

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Wolvercote Mill, Mill Road,
Wolvercote, Oxford**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Muddin

Site Code: WMO18/69

(SP 4878 0976)

**Wolvercote Mill, Mill Road,
Wolvercote, Oxford**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for CALA Homes (Chilterns) Ltd**

by Andrew Mordin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WMO18/69

September 2018

Summary

Site name: Wolvercote Mill, Mill Road, Wolvercote, Oxford

Grid reference: SP 4878 0976

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th June to 5th September 2018

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: WMO18/69

Area of site: overall site: 6.9ha

Summary of results: Eight trenches were excavated to add to the results of previous archaeological works in the site. The previous trenches discovered Iron Age and Medieval remains.

For this evaluation a range of features and dated pottery were recorded. A gully was found that contained a fragmentary sherd of late prehistoric pottery. Towards the street frontage of Mill Road, two deposits survived under the original construction fronting the road; one, a ditch of Early Medieval date. Remains of the stone foundations of a likely pre-19th century building were present here, mostly on the same footprint as the recently demolished building. A large pit cutting the gravel to the east of this location contained 19th-century pottery.

Other finds included a single Roman sherd from the silty basal layer of a trench and a handful of other pits were exposed on the gravels on the east of the site but no dating evidence was found.

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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Wolvercote Mill, Mill Road, Wolvercote, Oxford An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Muddin

Report 18/69

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation at the former site of Wolvercote Mill, Mill Road, Lower Wolvercote, Oxford, OX2 8PR (SP 4880 0981) (Fig.1). The works were commissioned by Ms Vikki Roe, for CALA Homes (Chiltern) Ltd, Gemini House, Mercury Park, Woburn Green, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0HH.

Outline planning permission (13/01861/OUT) has been granted by Oxford City Council to redevelop the site, with reserved matters to be finalised(18/00966/RES). A conditions attached to the consent (36), specifies that further archaeological evaluation is required at the site, sampling more of the east side of the site and the Mill Road frontage after demolition of the standing structure.

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a brief provided by the Oxford City Council Archaeologist, Mr David Radford (Radford 2017) and informed by geotechnical investigation and initial archaeological evaluation at the southern end of the site (Mumford 2007) and desk-based assessment (Lucey 2012). There was also the need to investigate the north of the site, due to its inclusion in the proposed development, to inform any mitigation strategy required for this part of the site should archaeological deposits be located here.

The project was managed by Tim Dawson, and the fieldwork undertaken by Andrew Muddin between 7th June and 5th September 2018. The site code is WMO 18/70. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

This large site lies on the north-west side of Oxford City, just within the A34 ring road, but located in the relatively small suburban village of Wolvercote (Fig. 1). Overall, it covers 6.9ha, north of Mill Road in the north western part of Lower Wolvercote (Fig. 2). The river Thames is to the west, with the Wolvercote Mill Stream branching off the river in the north-west and creating the site's western limit. The Mill Stream re-joins the river c.500m to the south and extends to the west boundary of the site in the north-west where the flow of the Mill

Stream and Mill leat, at the northern end, are controlled by a weir and a sluice. The leat-culvert extending into the site under the 20th-century Mill Building is covered by the only surviving floor level of the previous structure (Lucey 2012, 20). The rest of the site was reduced during demolition in 2007. Dense scrub woodland is at the north and overgrowth is covering areas of demolition rubble on the ground surface in the east. The southern half of the site contained the now levelled Mill complex, however the last remaining ancillary buildings, such as the office block fronting Mill Road (Pl. 7), are only now scheduled for demolition. The large rectangular mill pond reservoir in the north-west has now become a wildlife habitat.

The underlying geology is Oxford Clay overlaid by a small pocket of Northmoor Sand and Gravel (1st flood terrace) to the east of the river course, and alluvium to the west (BGS Geindex; BGS 1982). The site is relatively flat in the south, to Mill Road at c.60m above Ordnance Datum, but the site falls slightly at the very north end which is, or has recently been, densely covered with trees. The water courses are slightly lower than the site in the west, but none have embankments, other than the parts near the mill site. The mill pond reservoir is slightly higher than the surrounding site. Large parts of the site are still covered with levelled demolition rubble, and areas of chemical contamination are present in certain areas, as are asbestos and oil contaminants within rubble.

Archaeological background

The potential of the site has been highlighted in the brief (Radford 2017) based on results of the prior evaluation (test pits and evaluation trenches) (Mumford 2007). A second assessment (Lucey 2012) identified the nature and extent of the recorded heritage resource of the site and the environs of Wolvercote village. Both identified remains existing on the site and in the environs that pre-dated the paper mill. Finds in the environs are recorded in the Oxford City's Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) indicate a general potential for early prehistoric deposits of Palaeolithic to Bronze Age date, but with the highest potential of Iron Age features as other sites have been found nearby on the gravel terrace (Lucey 2012). A pit with a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recorded at the site during the previous archaeological evaluation (Mumford 2007).

The proximity of the Scheduled Monument, just to the south of the village comprises a large area of common grazing land known as Port Meadow, and Wolvercote Common adds to the potential of prehistoric deposits at the site, due to extensive remains known from aerial photography and small scale, but targeted excavation (Aktinson 1942). This open landscape on the west side of Oxford, has remained common land from before Enclosure and contains at least thirteen Bronze Age ring ditch earthworks and remains of Iron Age

enclosures. The floodplains and gravel terraces on the east side of the River Thames, and north of the Mill site, also contain other likely settlement sites with Iron Age enclosures and Roman finds (King 2008; Beckley and Radford 2012, 4).

Remains of a silted mill race, mostly likely associated with the 19th century mill site were also found in the previous evaluation (Mumford 2007). There was also a suggestion that the northern frontage of Mill Road would have Medieval potential, based on one pit of Early Medieval date just to the north (Mumford 2007). At the east end of Mill Road are two public houses, Jacobs Inn (Listed as The Red Lion) and The White Hart which are both Grade II Listed and at least 18th-century in date. The doorway of Jacobs Inn is late 15th century (VCH 1990). No. 11 Mill Road was also a public house in 1757 and was once owned by one of the earliest documented millers of Wolvercote Mill, John Beckford. He sold the mill to the John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough in *c.*1700 (VCH 1990). The cottage row, Nos 1-7 Mill Road, is also Grade II Listed (Pl. 8), and of late 18th/early 19th century date. Mill House, at the west end of the road has been greatly altered in the 19th century but seems to have 18th century elements, and could have an earlier core.

