

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Corner Cottage, 1 Willow Court Lane,
Moulsford, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Site Code: CCM13/225

(SU 5871 8417)

**Corner Cottage, 1 Willow Court Lane,
Moulsford, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Stephen Stewart

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CCM 13/225

October 2014

Summary

Site name: Corner House, 1 Willow Court Lane, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5871 8417

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 7th October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Mundin

Site code: CCM 13/225

Area of site: c.170 sq m

Summary of results: Observations at the site were made during overburden removal and excavation of the new footings. No archaeological deposits were encountered, nor artefacts of any interest observed.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 15.10.14 Steve Preston ✓ 15.10.14

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by Andrew Muddin

Report 13/225

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Corner Cottage, 1 Willow Court Lane, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire, OX10 9HT (SU 5871 8417) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stephen Stewart, undertaking a self-build at the site.

Outline planning permission has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council (P13/S1081/O) for the construction of a replacement house at the site. A 1960s pre-fabricated house has been demolished and any slab or foundation for this had been removed prior to archaeological observation. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features from the new development two planning conditions have been attached to the planning permission requiring an archaeological watching to be maintained during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The specification was approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, and was also monitored by him. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 7th October 2014 and the site code is CCM 13/225.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern edge of Moulsoford, adjacent to Cranford House School (Fig. 2). The house is on the western side of the lane as it turns a sharp corner southwards. The School's tennis courts are situated to the north of the site, with school building on the opposite side of the road. The underlying geology is Lower Chalk which was observed during excavations (BGS 1980). The site is situated at a height of approximately 58m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

This site is located on the edge of the village that has medieval and possibly late Saxon origins though it is not recorded in Domesday Book of AD 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). The local parish church, to the east, has records of existing since the 13th century. Evaluation prior to the establishing of artificial turf pitches at Cranford House School, to the north east uncovered a human grave and a small number of linear features. These features were undated but the grave may represent a continuation of a Roman cemetery identified to the west (Platt 2012a). A recording action during the levelling work for the pitches, uncovered an isolated group of intercutting pits, also of Roman date. One sherd of Saxon pottery was also discovered, of a type rare for this part of Oxfordshire (Platt 2012b). Other recent watching briefs carried out nearby (McNicol-Norbury 2014) and in other parts of the village (Crabb 2014) this year have located no archaeological deposits.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe any archaeological deposits uncovered by excavation at the site, and excavate and record any under immediate threat from the development. This would include areas of ground reduction that may have affected the level of the site prior to an archaeological presence and other excavation for of footings and services trenches. All work was carried out with a 360° mechanical excavator.

Results

The previous house and its shallow foundations had been demolished and removed. The demolition debris and other overburden has been removed but in doing so had exposed the top of the natural geology but it was clear from the surrounding sections, that the northern part of the site had been previously truncated, presumably to form a level platform on which to build (Pls 1 and 2). This truncation was as much as 0.5m at the northern boundary but decreasing to the south where the original surface of the natural geology was observed cutting the stripped surface.

