

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Garages adjacent to 2 Jeune Street,
Oxford**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Lewis

Site Code: JSO09/101

(SP5220 0580)

Garages adjacent to 2 Jeune Street, Oxford

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Sanne Group**

by James Lewis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code JSO 09/101

January 2011

Summary

Site name: Garages adjacent to 2 Jeune Street, Oxford.

Grid reference: SP5255 0598

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th January 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James Lewis

Site code: JSO 09/101

Area of site: c. 280 sq m

Summary of results: A single gully of medieval date was found

Monuments identified: Medieval gully

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 10.01.11
	Steve Preston ✓ 10.01.11

Garages adjacent to 2 Jeune Street, Oxford. An Archaeological Evaluation

by James Lewis

Report 09/101

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at garages adjacent to Jeune Street, Oxford (SP5255 0598) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Damon Ball of West Waddy ADP, The Malthouse, 60 East Street, Helen Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 5EB on behalf of Sanne Group, 13 Castle Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE4 5UT.

Planning permission (08/02721/FUL) has been obtained from Oxford City Council for the construction of new housing on the site. The site is situated in an area which is thought to be the location for the 10th-century Danish settlement. Latterly it appears to have been used as gardens for a range of buildings which might date from the 17th century (Radford 2009). Due to the potential for archaeological deposits being present on the site a condition (11) relating to archaeology has been attached to the planning consent. This requires a programme of archaeological field work to be carried out prior to development. As a first stage of the field work an archaeological evaluation has been requested in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and if so, a second stage of fieldwork (excavation) would be implemented so as to mitigate the impact from the development.

This was in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990) (since superseded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010)), and Oxford City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Oxford City Council Archaeologist, and based on a project brief provided by him (Radford 2009). The fieldwork was undertaken by James Lewis on the 5th of January 2011 and the site code is JSO 09/101. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south-west of the centre of Oxford in the parish of St Clements. The site fronts Jeune Street which connects the main Headington and Cowley roads and surrounding the rest of the site is residential

housing. It is presently occupied by disused garages with a concreted yard in between (Fig. 2). Approximately 400m west is Magdalen Bridge which spans the River Cherwell which flows into the River Thames 1km south-west of the site. The site lies in the valley of the River Cherwell. The underlying geology is Oxford Clay (BGS 1982) and the site is at 61m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the former parish of St Clements which, until its sudden expansion in the 1820s, was a small suburb of the city of Oxford. The origins of the parish are poorly understood, but the popularity of the cult of martyr-pope St Clement is thought to be connected to Danish settlement in the area (Crawford 2008). A number of finds were recovered during dredging close to Magdalen Bridge in 1884 which have been dated to the 10th or 11th centuries, and appear to be similar to Viking finds from elsewhere. It has also been suggested that there was a Viking burial on the site of Magdalen Bridge (Blair and Crawford 1997). Parts of St Clements were badly damaged during the Civil War, when it was unfortunately positioned between Royalist and Parliamentary lines. Projected Royalist defences have been noted about 150m east of the site. The current site is located within the former tenement boundaries of St Clements, and it is possible that the remains of backyard activity could help to characterize and date the expansion of settlement in the parish in the post-medieval period or earlier. A medieval carved stone head, thought to be part of an architectural structure, was found during an excavation on the north side of St Clements in 1912 (Radford 2009).

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. The specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels have survived;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits relating to Saxon or Danish settlement of the area are present;
- to determine if any deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval suburb are present; and
- to determine if any Civil War deposits are present.

Originally two 6m long trenches were intended to be dug however due to the presence of services and lack of space a single 11m trench was excavated. This change was carried out with the consent of Mr David Radford. The trench was excavated under constant archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket

down to the natural geology or until archaeological features were encountered. All spoilheaps were monitored for artefacts and metal detected.

Results

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4 and Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned NE-SW and measured 11m long, 1.6m wide and between 1.23m at the NE end down to 1.4m at the SW end. The stratigraphy consisted of concrete (50), 0.2m thick above 0.43m thick of subsoil (51); underneath this was light brown silty clay (52), 0.2m thick in which were found two clay tobacco pipe stems (not retained) and below this was compact brown clay (53), 0.4m thick, from which animal bone was noted (not retained). Underneath the latter located towards the north-east end of the trench was a shallow NW–SE aligned gully (1), which was 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a single light brown clay fill (54) in which was found animal bone, tile and pottery dating from the 12th–13th centuries AD.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised five sherds with a total weight of 13g. It all occurred in a single context, (gully fill 54), and dates to the late 12th – early 13th century. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075–1350. 2 sherds, 8g.