A mill was associated with 12th-century Godstow Benedictine Nunnery, some *c.*500m downstream, with a chance that an early reference to a mill at Wolvercote is actually referring to this one at Godstow. Though records do not directly record a mill attached to the village when one was established in 1133 the linking river bridge between Wolvercote and Godstow was present (VCH 1990). Later, there is other documentation of three mills at the site by 1616, all powered by water, with two milling corn and one fulling wool (VCH 1990). Sometimes, the two processes would have been working side by side. In 1720, the mills were converted to the manufacture of paper for the new University Press after it successfully started making a 'rough paper' from 1674 and producing book-suitable paper from 1683 (VCH 1990). Wolvercote 'New' Mill was built by 1889, fully upgraded to steam-power with onsite gas works, furnished with coal from the Oxford Canal linked by the Mill Stream. This was replaced by an even larger building in 1955, with additional storage buildings and offices on the site, which became fully computerized by 1965. The production of paper ended in 1998, due to rising costs, and the main building was demolished in 2004, leaving the weighbridge, security office, the 20th-century office block on the Mill Road boundary, brick bike sheds and a toilet on the south eastern boundary, and a now derelict warehouse unit in the south-west.

Objectives and methodology

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks. This work was intended to provide sufficient information on the further archaeological potential of the site based on the prior evaluation, to permit the drawing up of a mitigation strategy prior to any full planning permission being granted. The work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in-situ* or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full exaction.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to further establish the character and extent of any prehistoric, notably Iron Age, deposits forming settlement;
- to establish the character and extent of any Saxon, Medieval and post-Medieval remains that may occur at the excavation of the street frontage of Mill Road, and its association with Lower Wolvercote; and
- to provide information to support a mitigation strategy;

The high levels of ground contamination across the site, particularly with asbestos, greatly restricted the areas available for investigation. In total, eight trenches were intended to be excavated 20m long, seven of which were targeting gaps between previous trenching on the site (Mumford 2007) to look for further deposits in the east (Fig. 2). A single trench sampled the north Mill Road frontage and additional remediation was undertaken as the footings for the office building were extracted.

Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a JCB or 360°-type excavator. A toothless ditching bucket was to be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief.

Results

All of the excavated trenches were dug as intended. Trenches 1, 2 and 5 were in the proximity of OA Trench 9, and Trenches 6 and 7 covered an area in the south-east of the site, north of OA Trenches 5 and 11 (Fig. 5). Trench 8 was south of OA Trench 7, under the demolished office of the Mill Road frontage (Fig. 6). Trenches 3 and 4 investigated the very northern extent of the site, as this had, until recently, been inaccessible due to tree coverage.

The trenches were between 14.5m and 21m long, and Trenches 1–7 were 1.6m wide while Trench 8 was 2.3m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.8m long and 1.36m deep in the west and 1.4m deep in the east. It was positioned to the east of the intended position (agreed by the City Archaeologist), due the presence of the existing tree line immediately to the west. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of soil and rubble over more extensive compacted rubble comprising concrete and brick debris, with a high proportion of limestone, to a depth of 0.48m deep. Under this was a layer of chalk, which was not continuous at this depth and was thickest (0.11m thick) from the trench's west end to 6m east. At 0.59m deep, the ground was dark brown clay with frequent chalk inclusions and speckling, overlying a brown silty gravel to a depth of 1.02m. These two made ground layers were mostly undated, and only contained ceramic building material (CBM) and chalk fragments. Under these layers was a reddish clayey silt with gravel which lay over the natural gravel. A light grey patch of alluvial silt was at 3m from the NE end of the trench. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig.2, 3 and 4; Pl.1)

This trench was 17.9m long and 1.17m deep. It was aligned SE - NW. The upper stratigraphy in the top 0.48m was mixed rubble which included clinker and brick. Limestone rubble was particularly frequent in the upper levels, to a depth of 0.4m in the NW end of the trench. At 0.48m deep, was a chalk layer that was consistent across its length 0.11m thick. Below this was a 0.36m thick layer of made ground of firm, dark brown silty clay, with brick fragments and one sherd of 'china' pottery. Under this was a similar layer of made ground, a grey brown silt to a depth of 0.94m. This overlay a seemingly original subsoil, a brownish-yellow sandy silt 0.31m thick, over the natural gravel. In the base of the exposed gravel 13.5m from the SW end of the trench, a pit was uncovered (7), cutting the natural gravel at the base of the trench at 1.17m. The pit was roughly circular c.1.5m in diameter, 0.12m deep, but partially under the baulk, and filled with a single deposit (58). No datable finds were recovered from its fill, but one piece of animal bone, though a bulk soil sample contains a high density of charcoal.

Trench 3 (Fig 2)

This trench was 19.2m long and 1.9m deep. It was aligned S–N. The upper stratigraphy was 0.3m of topsoil on the east side slightly impacting the soil embankment to the east and on the west side was compacted stone of the track across this part of the site. This reached a depth of 0.3m and under this was a homogeneous fill of brown silt and reddish silty sand made ground of 20th century origin, containing plastic, metal and modern CBM. At 0.9m deep, was a lower made ground, a dark grey brown silty clay, which also contained more metal and modern CBM. Beneath this to a depth of 1.35m deep was a contaminated layer of rubble and brick within black silt. This overlay alluvial clay at 1.52m deep and then alluvial silt at 1.88m to the base of the trench. Though the alluvium could be of any age, the deposits directly above this are of 20th-century origin.

Trench 4 (Fig.2; Pl.2)

This trench was to the west of Trench 3 on a SW-NE axis at the north end of the site. It was 18.8m long and 1.4m deep. Under 0.22m of topsoil, was a homogeneous made ground, a yellowish silty clay mixed with a brown silt, to a depth of 0.42m, with a second layer of made ground beneath this to a depth of 0.75m, which was a grey brown silt with gravel inclusions. A Codd bottle, missing its neck, was recovered from the rubble in the base of this layer. It is likely from the 19th century.

