not recorded
Development type	No development planned
Prompt	Research
Prompt	undertaken for a television program
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE CHERWELL BANBURY The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public

	Houses, Parsons Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire,	
Postcode	OX16 5LJ	
Study area	50.00 Square metres	
Site coordinates	SP 45603 40621 52.0616689808 -1.334740638820 52 03 42 N 001 20 05 W Point	
Site coordinates	SP 5497 0643 51.7534067662 -1.203563746610 51 45 12 N 001 12 12 W Point	
Project creators		
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East	
Project brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East	
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer	
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes	
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client	
Project archives		
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum	
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Worked bone'	
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum	
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Survey','Worked bone'	
Digital Media available	'Database','Spreadsheets','Text'	
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum	
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Survey'	
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'	
Project bibliography 1		
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)	
Title	Archaeological Investigations at the The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public Houses, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 5LJ and OX16 5NA	
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Giles Dawkes	
Other bibliographic details	2011272	
Date	2011	
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East	
Place of issue or publication	Portslade	
Description	grey report	
Entered by	Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)	17 November 2011





© Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 5148

Report Ref: 2011272

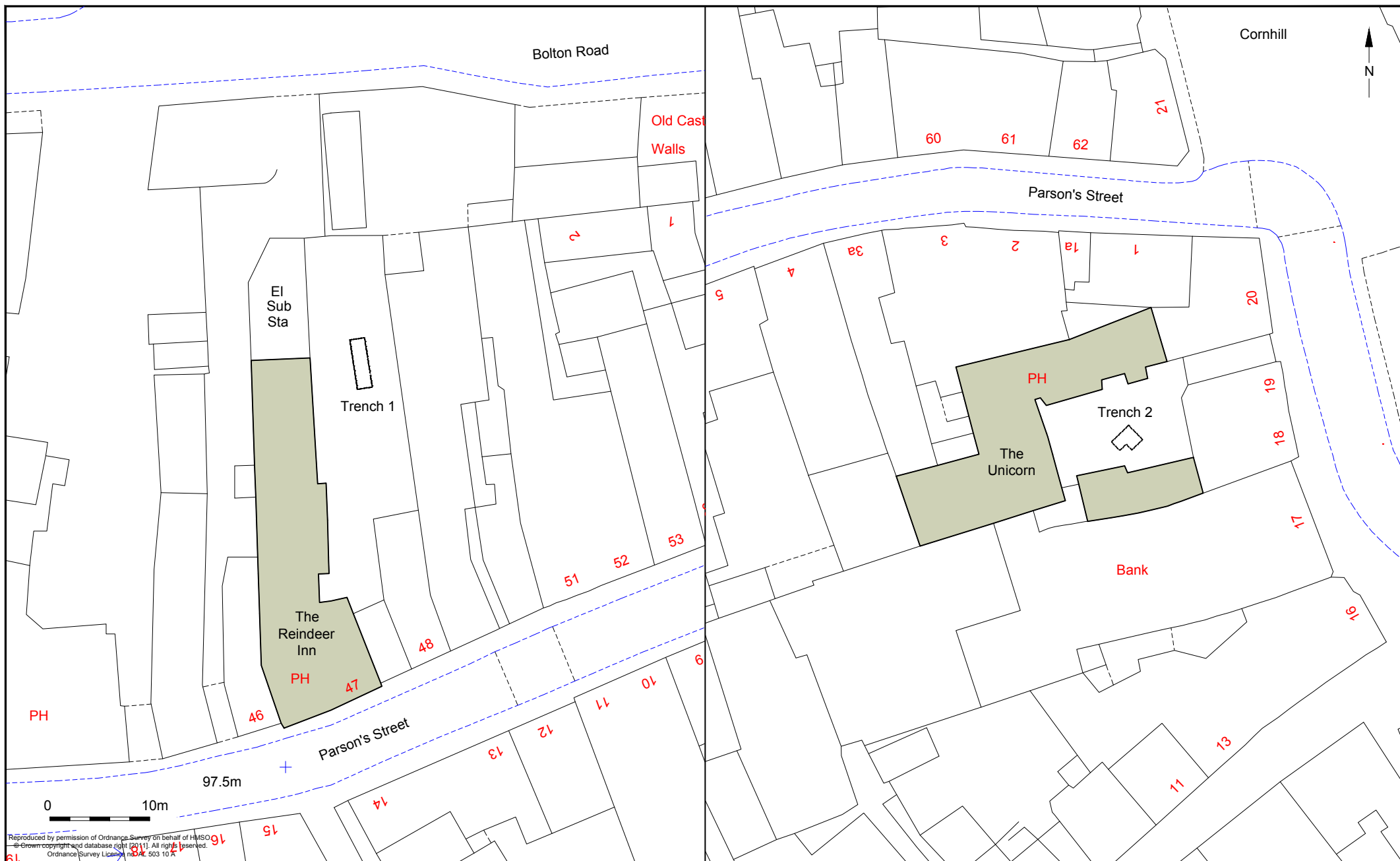
Nov 2011

Drawn by: JLR

Banbury, Pub Dig 4

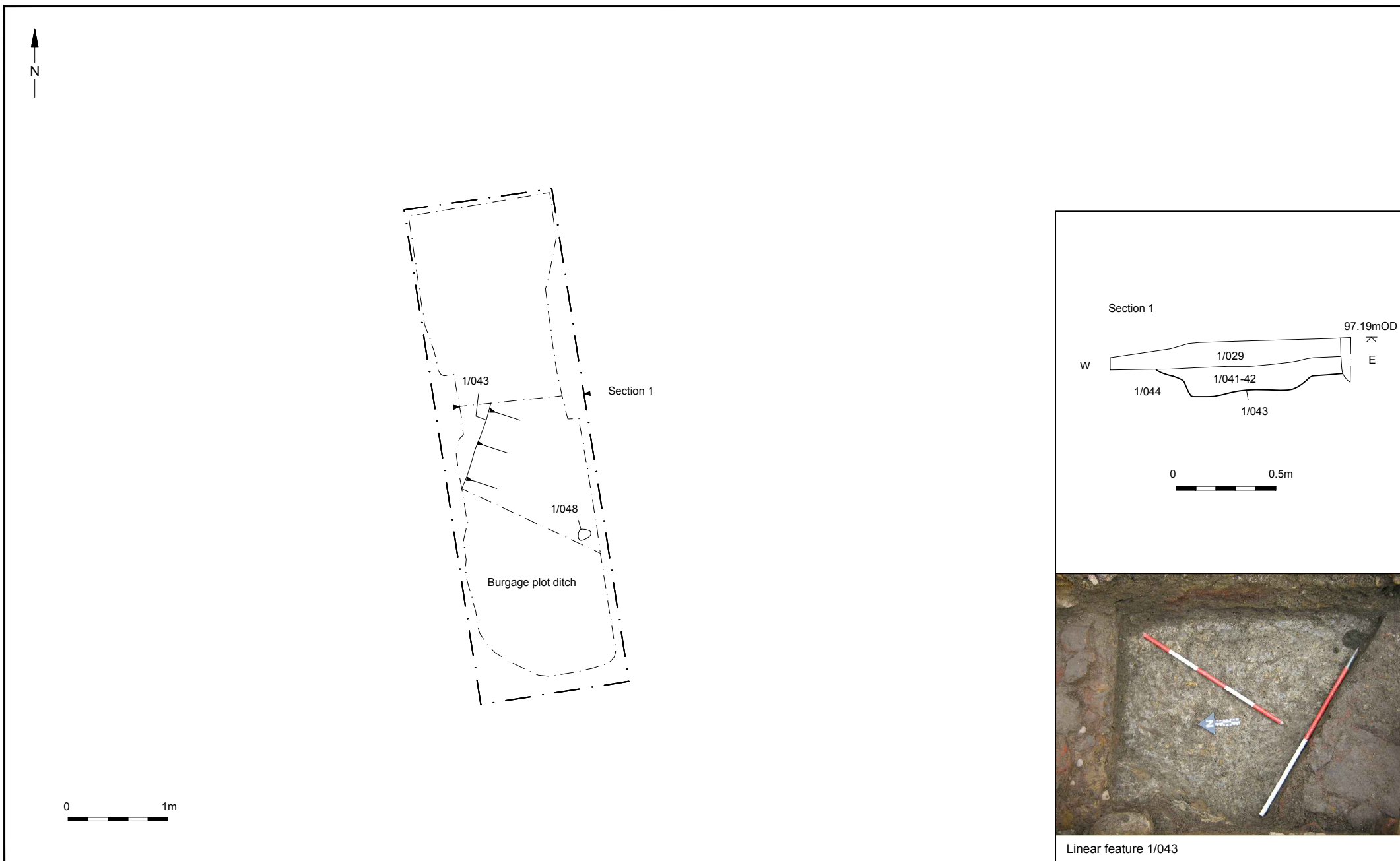
Site plan

Fig. 2



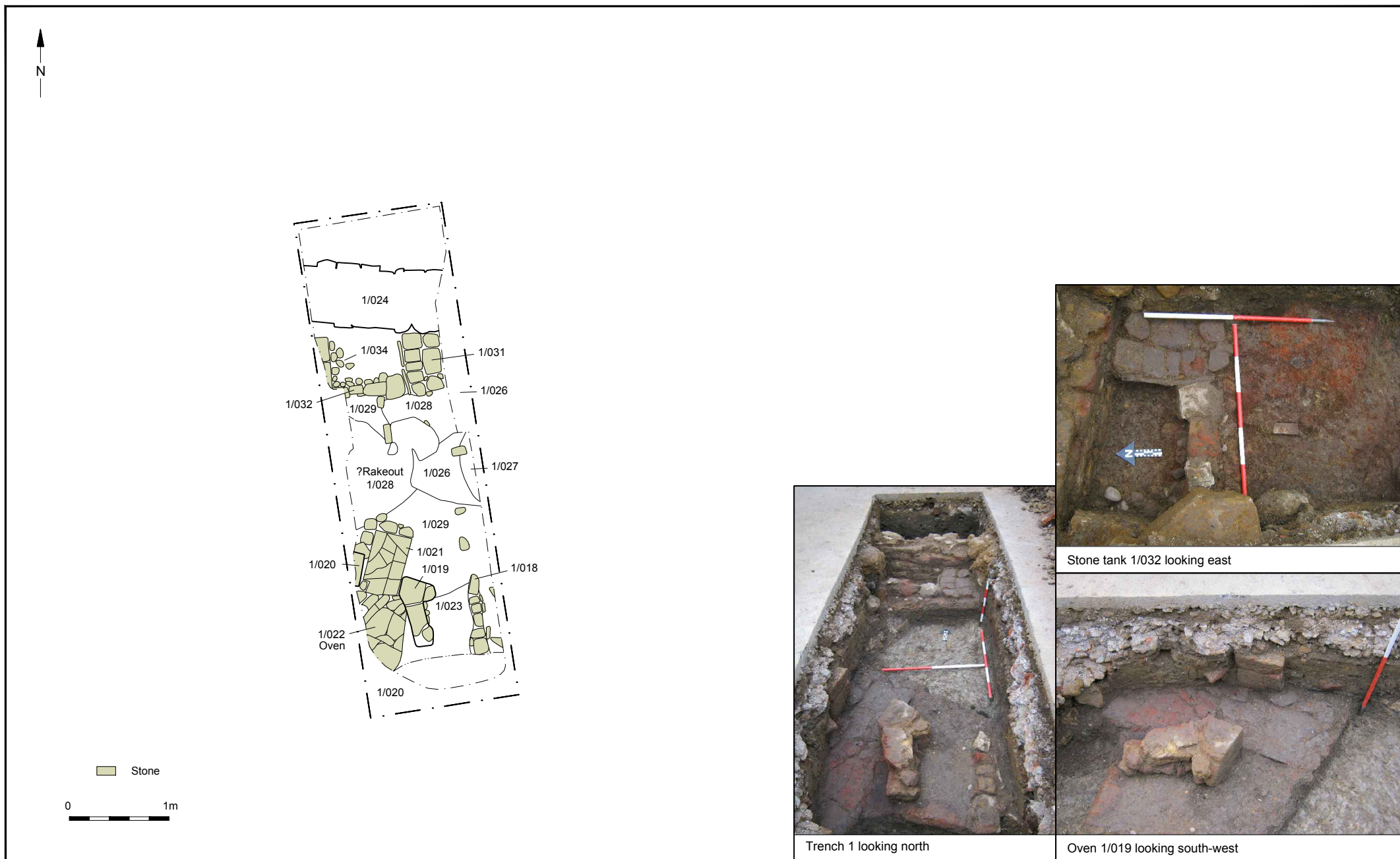
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
 © Crown copyright and database right (2011). All rights reserved.
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. 503 10 K

© Archaeology South-East		Banbury, Pub Dig 4	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5148	Nov 2011	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2011272	Drawn by: JLR		