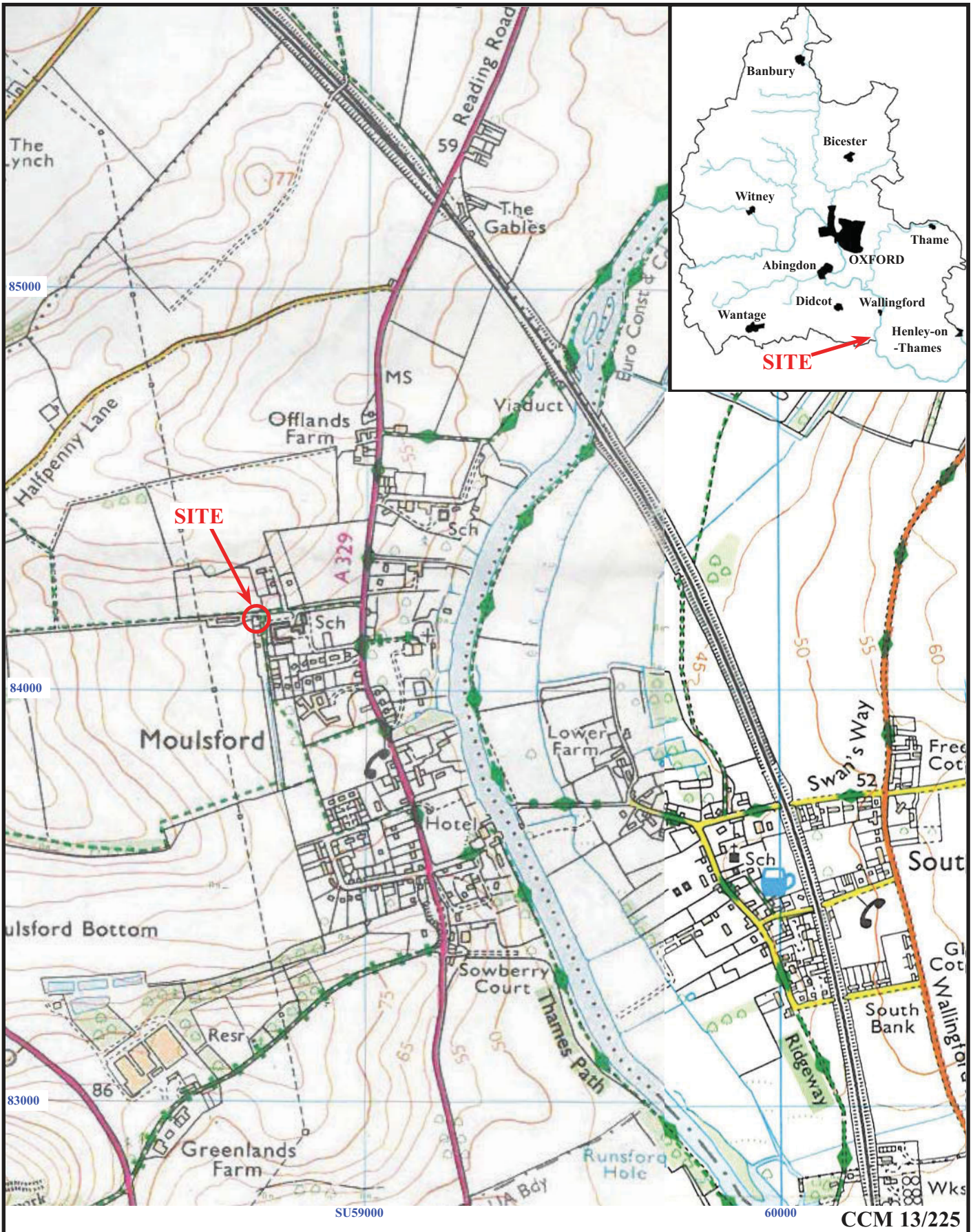
The new footings were excavated from this level through the natural chalk geology. They were 0.6-0.8m wide and c. 0.7m deep (fig.3; Pls 1 and 2). No archaeological deposits were observed in the exposed sections and no finds were recovered from the spoil.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were observed and no artefacts of archaeological interest recovered.