At 1.03m deep, removal of the made ground exposed an original layer of subsoil, which covered a yellowish silty clay to the natural orangey brown silt above the gravels. No features cut the natural deposits beneath the subsoil, but an abraded sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the silts at the base of the trench: it could have washed in from the river and need not indicate Roman occupation on this site.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2, 3, 4 and 5; Pl.3 and 6)

Trench 5 was aligned perpendicular to the tree-lined boundary in the west, on a W–E axis. It was 18.9m long and 1.25m deep. The trench was devoid of deposits until 5.8m from the west end where a concrete footing from the previous standing structure was aligned perpendicular to the trench. The stratigraphy of this trench showed that beneath rubble to a depth of 0.5m, when the top of the footing had been removed, was a chalk layer, noted only in the west end, 0.03m thick. In the east end of the trench, existing at the same demolition horizon was the remains of either an internal wall line or the top of a pad foundation projected from the south side of the trench. From 0.53m in the east was brown-grey clayey silt made ground. Under this was a brown sandy silt, most likely original subsoil. This overlay yellowish sandy silt natural to 1.25m deep.

Just north of the small concrete foundation in the east was the small remnant of a pit cutting the natural (not excavated), and 0.5m from this was a second larger pit (4), of which only the south half was exposed, with the remainder under the baulk. This pit was 1.63m in diameter, roughly circular and at least 0.24m deep. This was not extended further due to the depth of section exceeding 1.4m. A single pieces of animal bone was recovered from this pit, and a bulk soil sample (1) was taken from the fill but no finds were recovered.

To the west of pit 4 was a 7.3m wide deposit on a N-S axis at the base of the trench. This was investigated in shallow slots on its west (6) and east (5) sides. Slot 6 was filled with grey clayey silt with brick speckling and charcoal (57). It was only excavated to 0.15m deep due to the depth of the trench, and the lack of evident finds. It merged into the edge of the brown silty clay channel on its east side (5, fill 56). Fragments of brick in this fill (56) contained a shallow frog indicating a pre-19th century date. This deposit seems to represent the fill of a drainage channel, which had silted up by the 19th century.

Trench 6 (Fig 2, 3, and 5)

This trench was intended to be 20m long but was shortened to 14.5m dug to a large truncation in the west exposing asbestos and was abandoned during machine excavation. This truncation also extended deeper than the level required for the remainder of the trench. Under the rubble of the demolished building in this location which reached a depth of 0.7m deep, was a brown grey clayey silt made ground. At 1.08m was a original subsoil, an orangey brown sandy silt, over yellow brown silty sand at the base of the trench at 1.1m deep. A gully (3) was recorded on a WSW-ENE axis, filled with a grey brown silty clay (54). The gully was 0.37m wide and 2.87m long, but not excavated.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2, 3, 4 and 5; Pl.5)

Trench 7 was 21m long and 1.1m deep, on a N-S axis, and encountered a number of obstacles during its excavation. At the south end, a gravel-filled drain was encountered on the east side of the trench, with the backfill of a pipe trench exposed in the east section. The top of this was exposed from 0.4m deep and the natural was encountered before the pipe was reached. The natural was also truncated to the south by a large dark brown backfill. The brick chamber for a drainage pipe was reached at c.3m. At this point the trench was stopped and started again 2m past the obstruction. Turf overlay demolition rubble to a depth of 0.38m. Underneath this was a reddish-brown clay made ground to 0.66m and then a loose light orange brown silty clay to 0.94m deep. These all seemed to be deposits of 20th-century date. A subsoil layer was encountered to the base of excavation which was a light brown silty sand. exposing, reddish yellow silty gravel at its base.

At 14.6m from the S end of the trench, was a gas pipe and the trench was stepped again to avoid it. The remaining 5.6m at the north end of the trench were excavated to natural geology depth and encountered two parallel gullies (1 and 2) which extended beyond the west and north-east of the northern end of the trench. Both were shallow and filled with similar fills. Gully 1 was filled with a firm grey silt mottled reddish brown clay (52). It contained no finds. Gully 2 was filled with a grey brown silt mottled with reddish clay (53). One piece of prehistoric pottery was recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2, 3, 4 and 6; Pl. 10, 11 and 12)

Trench 8 was 20.3m long and 2.3m wide. It was orientated W-E and was 0.78m deep. All of the structural remains of the building had gone so the top deposit was a homogeneous deposit of modern brick, metal pipes, ceramic pipe and slate and concrete, to a depth 0.65m. Under this was a grey, reddish-brown silty clay, a remnant of alluvial deposits, to the top of the gravel at 0.78m deep. No finds were in the alluvial deposit. Cutting this deposit, at the east end of the trench, was a stone wall (60). The top of this wall was at 0.45m deep, and was covered by the homogeneous rubble fill. This remnant of *in-situ* wall was not disturbed. This left 3m at the east end of trench high, without exposing the gravel. In the rest of the trench machine excavation continued to the gravel and located two features cutting the natural, a ditch and a pit. The pit (9) remained unexcavated but was only partially exposed and was largely under the south trench section. It was at 0.75m deep, and was filled with a single fill, a reddish brown silty clay (61). No finds were recovered. The part of the north edge exposed was 2.03m long. The ditch (8) at the west end was 0.74m wide and at least 0.35m deep. The profile was not fully exposed, but pottery from the feature is of 11th-century date. The feature ran perpendicular to the trench. It was filled with a reddish, grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded limestone inclusions, and very occasional flecks of charcoal and light red clay (59).

Watching brief on remediation of the Mill Road office footing

The office building at the south of the site was demolished and evaluation and remediation work was undertaken at this location. The demolition had removed the structure and taken the level to the top of the road and the foundations remained *in-situ*. Prior to the excavation of Trench 8, the footings were removed under supervision. First, a trench down the inside of the eastern outer wall was dug to the top of the natural horizon. This was reached at 1.2m deep, and it was observed that the old footing ended at 0.9m. At the south end of this excavation, a large pit was partially exposed when all the overburden had been removed and exposed the top of

the natural silty clay, covering the gravel. This pit (11) was at least 1.4m N-S and 0.9m E-W with a curved edge at the top to the SW. The base of this feature was not exposed and the finds recovered are only indicative of the top deposit. Pottery and a clay pipe stem were recovered, indicating a date broadly of 19th century.

Throughout the remainder of excavation of the footing natural gravel was not reached. The footings were 0.9m deep, in general, removing concrete footing and brick and the supporting steel and concrete frame. Parts of a different foundation were observed and measured (Fig. 6; marked as the hatched black parts of the general red hatched excavated course). The part on the north was not visible at the top of excavation, but noted at a depth of 0.4m deep. The portion on the south-west corner was from the top of the foundation course to a depth of 0.8m deep. It measured 3m long from the SW corner and 6.5m, north from the SW corner. A single layer slate, damp course was at the same height as the adjoining brick foundation. On the south side *c.*1.8m from the SW corner, a stone footing was perpendicular to the overlying brick footing. This footing was of stone, with only overburden above, with the top to a depth of 0.45m deep. This previous building would be as wide north to south as the previous structure (*c.*8m), but the office building was required to be longer by about a third, and so therefore the east end wall of the building was buried by the newer construction.