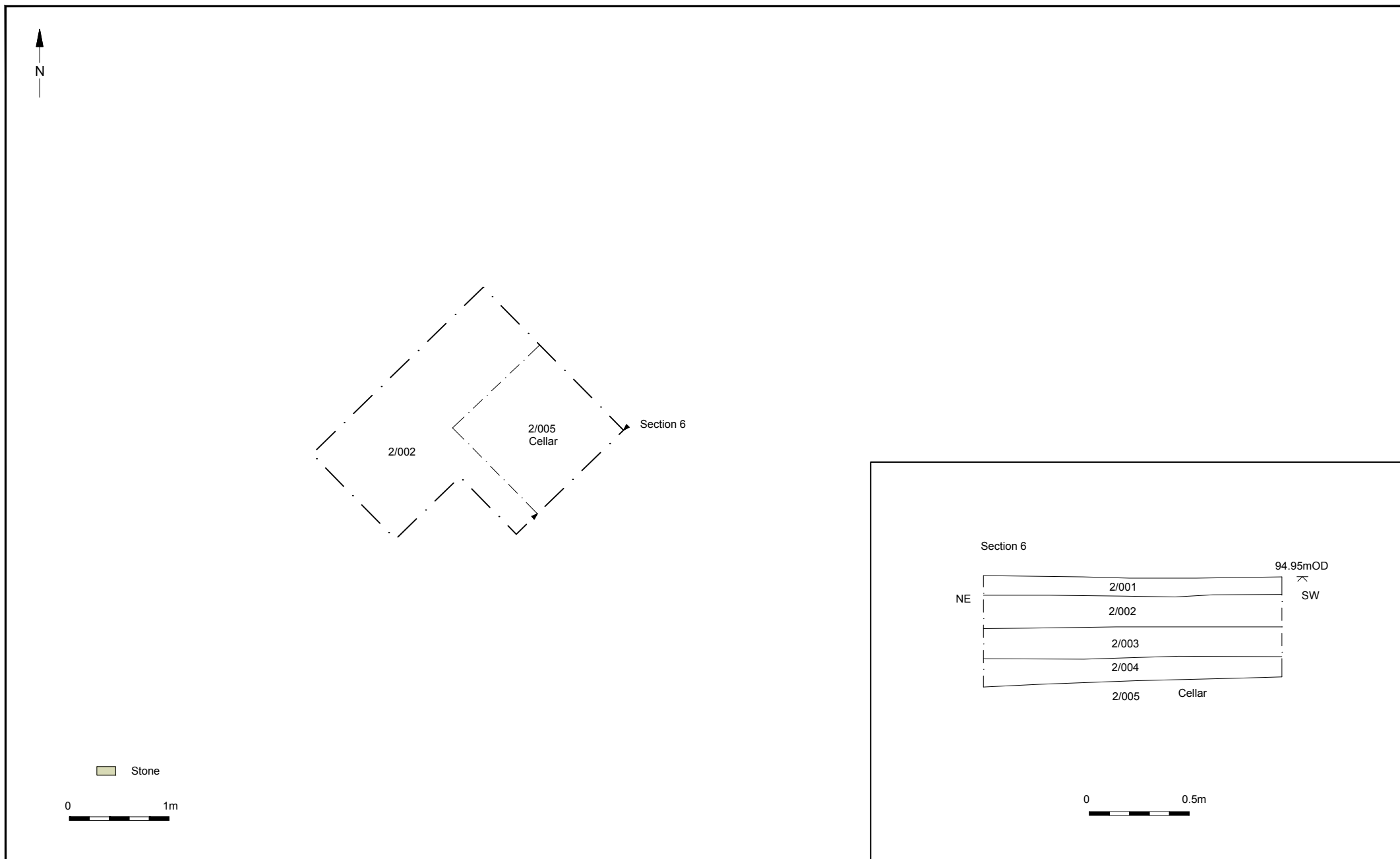


© Archaeology South-East		Banbury, Pub Dig 4	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5148	Nov 2011	Trench 1, Period 1.1: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011272	Drawn by: JLR		





© Archaeology South-East		Banbury, Pub Dig 4	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 5148	Nov 2011	Trench 1, Period 1.3: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2011272	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Banbury, Pub Dig 4	Fig. 8
Project Ref: 5148	Sept 2011	Trench 2, Period 2.3: Plan and section	
Report Ref: 2011272	Drawn by: JLR		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East