



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to
9 Plough Close, Wolvercote, Oxford
April 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton NN4 8BE
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822
e. sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk
w. www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk



Northamptonshire
County Council

Jason Clarke

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STAFF

Project Manager: Iain Soden BA MifA

Text: Jason Clarke BSc MA AlfA

Fieldwork: Jason Clarke
Simon Wood BA MA

Illustrations Amir Bassir BSc PfA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Iain Soden		
Approved by	Andy Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 9 Plough Close, Wolvercote, Oxford, April 2012	
Short description	In April 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The excavation identified the remains of a recently demolished structure, probably a sewage pumping station. The construction of this structure appears to have reduced the previous ground level, truncating any potential archaeological remains. No other features were present within the trench.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Waste land	
Future work	None	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Oxfordshire	
Site address	Land adjacent to 9 Plough Close	
Easting Northing	SP 4963 0961	
Area (sq m/ha)	425 sq m	
Height aOD	60.00m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	David Radford, Oxford City Archaeologist	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
Director/Supervisor	Jason Clarke (NA)	
Project Manager	Iain Soden (NA) William Bedford (CgMs)	
Sponsor or funding body		
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	11/4/2012	
End date	11/4/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	OXCMS.2012.62	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF, Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation of Land adjacent to 9 Plough Close, Wolvercote, Oxford, April 2012	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND ADJACENT TO
9 PLOUGH CLOSE, WOLOVERCOTE,
OXFORD
APRIL 2012

Abstract

In April 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The excavation identified the remains of a recently demolished structure, probably a sewage pumping station. The construction of this structure appears to have reduced the previous ground level, truncating any potential archaeological remains. No other features were present within the trench.

1 INTRODUCTION

In April 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land adjacent to 9 Plough Close, Wolvercote, Oxford (NGR:SP 4963 0961; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, and was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the proposed residential development of the land.

The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2012) in accordance with Oxford City Council Planning Control and Conservation brief for Archaeological Evaluation (Radford 2011).

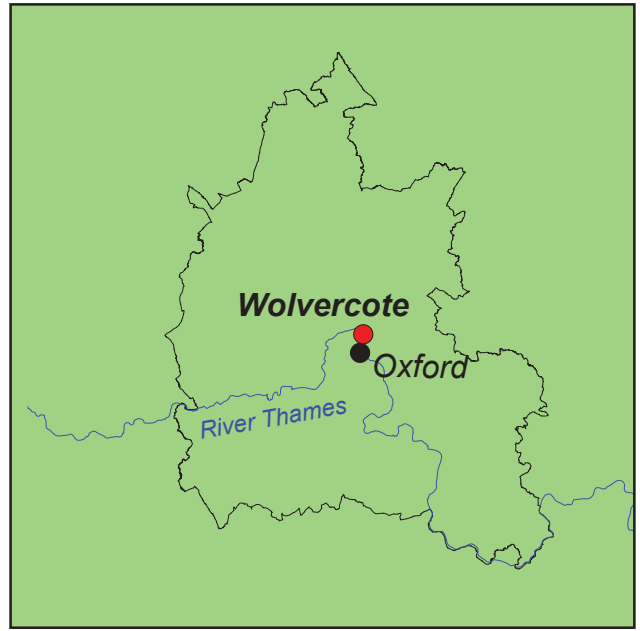
The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and to date and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