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The evaluation produced a very small assemblage of 18 sherds of pottery weighing 138g. The pottery is in mixed condition with an overall average sherd weight of 8.6g. The assemblage comprises wares dating from the later prehistoric (1 sherd), Roman (1 sherd) and medieval (7 sherds) periods to the Post-Medieval period.

Trench 4 sub/natural base: One 10g bodysherd of hard, white, sandy ware with ill-sorted quartz sand, probably Roman Oxfordshire white ware.

Trench 7 gully 2 (53): Three small bodysherds (totalling 3g) of handmade ware probably from the same vessel. Fine-medium sandy fabric with occasional larger quartz grains and rare flint. Later prehistoric.

Trench 8, ditch 8 (59): This group comprised four bodysherds and one sagged base-herd (25g in total) from a plain sandy ware jar, and one bodysherd and one base-herd in Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware also from plain jar(s) (14g). The sherds are characteristic of the medieval period in this area, with a date range of 11th-13th century.

Seven sherds of Post-Medieval pottery were recovered, from Pit 11 and the overburden of Trenches 2 and 3. One sherd recovered from the made ground in Trench 3 was part of a white stoneware 'Coopers, Oxford', marmalade jar of later 19th-century date. From homogeneous overburden in Trench 2 was a small portion of generic 19th-century transfer-printed, blue stamped, white glazed plate. Five sherds from pit 11 (62) are also generic 19th-century blue and white transfer-printed wares.

Glassware by Danielle Milbank

Two glass bottles were recovered during the evaluation, from Trench 4 (0.9m from west end and 0.95m deep in section), and from the remediation works on the Mill Road footing. The example from Trench 4 was an incomplete Codd bottle, usually used to contain mineral water or carbonated drinks, marked 'NORTH & CO LTD, OXFORD'. The neck is broken, but the embossed part of the bottle with its base is complete. The base is marked with 'N' in a Romanised script, with 'K & S Co' on the inside step of the base. The company is a local manufacturer and was active in the 1890s. The second bottle is also from a local manufacturer 'JONES BROTHERS, OXFORD' marked with an embossed trademark of stylised 8-man rowing boat. It is in excellent condition and the opposite side of the body, towards the base is marked 'A. Alexander & Co, Leeds and London'. It has a stylised 'B' on the base, with '313'. This bottle could be of 1870s date.

Clay tobacco pipe

A single stem of clay pipe was recovered from the top of Pit 11. It is 40mm long, 7mm wide with a bore diameter of 3mm. It is likely to be a broadly 19th century example.

Ceramic Building material by Danielle Milbank

A number of contexts contained brick, and indicated demolition of various phases structure on the site from the 19th and the 20th centuries. A single piece of brick or tile was recovered from the Sample 1, taken from pit 4 (55). It is of a sandy, slightly friable fabric with an orange red colour and is of insufficient size to be dated. A brick recorded from the same trench, but from Channel 5 was deemed to pre-date the 19th century, as it had been made by hand and had a shallow frog.

Macrobotanical remains by Joanna Pine

Two samples were processed from deposits encountered during the evaluation, Sample 1 from pit 4 (55) in Trench 5 and Sample 2 from pit 7 (55) in Trench 7. The samples were wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The

flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnification of x10. Both samples contained charcoal but not large enough to identify species. No charred plant macrofossils were present.

Conclusion

The evaluation has been successful in identifying further features cutting the natural geology on the east side of the site. Most of the remains were identified under thick layers of made ground and demolition rubble of 20th century date.

The north of the site was sampled with two trenches which revealed no buried remains other than substantial layering of 19th century dump deposits to raise the ground level. The eastern, central part of the site, where the Iron Age pit was previously found, has yielded more features cutting the gravel but they are extremely poorly dated. They did contain a high portion of charcoal in their fill. No datable material was recovered. A silted channel located in Trench 5 and possibly related to that in Trench 3 seems to be relatively recent, most likely part of north-south wide drainage channel shown on the maps of 1765, 1876, which had widened on the 1889 map. The only possible feature of prehistoric date was gully 2 in Trench 7. One very fragmentary piece of pottery was recovered as dating evidence.

. Another cut feature in Trench 8, this time a ditch, has been dated as Medieval and is close to the location of medieval pit found in the previous evaluation (Mumford, 2007; Tr 7). Two other features at this location again showed a similar potential for archaeological features cutting the gravel. These, however, are likely to be 19th century or later.

The stone constructs of the previous office seem an oddity. The previously extant structure of brick seems to have reused parts of the underlying 18th-century foundation. There appears to be modification of the roof line of the building (Pl. 7) suggesting an existing structure being incorporated up to first floor level at the north-east end. This construction also seems strange in the later 20th-century if the main mill complex is brick, unless here is some form of stipulation placed on the building requiring it to have a complementary setting to the surrounding buildings on Mill Road.

