

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**28 Abberbury Road,
Iffley, Oxford**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

**Site Code: ARO13/142
(SP 5309 0362)**

**28 Abberbury Road,
Iffley, Oxford**

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Mrs Christine Noble

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code ARO 13/142

August 2013

Summary

Site name: 28 Abberbury Road, Iffley, Oxford

Grid reference: SP 5309 0362

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th August 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: ARO 13/142

Area of site: c. 132sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of an archaeological interest were observed and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 22.08.13

28 Abberbury Road, Iffley, Oxford An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 13/142

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 28 Abberbury Road, Iffley, Oxford (SP 5309 0362) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Oliver Jessop, Principal of The Jessop Consultancy, 12 West View, Iffley, Oxford, OX4 4EX on behalf of Mrs Christine Noble, 28 Abberbury Road, Iffley, Oxford, OX4 4ES.

Planning permission (app 13/00279/FUL) has been sought from Oxford City Council for a new dwelling to be erected. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits being damaged or destroyed a field evaluation has been requested by the Council.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Archaeologist with Oxford City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 14th August 2013 and the site code is ARO 13/142. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Abberbury Road, Iffley, which lies on the southern margins of Oxford (Figs 1 and 2). The site is in the rear garden of the property and is bounded by other gardens of residential properties. The underlying geology consisted of Beckley Sand Member (Sand and Calcareous Sandstone) (BGS 1994) and the site lies at a height of c. 84m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project (Jessop 2013). In summary, this area of Iffley village has received limited previous archaeological investigations with only a modest range of sites and finds recorded within the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record. The site does, however, lie within

a broad belt on the southern and eastern margins of Oxford that are noteworthy for the presence of a large number of Roman pottery kilns and associated settlement, with the output from these kilns being widely distributed across southern Britain (Young 1977; Dodd 2003). More local to the site, a Saxon brooch was found within 30m of the site. Such brooches are often found with burials and there is a possibility of the presence of an inhumation cemetery nearby. Test pitting in gardens along Abberbury Road recovered Roman pottery, although no specific archaeological features or deposits were identified. To the south east an archaeological evaluation in and subsequent watching brief at the King of Prussia public house in Rose Hill c.500m to the south-east of the site identified a series of Iron Age ditches followed by later Roman activity in the 2nd–4th centuries AD which included a small Roman kiln or oven.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site.

To determine if there is any evidence for Iron Age activity on the site, if so what is its character and extent?

To determine if there is any evidence for Saxon activity on the site, if so what was its character and extent?

To determine if kilns are present, if so what are their date, size and condition? Can residual pottery indicate which wares are being produced and over what approximate date range?

Two 6m long trenches were to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed new building. These were to be dug using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Both trenches were dug as intended and a complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned east-west and measured 6.0m in length and was 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.24m of topsoil overlying 0.23m of brown clayey subsoil overlying limestone with clay patches natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed nor artefacts recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl, 2)

This trench was aligned north-south and measured 6.20m in length and was 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.32m of brown clayey subsoil overlying limestone with clay patches natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed nor artefacts recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being located on the site none were encountered during the evaluation and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