OXAW: Early Brill Coarseware, late 12th to 13th century. 3 sherds, 5g

The fabrics are typical finds in the Oxford region. The sherds are all in fairly good condition, and appear reliably stratified.

Tile

A single fragment of tile (65g) was recovered from gully 1 (54). The tile retained traces of green glaze on one surface.

Animal Bone

Eleven fragments (276g) of animal cattle-sized animal bone was recovered from gully 1 (54).

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a single archaeological feature on the site, a gully dating to Medieval times. The gully appears to lie parallel to Jeune Street, only some 7m back from the current road. It is presumably a boundary feature but in what context, is unclear.

References

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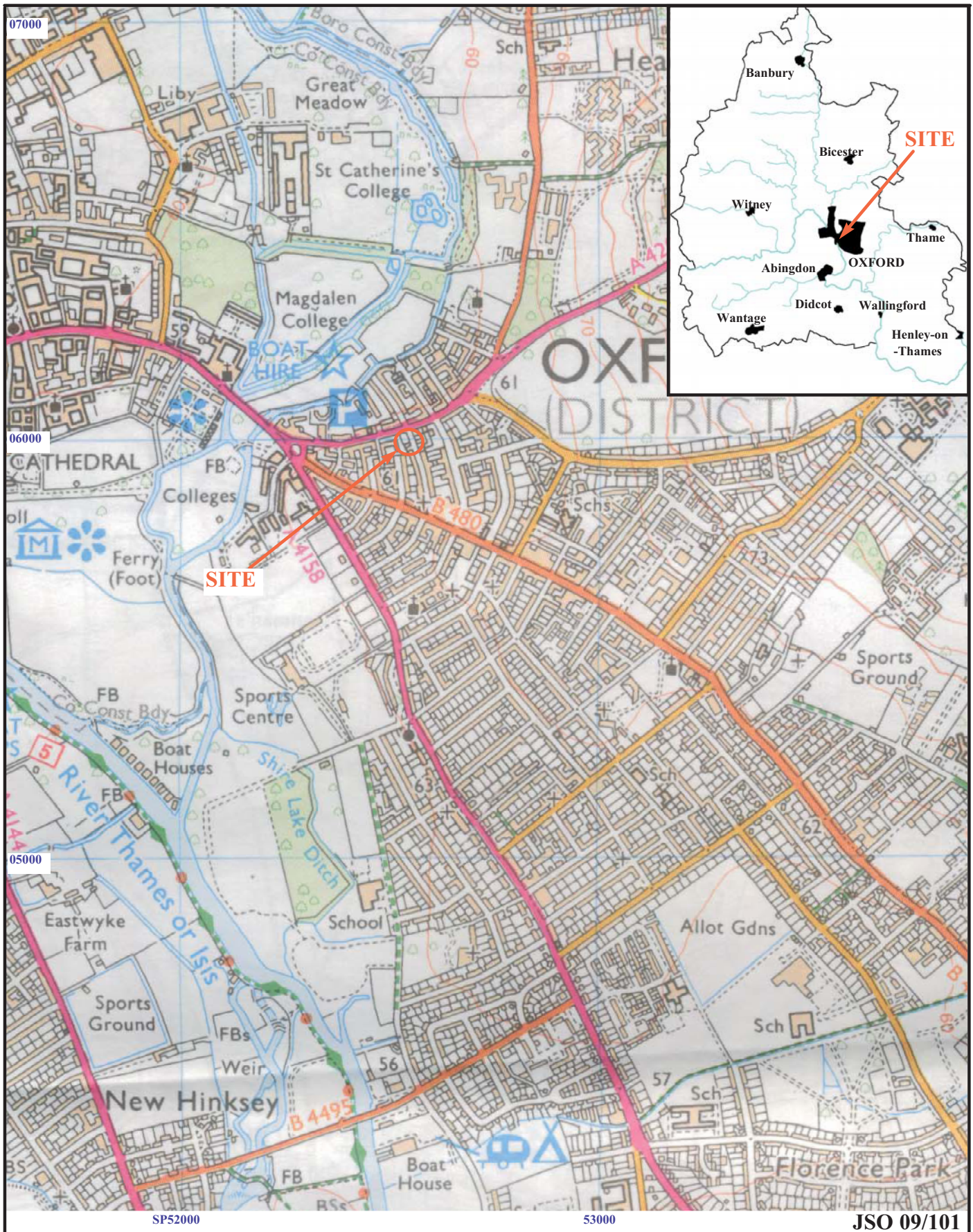
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southwest end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	11	1.6	1.23-1.4	0-0.2m concrete; 0.2-0.63m subsoil; 0.63-0.83m light brown clay; 0.83-1.23m brown clay; 1.23m+ natural geology, Oxford Clay. Gully 1. [Pl. 1]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	54	gully	Early Medieval	pottery