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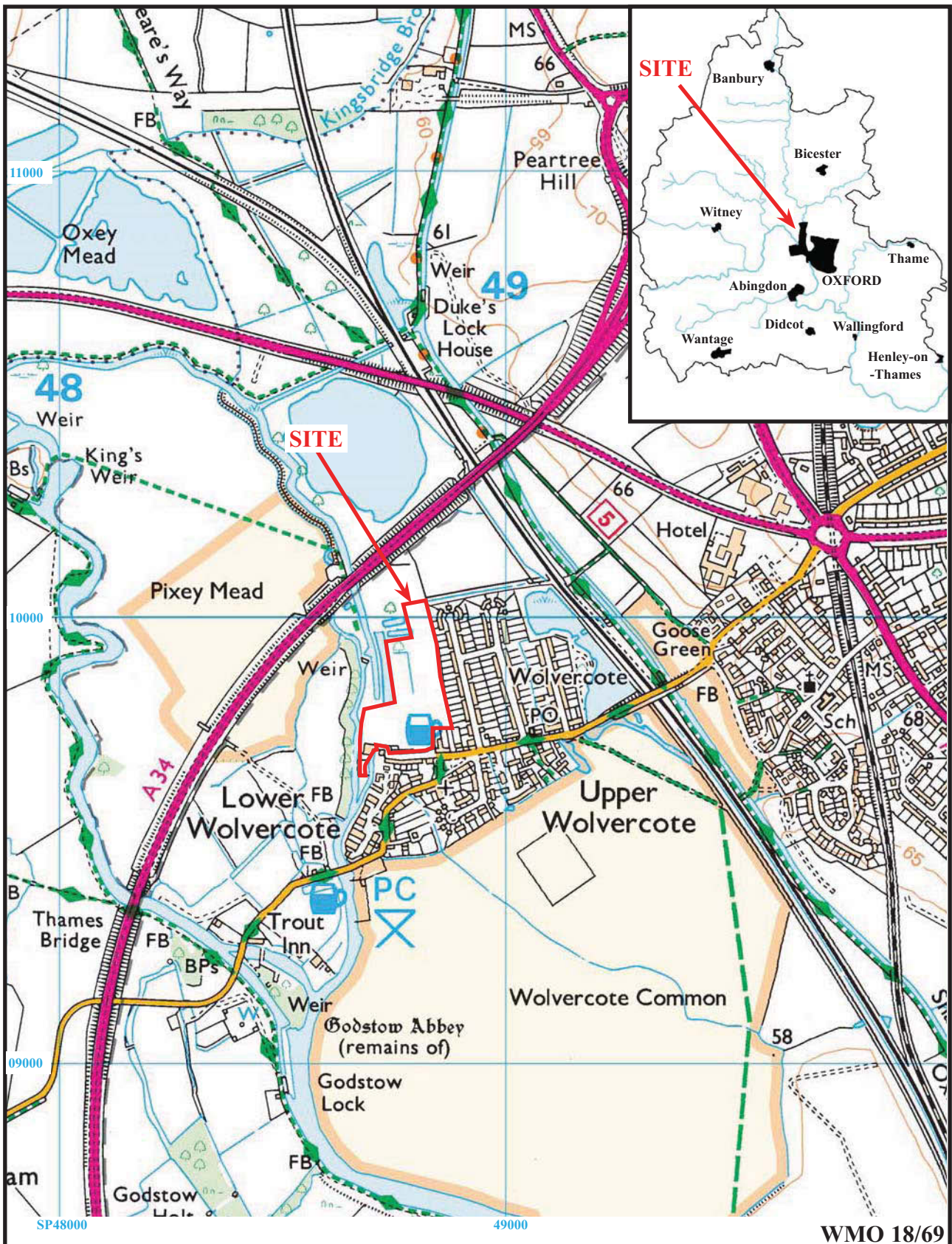
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at W, SW or SE end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	20.8	1.6	W = 1.36 E = 1.4	0-0.15m soil and rubble, 0.15-0.48m demolition rubble and concrete, 0.48-0.59m chalk layer, 0.59-0.64m dark brown clay with gravel, 0.64-1.02m brown silty clay with gravel (made ground), 1.02-1.36m reddish brown clayey silt with gravel, 1.36m+ brown silts and gravel.
2	17.9	1.6	1.17	0-0.18m soil and rubble, 0.18-0.39m demolished brick with clinker, stone in sand, 0.39-0.48m chalk layer, 0.48-0.84m firm dark brown silty clay with brick (made ground), 0.84-0.94m grey brown silt (buried subsoil), 0.94-1.17m reddish brown sandy silt, 1.17m+ light brown sandy silt with gravel (drift geology). Pit 7.
3	19.2	1.6	1.9	0-0.3m soil and hardcore (for track), 0.3-0.9m homogeneous brown silt and reddish silty sand (made ground), 0.9-1.35m dark grey brown silty clay (made ground), 1.35-1.52m metal and brick debris is dark black/brown silt (contaminated soil), 1.52-1.88m alluvial clay, 1.88-1.9m alluvial silt, 1.9m+ alluvial drainage silts.
4	18.8	1.6	1.4	0-0.22m brown grey sandy silt (topsoil), 0.22-0.42m homogeneous yellow silty clay and brown silt (made ground), 0.42-0.75m homogeneous rounded gravel with grey brown silt (made ground), 0.75-1.03m homogeneous soil grey brown silt with ash patches and charcoal (made ground), 1.03-1.2m yellowish silty clay (subsoil), 1.2-1.4m reddish brown clayey silt with gravel, 1.4m+ brown silts and gravel.
5	18.9	1.6	1.25	0-0.17m soil and rubble, 0.17-0.5m demolition rubble (stone and brick containing clinker), 0.5-0.53m chalk layer, 0.53-0.94m brown-grey clayey silt (made ground), 0.94-1.25m brown silty sand (subsoil), 1.25m+ light brown silty sand. Standing concrete foundations. Pit 4 and unexcavated pit [Pl. 6] .
6	14.5	1.6	1.25	0-0.14m turf, 0.14-0.7m demolition rubble (concrete and slate), 0.7-1.08m brown grey clay (made ground), 1.08-1.25m brown grey clay (made ground), 1.25m+ light brown sandy silt (drift geology). Gully 3 and larger deep pit (modern truncation)..
7	21.0	1.6	1.1	0-0.12m turf, 0.12-0.38m demolition rubble and chalk, 0.38-0.66m reddish brown clay (made ground), 0.66-0.94m light reddish brown silty clay (subsoil), 0.94-1.1m light brown silty sand, 1.1m+ light grey silty sand with gravel. Gullies 1 and 2. [Pl.5]
8	20.3	2.3	0.78	0-0.65m homogeneous made ground, 0.65-0.78m grey-reddish brown silty clay (alluvial clay), 0.78m+ natural gravel. Ditch 8, Pit 9 and wall 60 in cut 10 [Pl.11 and 12] .