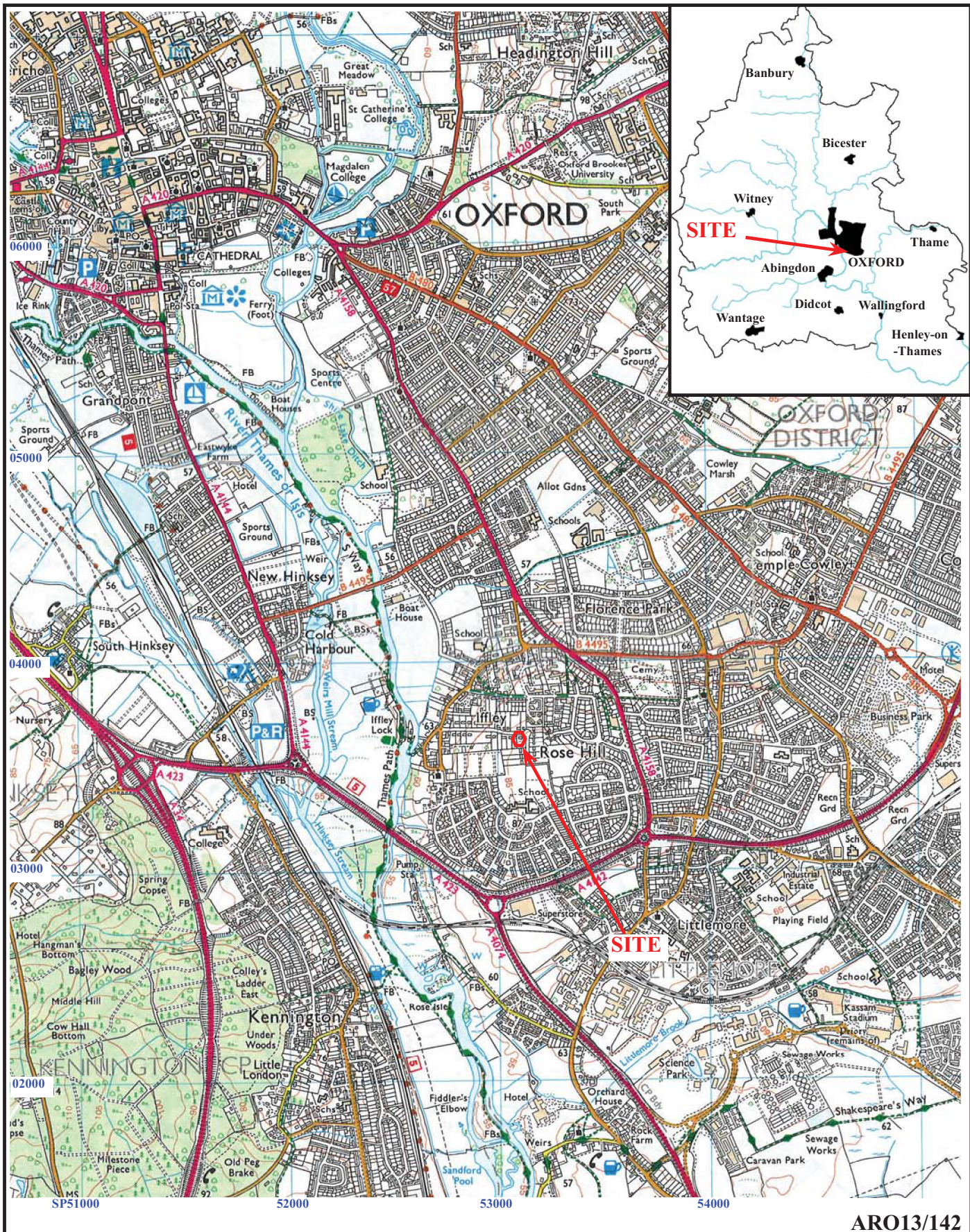
References

- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dodd, A (ed), 2003, *Oxford before the University*, Oxford Archaeol Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **17**, Oxford
- Jessop O, 2013, 28 Abberbury Road, Iffley, Oxford, Tender information pack, Doc No: TJC2013.22, The Jessop Consultancy, Oxford
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Young, C J, 1977, *The Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region*, BAR Brit Ser **43**, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	6.00	1.60	0.51	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.47m brown clayey subsoil; 0.47m-0.51m+ limestone natural geology. Pl. 1
2	6.20	1.60	0.57	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.54m subsoil; 0.54m-0.57m+ limestone natural geology. Pl. 2



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Figure 1. Location of site within Iffley and Oxfordshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Abberbury Road.

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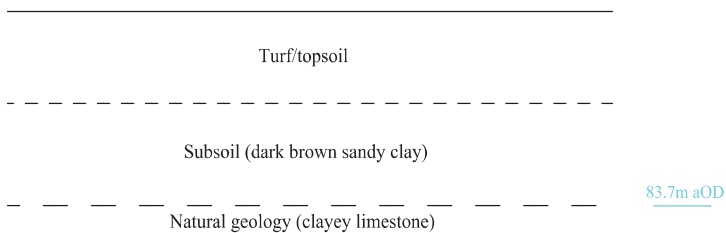
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Figure 3. Location of trenches