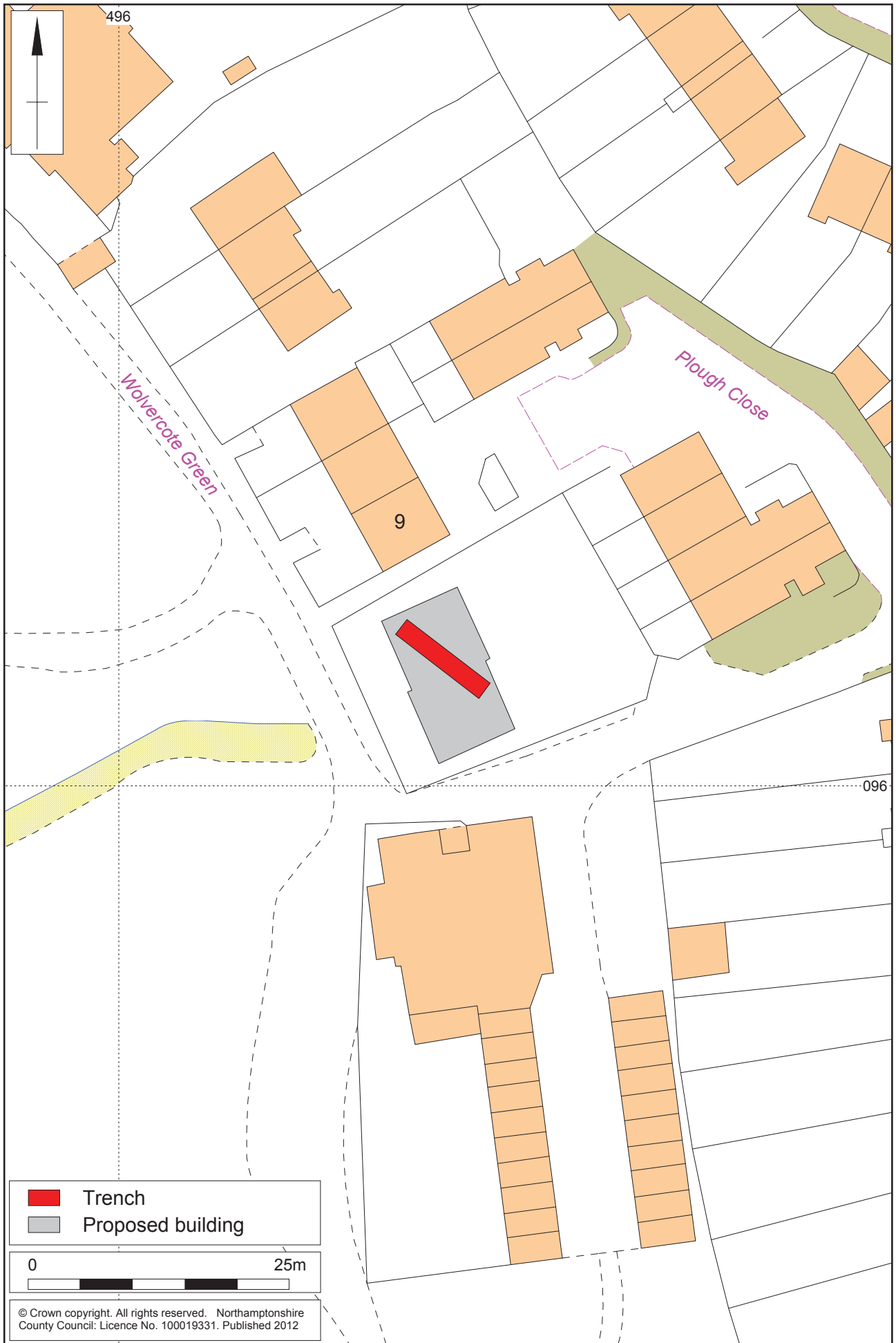
The village of Wolvercote lies on the edge of modern Oxford. The development area is situated amongst existing domestic development, within the historic village core at the edge of the historic village green. A former watercourse lies at the south edge of the site but is today channelled through a culvert.

The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Kellaways Sand Member and Forest Marble Formation mudstone (BGS Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:500 (A4)

Trench location Fig 2

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies within the village core of Wolvercote, alongside the historic village green. The village was a small hamlet at Domesday (1086), which later developed as two distinct 'ends', as many small villages in the south and east midlands, in this case one related to the church, the other a crossing of the Thames. At Port Meadow, some 120m distant, is a Scheduled Monument and the site of prehistoric funerary remains.

3 METHODOLOGY

A single trial trench was excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by David Radford, the Oxford City Archaeologist (Fig 2).

The trench measured 10m long by 2m wide and was positioned using a Leica system 1200 GPS.

A JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 or 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and colour slides, supplemented with digital images. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the work were to:

- ◆ Identify, investigate and record all archaeological deposits, exposed during the trial trenching evaluation;
- ◆ Determine and record the date, extent, character, state of preservation and depth of burial of any archaeological deposits;
- ◆ To provide information as to the archaeological potential within the site, and to provide for further effective archaeological investigation either in advance of, or during early construction phases;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis;

- ◆ With particular reference to this site, the prehistoric remains at Port Meadow, while also drawing attention to potential for Saxon, medieval or post-medieval remains related to Wolvercote's origins and development.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Below 0.50m of the tarmac surface and stone hardcore levelling layer the excavation revealed a high level of modern truncation. The remains of a recently demolished structure, which included a wall and manhole chamber, drains and demolition material, were present within the trench (Figs 3 and 4). The construction of the structure had reduced the previous ground levels and appears to have truncated away any potential earlier archaeological remains.



Remains of a manhole structure revealed within the trench Fig 3



Remains of a wall from recently demolished structure

Fig 4

The underlying geology was mudstones, which was encountered at the south of the trench, 1m below the modern ground surface. This occurred as light-mid blue-grey sandy clay.

6 DISCUSSION

The single trial trench revealed the remains of a recently demolished structure, which was probably a sewage pumping station according to local communication. The construction of this structure appears to have reduced the previous ground level, truncating any potential archaeological remains.

No archaeological features or finds were present within the trial trench and any potential archaeological remains within the development area would have been truncated away by the previous building activity on the site.

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Radford 2011 *Brief for archaeological excavation on land adjacent to 9 Plough Close, Wolvercote, Oxford*, Oxford Council Planning Control and Conservation

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