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
7	1	52	Gully	Late Prehistoric?	Parallel relation to gully 2.
7	2	53	Gully	Later prehistoric	pottery sherd
6	3	54	Gully	?	-
5	4	55	Pit	-	-
5	5	56	Ditch/channel	19th century or earlier	brick
5	6	57	Channel	Pre-19th century	-
2	7	58	Pit	-	-
8	8	59	Ditch	Early Medieval	pottery
8	9	61	Pit	-	-
8	10	60	Wall	19th century	Structural relation
WB	11	62	Pit	19th century	clay pipe stems



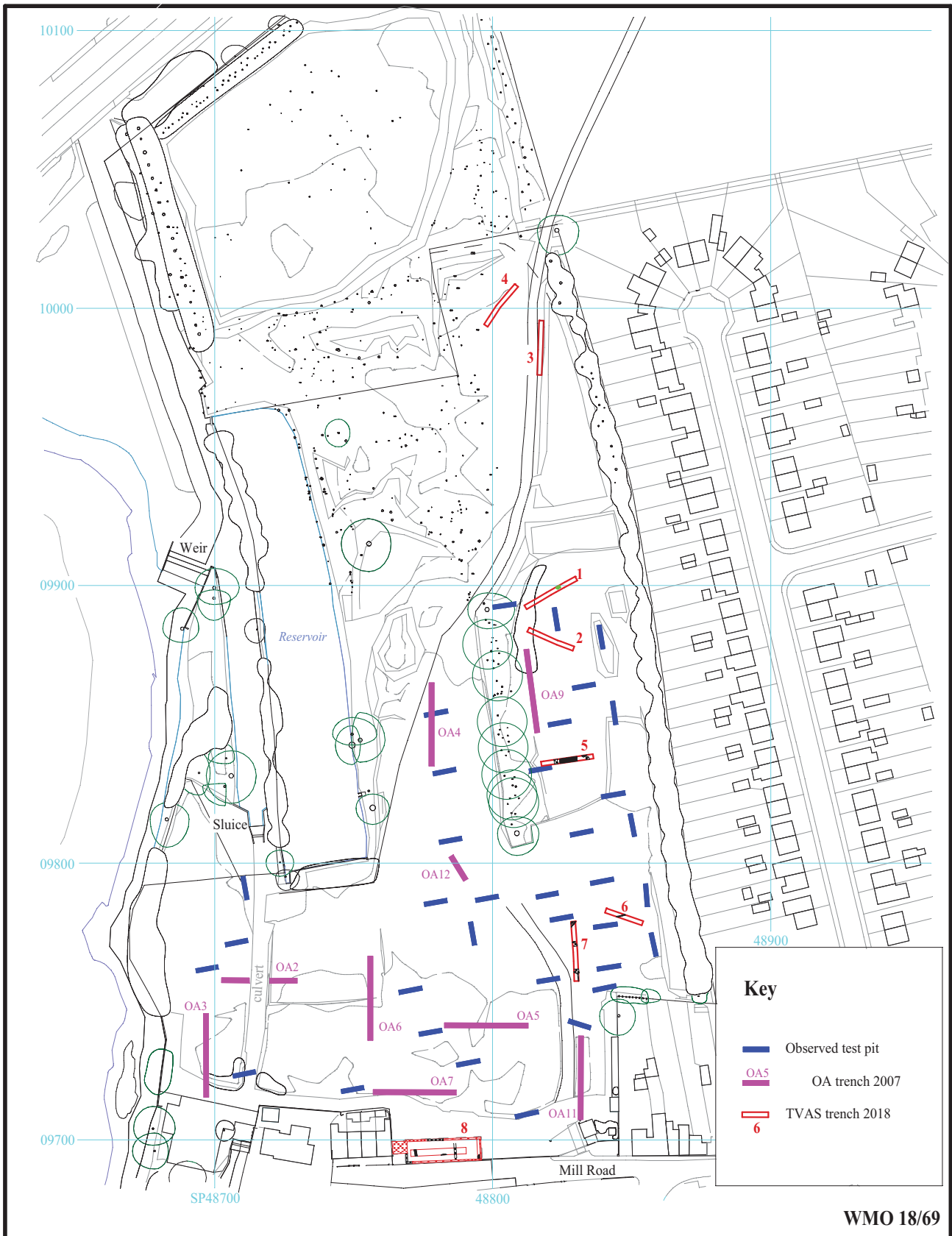
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Wolvercote and Oxford.

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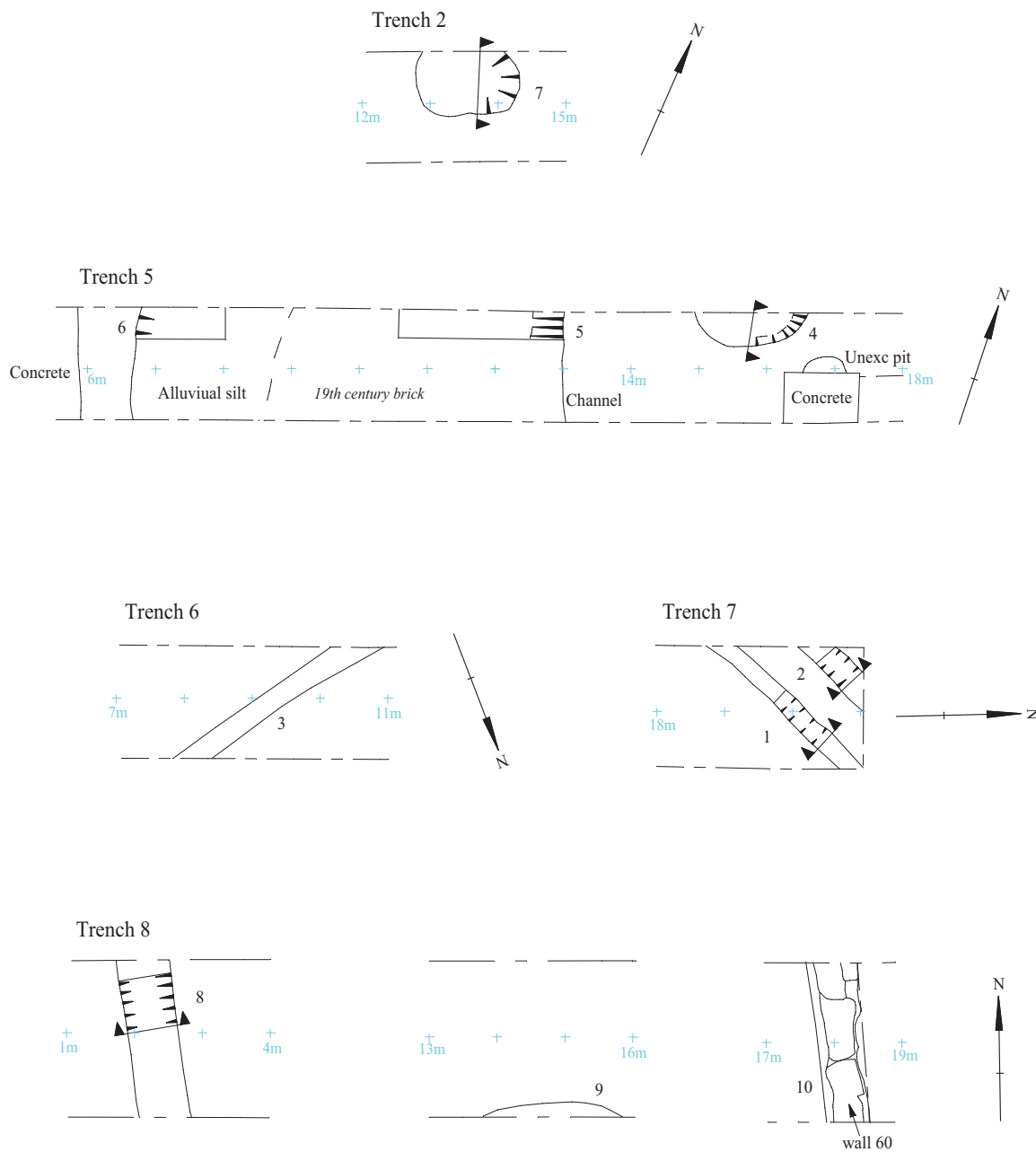
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Figure 2. Location of trenches, showing all archaeological trenching.