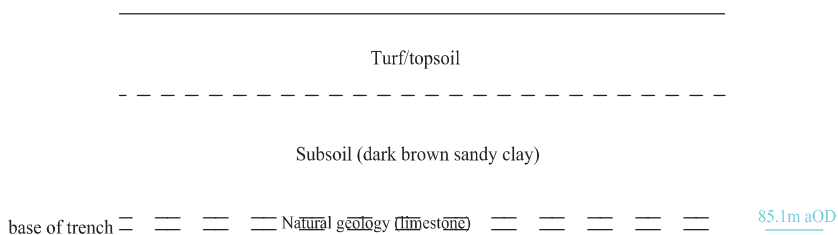


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Trench 1



Trench 2



83.7m aOD

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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east, Scales 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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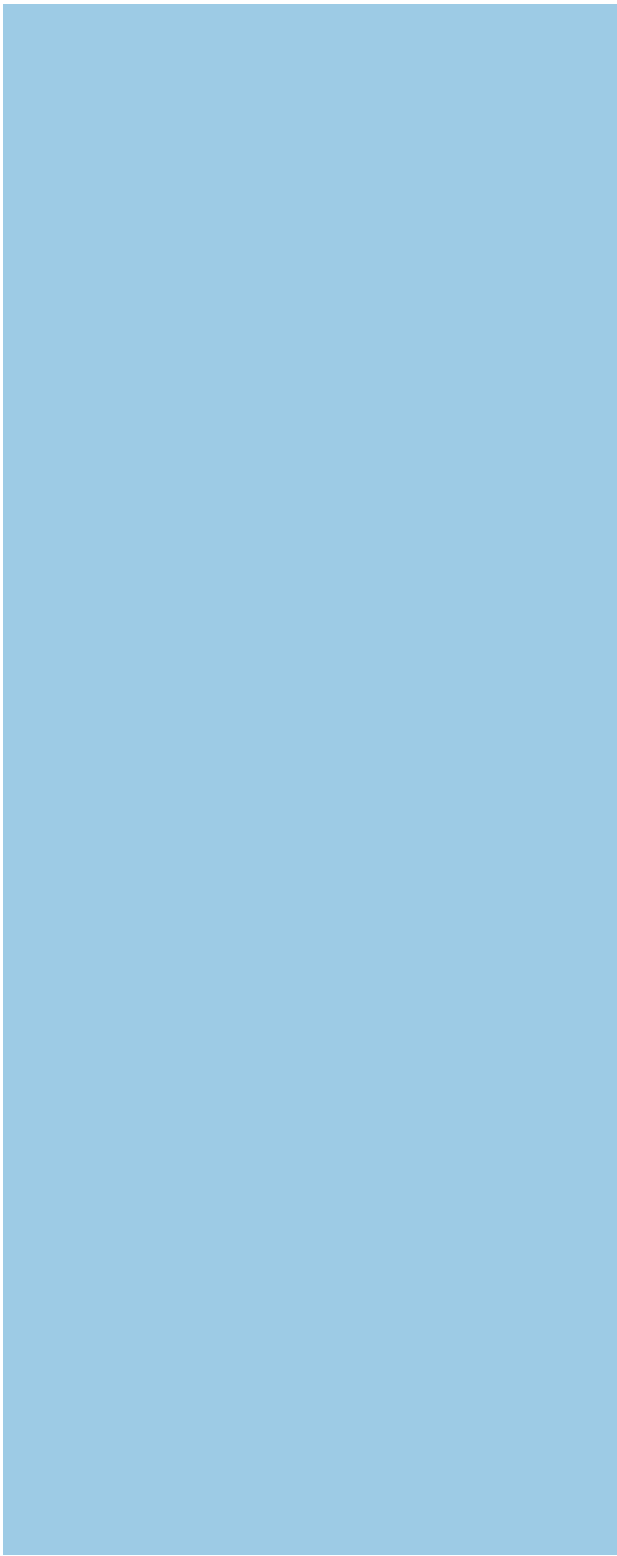
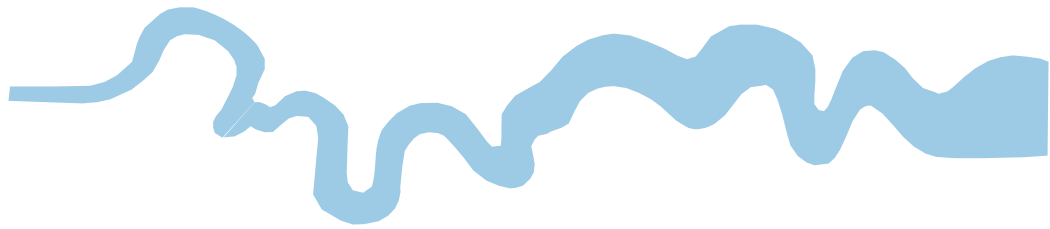
Plates 1 to 2.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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