References

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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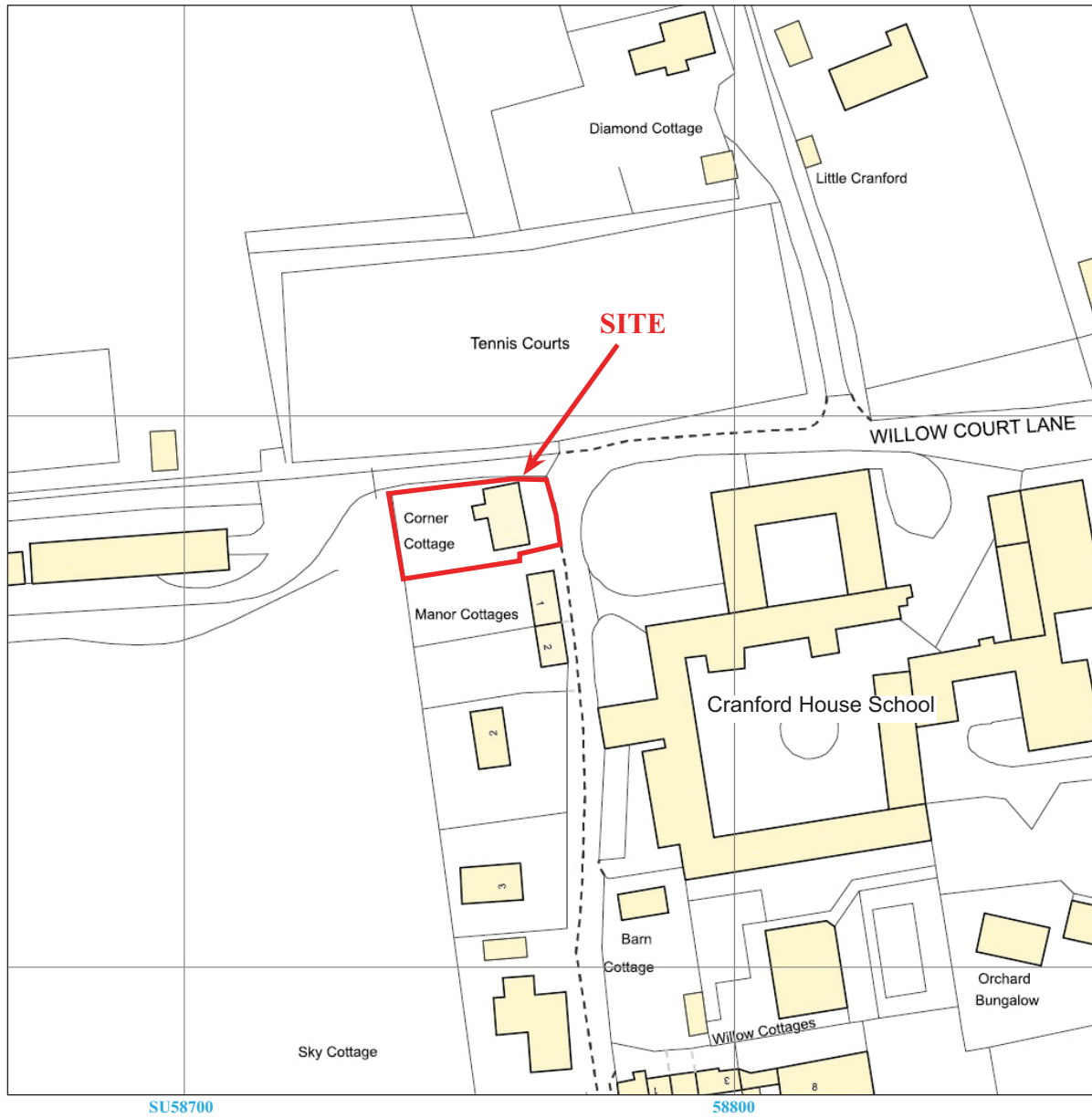
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Figure 1. Location of site within Moulsoford and Oxfordshire