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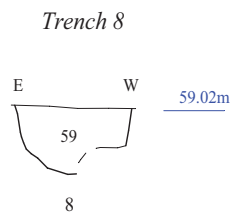
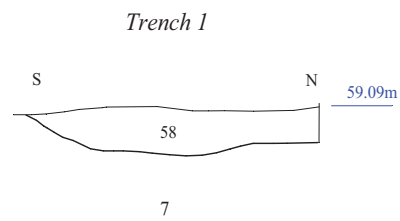
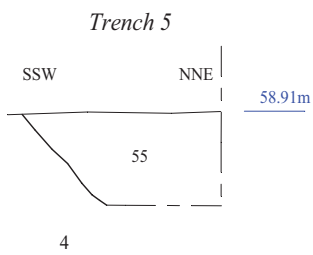
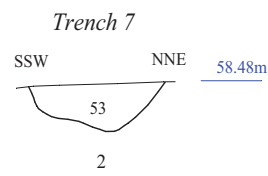
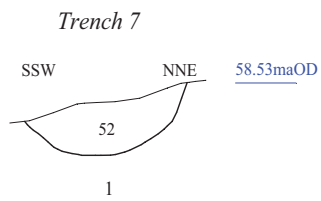


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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.





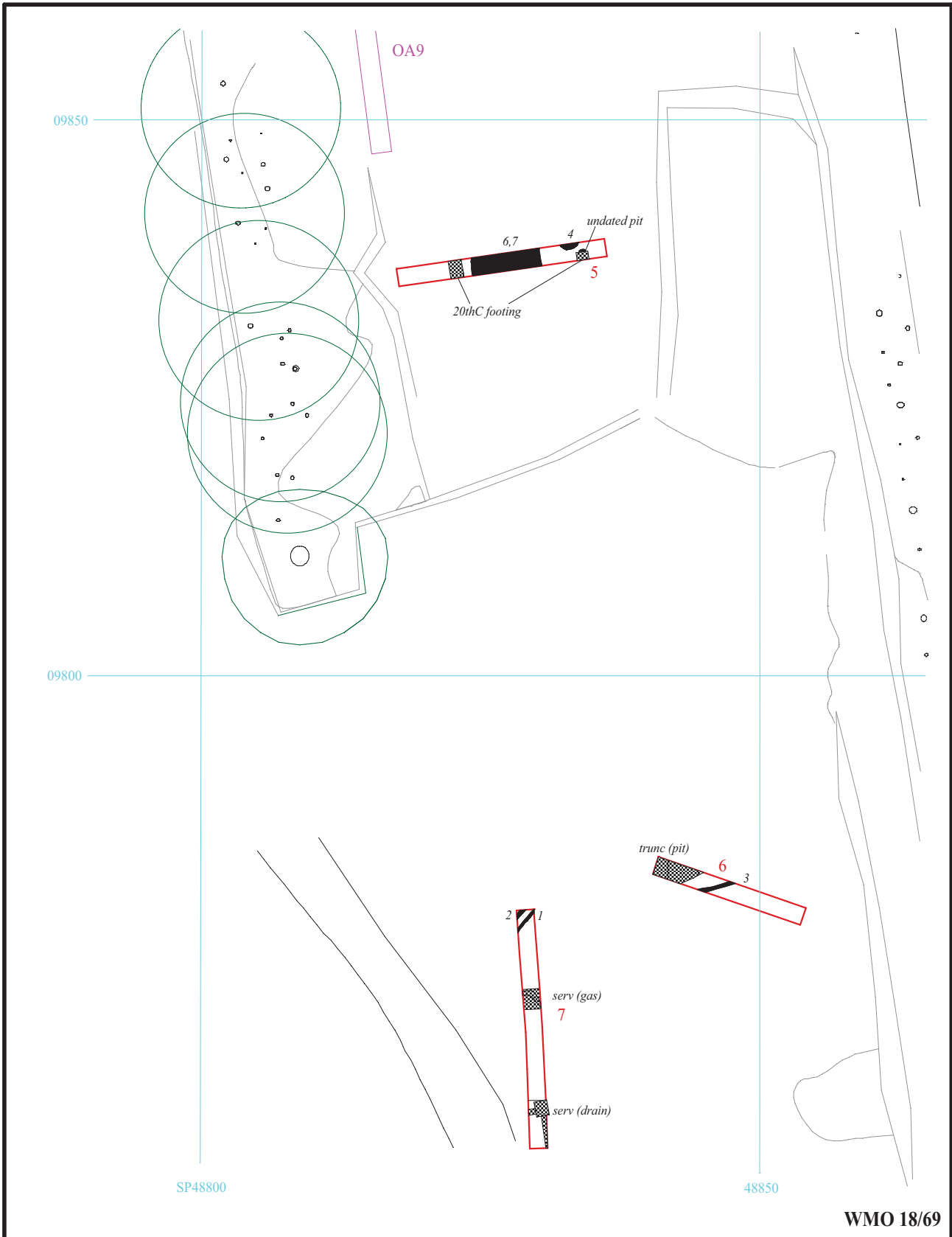
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Figure 4. Sections.