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Figure 1. Location of site within Oxford and Oxfordshire.

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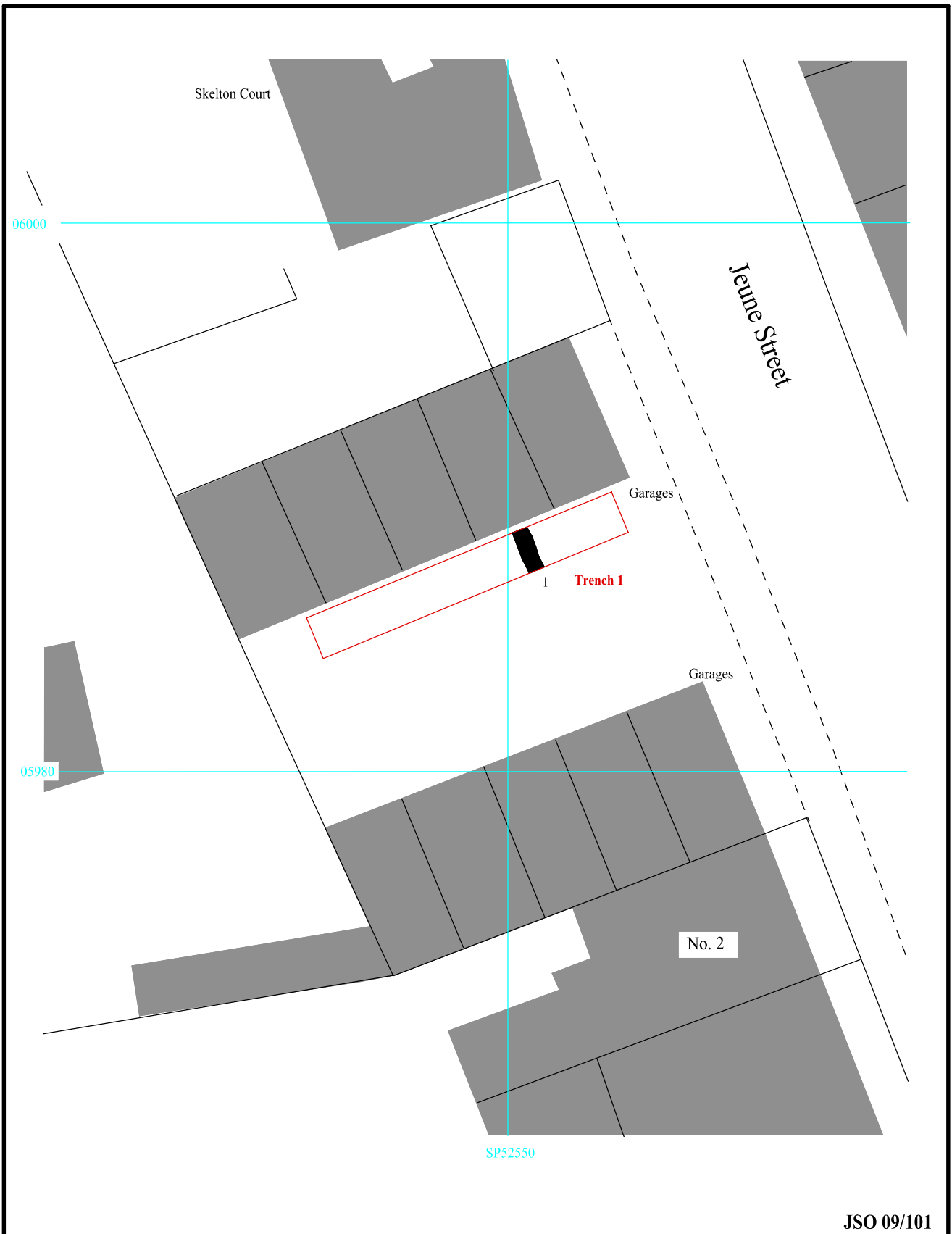


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Jeune Street.

