THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

109 Rose Hill, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: RHO11/12

(SP 5369 0356)

109 Rose Hill, Oxford

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr M Yousef

by JamesMcNicoll-Norbury

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeRHO11/12

February 2011

Summary

Site name: 109 Rose Hill, Oxford

Grid reference: SP 5369 0356

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th February 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: RHO 11/12

Area of site: *c.* 800 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified and no finds recovered

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.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 20.02.11
	Steve Preston✓ 17.02.11

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109 Rose Hill, Oxford
An Archaeological Evaluation

By James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 11/12

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 109 Rose Hill, Oxford (SP 5369 0356) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mohammed Yousef, of 305 Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 4AG. Planning permission (08/00152/FUL) has been sought from Oxford City Council for the construction of four new dwellings on the site, along with associated access and car parking areas. A programme of archaeological fieldwork has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regard to archaeology and to allow proposals to be made to mitigate the effects of the proposed development on any sub-surface archaeological deposits if necessary.

This work was originally required in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 16 (*Archaeology and Planning)* but is also in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Oxford City Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on 16th February 2011 and the site code is RHO11/12. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Rose Hill in Oxford (Fig. 1), the site in general is flat with a slight slope from west to east and is currently occupied by overgrown gardens and the base of a former garage (Fig. 2). The natural geology is described as being on the edge of Littlemore member and Beckley Sand member (BGS 1994) and the site lies at 80m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief provided by the Oxford City Council Archaeologist (Radford 2008) In summary the area has high potential for Iron Age and Roman remains.

Archaeological work at the former King of Prussia public house, about 110m north-west of the proposed site produced evidence for a Middle-Late Iron Age enclosure and a Roman pit, whilst previous investigations have produced evidence for dispersed Roman pottery manufacturing sites in the area. The Oxford City Historic Environment Record contains entries for two kiln sites within a 500m radius of the proposed site. Recent evaluation trenching at 79 Rose Hill (McNicoll-Norbury 2009), however, revealed nothing of archaeological note.

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 research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

to determine if any prehistoric or Roman deposits are present; and

to determine if any deposits relating to the manufacture of Roman pottery are present.

Two trenches were proposed to be dug at 1.6m wide and 8m and 12m long, which were positioned to target those areas which will be most affected by the proposed development. This was to be carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels.

Results

The trenches were dug as intended and were 8.0m and 12.1m in length and 0.57m and 0.58m deep(Figs 3 and 4). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

Trench was aligned SW–NE and was 8.0m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.19m topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying natural geology consisting of yellow brown sandy clay with gravel and chalk patches. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SE–NW and was 12.1m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.21m topsoil and 0.30m subsoil overlaying natural geology. Apart from a modern truncation at the south-eastern end of the trench no archaeological features were identified.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed that the archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site with little sign of modern disturbance. However, despite this and the potential for the area based upon previous investigations, no archaeological evidence was identified in either of the trenches excavated. On the basis of these findings the site has no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

McNicoll-Norbury, J, 2009, 79 Rose Hill, Oxford; an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 09/39, Reading

PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment,* The Stationery Office, Norwich

Radford, D, 2008, 'Brief for an archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) at 109 Rose Hill, Oxford', Oxford City Council, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW or SE end

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	8.0	1.6	0.57	0–0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ natural geology. **[Plate 1]**
2	12.1	1.6	0.58	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ natural geology. **[Plate 2]**