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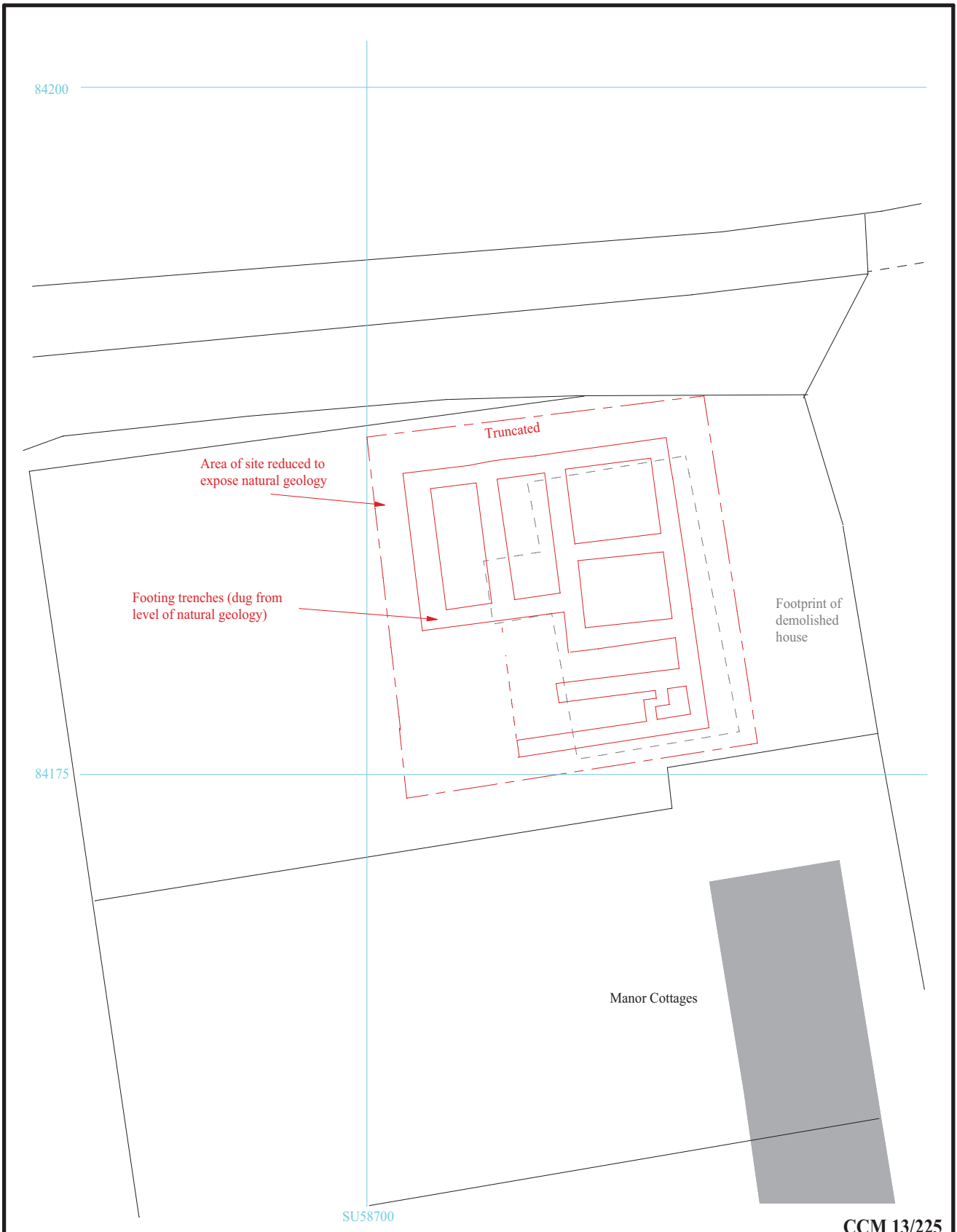
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Willow Court Lane.

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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Plate 1. View over excavated footings, looking south west, Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. View over excavated footing, looking west, Scale: 1m.

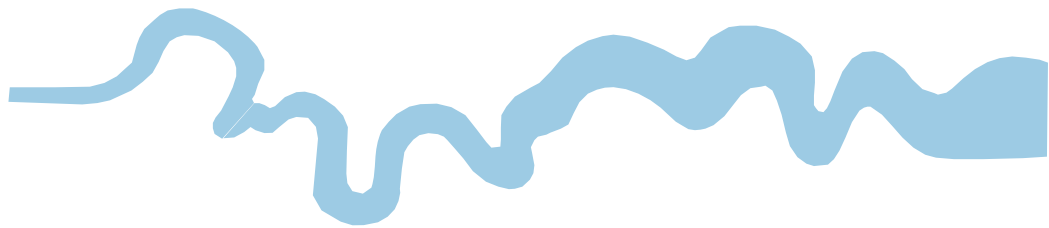
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Oxfordshire, 2014**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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