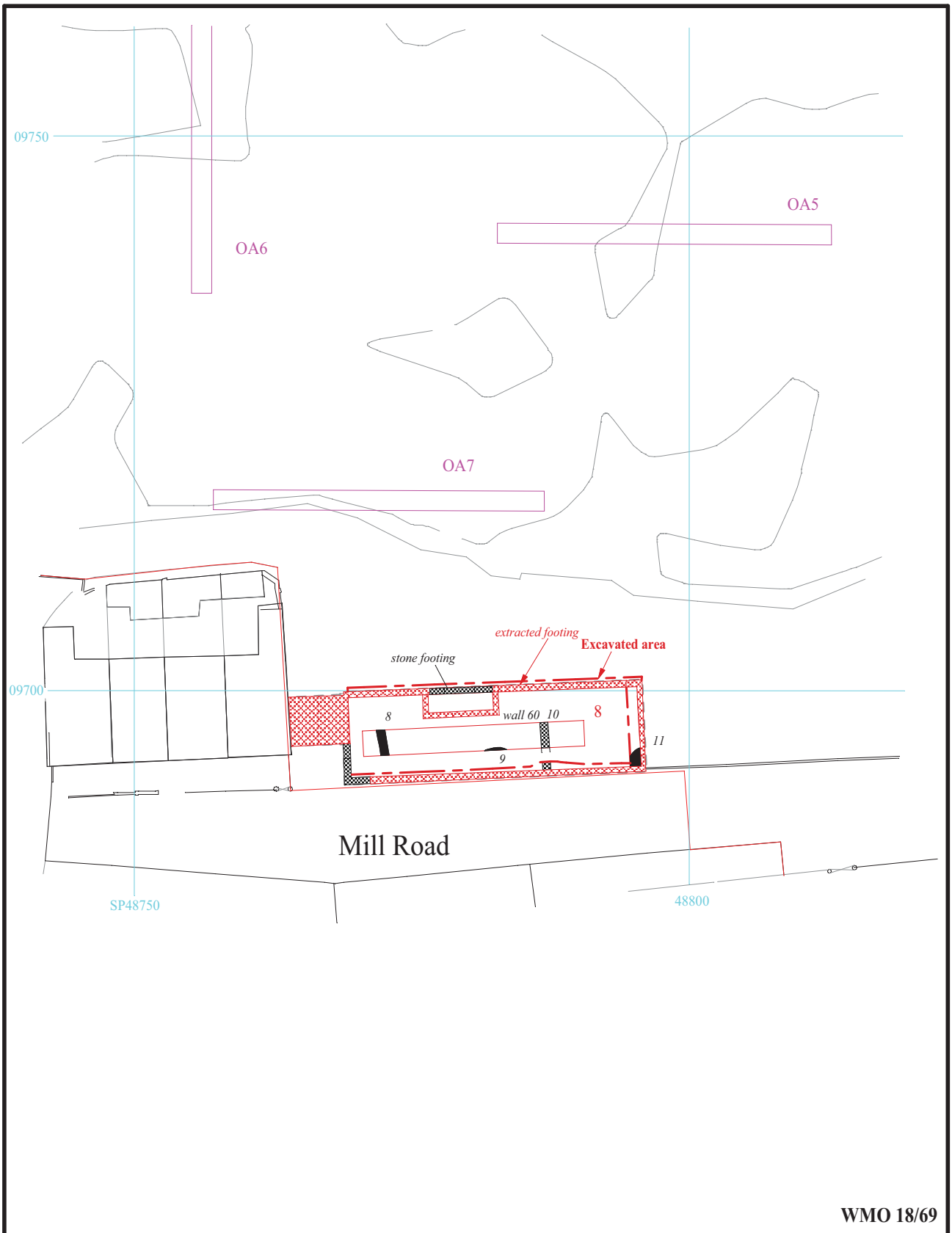
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Figure 5. Location of features on east of site (Trenches 5, 6 and 7).

0 25m



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Figure 6. Location of observation at Trench 8.



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Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 1m and 0.3m; vertical 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 4 trench section, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 1m; vertical 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 1m and 0.3m; vertical 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, looking south, Scales: horizontal 1m and 0.3m; vertical 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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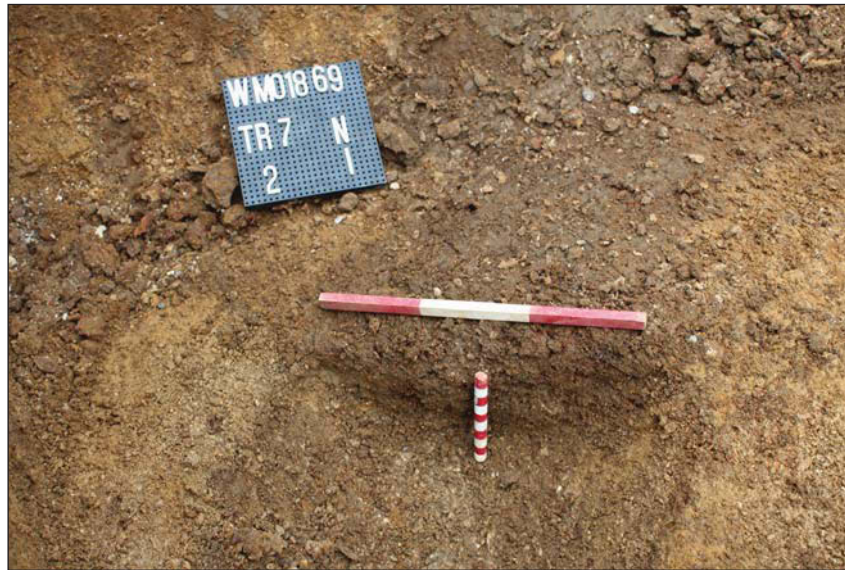


Plate 5. Trench7, gully 2, looking north north east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Trench 5, pit 4, looking west, Scales: 0.2m and 0.3m.

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Plates 5 and 6.**

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Plate 7. Office block fronting Mill Road, looking east north east.



Plate 8. Grade II Listed cottage row (No.1-7 Mill Road), looking east.

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Plates 7 and 8.**

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Plate 9. Location of office block after demolition to foundation, looking west.



Plate 10. Trench 8, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2x1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 9 and 10.**

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Plate 11. Trench 8, ditch 8, looking south, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 12. Trench 8, wall 60 contained in cut 10, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 11 and 12.

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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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

***Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***