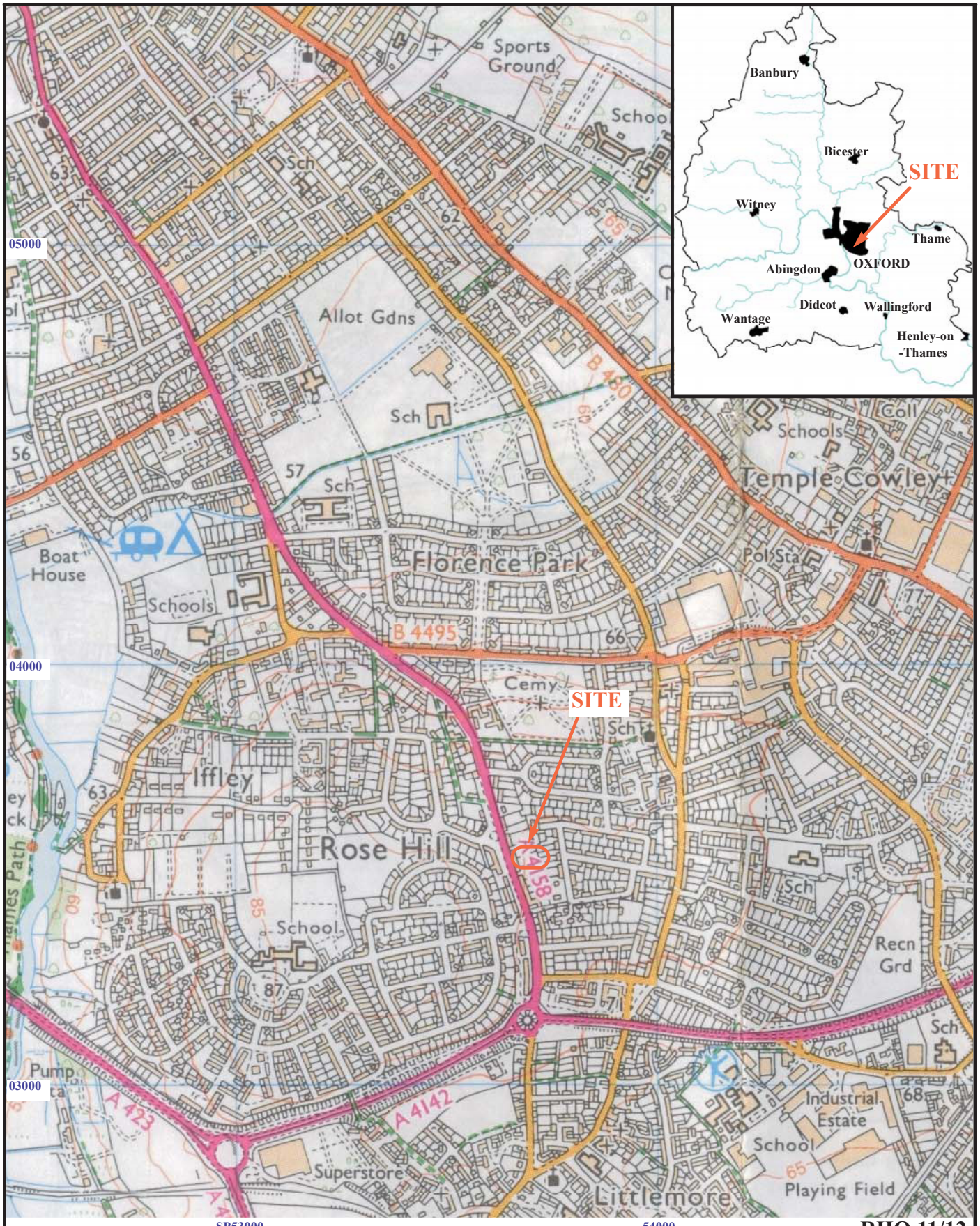

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Figure 1. Location of site within Oxford and Oxfordshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Rose Hill.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 25m

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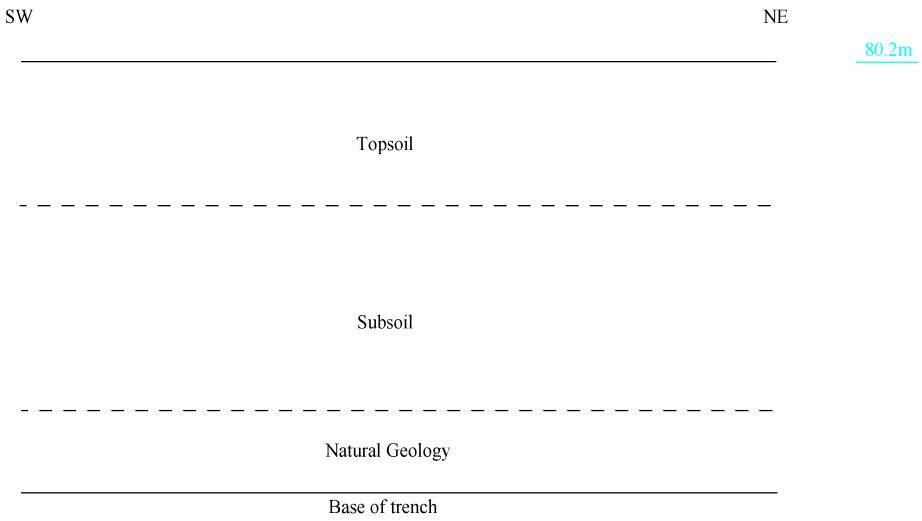

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Figure 4. Representative Section of Trench 1

0 1m

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

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

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Plates 1 and 2

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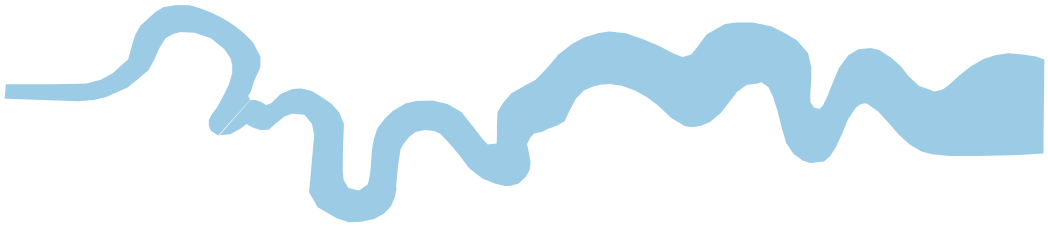
TIME CHART

	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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