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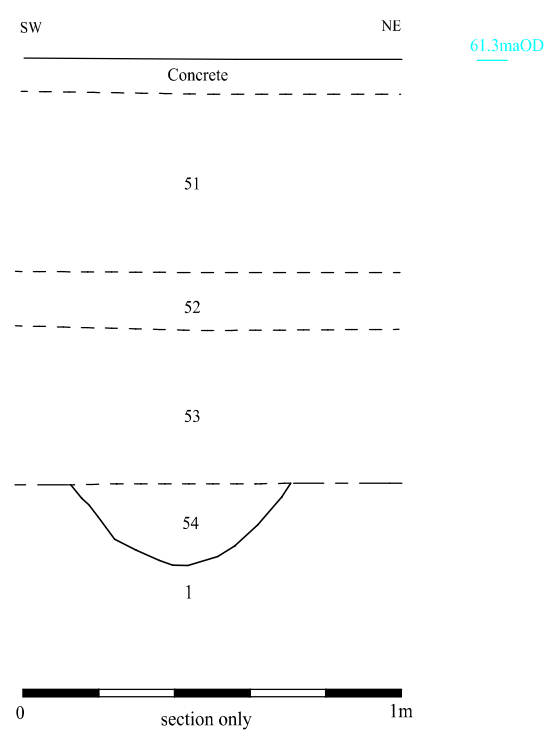
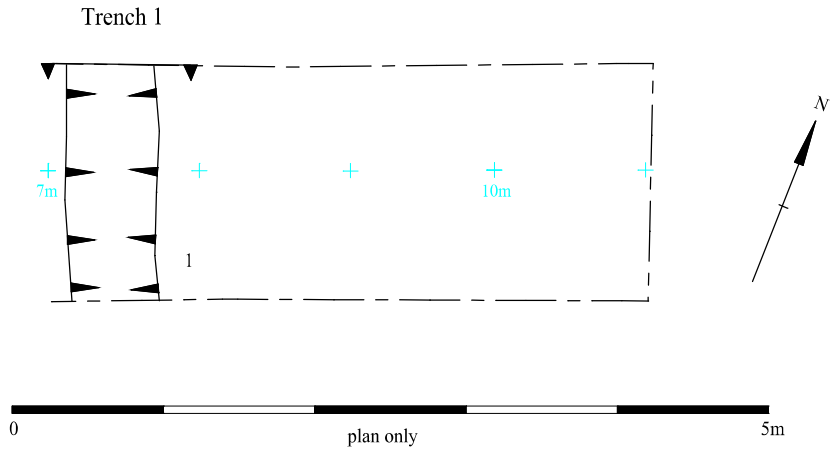


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, gully 1, looking north, scale: 1m.

Garages adjacent to 2 Jeune Street, Oxford, 2010
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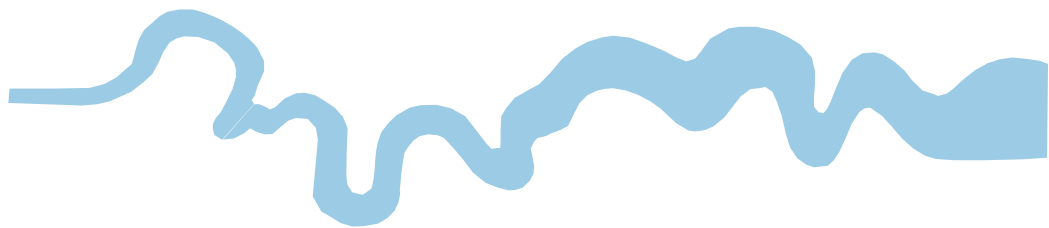
Plates 1 and 2

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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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