



# CFA ARCHAEOLOGY

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1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane,  
Dorchester-on-Thames

Archaeological Watching Brief  
Report No. MK102/17

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### **1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames: Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. MK102/17**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*This document presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at 1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames in Oxfordshire. The work, carried out on the 19th of September 2017, involved monitoring the excavation of foundation pads for a new extension in the rear yard of the property. No archaeological features were exposed.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at 1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames. The work was commissioned by the owner Ian Lea to fulfil a planning condition (P15/S3298/HH) on the construction of a new extension in the rear yard of the house.

The watching brief carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological works dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 produced by CFA and agreed with Oxfordshire County Council's archaeological advisors.

### 2.2 Project Background

Forge cottages lie within the Roman town of Dorchester. Scheduled areas of this monument (SAM 1006331) lie immediately to the south-west of the Site extending south to allotment gardens surrounded by Watling Lane. Further scheduled areas of the town lie to the north-east of the Site on either side of Queen Street.

Excavations to the 60m WNW of the cottages at the Beech House Hotel Site (HER No12527.02) in 1972 revealed:

*'Evidence of several phases of occupation'... 'including part of a 3rd-century building (probably a town house) which appears to have either been converted to or replaced by industrial activity. There were traces of at least three subsequent phases of post-Romano-British structures'. The work also revealed the remains of Anglo-Saxon structures. Cutting 2 excavated 'what was believed to be the north-west corner of the Romano-British town defences. Two phases of a ditch were discovered; the later one apparently represented the inner ditch of the two-ditch defence system. The robber trench of the town wall was found at the extreme eastern end of the trench, and its silting suggests that the line of the town wall is parallel to that of the modern property boundaries in the western part of Dorchester.'* Cutting 3 revealed a possible lime-burning kiln built on the fill of an outer defensive ditch. Cutting 4 revealed another defensive ditch.  
(Oxoniensia. Vol XLVI)

Roman pottery and some likely early-medieval to medieval inhumations were uncovered during work at the White Hart Hotel immediately NE of the Site (HER No16375). To the east of the Hotel, disturbed ground was located containing 3rd to

4th century pottery, including flanged imitation black-burnished pie dish, grey wares, Oxford kiln product red colour-coated imitation Samian bowl rim (HER No 12956). In 1997 an excavation east of the Site next to High Street revealed:

*'Several pits, mainly on S end of the site, show 1st century and 2nd century Roman activity. Evidence of second century agricultural activity, followed by non agricultural activity until the fourth century. Marked scarcity of Roman material from this site in comparison to other sites in the area. It is possible that this area of town close to the E defences was not "settled" for any length of time' (HER No 17497).*

### **2.3 Project Objectives**

The general the project objectives were to:

- determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
- establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site, and;
- produce a report which places any discovered archaeological remains in their local, regional or national context, as appropriate.

The research objectives of the watching brief were to:

- Investigate the evidence for and origins of the different phases of land use and enclosure within the area, including any evidence for pre-Roman, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity;
- Place the results of the investigation within the wider landscape context and contribute to an understanding of the pattern of land use;
- Use a spectrum of environmental techniques appropriate for this aspect of investigation in an attempt to model the landscape and its transformation brought about by the settlement's inhabitants and due to natural events.

### **3. WORKING METHODS**

#### **3.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

#### **3.2 Archaeological monitoring during the Watching Brief**

The development involved demolishing part of an existing single storey extension to the rear of the house and construction of a new extension for a dining room in the neighbouring yard. The existing single storey extension was taken down to the ground level but no deeper and did not require monitoring. The new extension was designed so that the new walls were supported on four foundation pads. Hand excavation of the holes for the pads was monitored under direct archaeological supervision. The holes were excavated to the required depth of 0.45m below the yard surface

#### **3.3 Excavation and Recording Strategy**

All deposits were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to CIfA standards (2014) and CFA's quality manuals. The foundation pads were planned at an appropriate scale and were related in height to ordnance datum and surveyed using a Trimble RTK GPS device with an accuracy of up to 8mm horizontally and 12mm vertically. The photographic record consisted of digital photographs and B&W film.

#### **3.3 Archiving**

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans and reports, will be deposited at the Oxfordshire County Museum and Archive Store and will conform to current guidelines in MoRPHE guidelines (Brown 2011, MGC 1994, SMA 1995, Walker, 1990 and HE 2015/16) ensuring the proper transfer of ownership.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

All four foundation pad holes were cut through the yard surface which comprised sandstone crazy paving and cement (**0101, 0201, 0301, 0401**). In all the holes except pad hole 3 this lay directly above a garden topsoil (**0102, 0202, 0402**) - a dark brown, loose, sandy silty loam with occasional gravel 0.5-1cm diameter. The topsoil in pad 1 contained 19<sup>th</sup> Century blue glazed china, animal bone and fragments of oyster shell.

Pad hole 3 revealed a salt-glazed ceramic pipe (**0302**) directly below the yard surface connected to a toilet fitted in the extension. This lay above a layer of light/brown yellow concrete (**0303**) and a steel pipe, possibly for gas or water, running E-W (**0304**). These services had been cut through the same topsoil that was found in the other holes (**0305**).

Below the topsoil in Pad hole 4 was an irregular deposit of dark brown topsoil containing rubbish including a 20<sup>th</sup> C painted tin, glass and brick (**0403**).

No pre-modern finds were found in any of the deposits.

## **5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The watching brief revealed no archaeological remains. The rear yard of the property is located on a thick garden soil which has been disturbed by 19th and 20th century activity. The shallow nature of the foundation pad holes means that it was not possible to ascertain if any archaeology survives at a deeper level, though given the proximity of the site scheduled remains this seems likely.



## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## Appendix 1: Summary of Contexts

<i>Pad hole</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	0.45	0101	Paving and cement	Mid brown sandstone and cement. L & W as pad. D: 0.12m
		0102	Topsoil	Dark brown, loose, sandy silty loam with occasional gravel 0.5-1cm diameter. Extends across pad. Contains 19 <sup>th</sup> C blue glazed china, animal bone and fragments of oyster shell.
2	0.47	0201	Paving and cement	Mid brown sandstone and cement. L & W as pad. D: 0.16m (same as 0101)
		0202	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand with occasional gravel 1cm diameter. L & W as pad. D: >0.3m
3	0.45	0301	Paving and cement	Mid brown sandstone and cement. D: 0.14m (same as 0101)
		0302	Waste water pipe	Salt, glazed ceramic pipe from toilet fitted in extension. Dia: 0.15m
		0303	Concrete below 0302	Light yellow/brown concrete. L & W across slot. D: 0.07m
		0304	Service pipe	Brown iron/steel. E-W. Gas pipe. Dia: 0.04-0.05m
		0305	Topsoil	Same as (0102)
4	0.45	0401	Paving and cement	Same as (0101) D: 0.14m
		0402	Topsoil	Same as (0102) L & W as pad. D: >0.25m
		0403	Deposit	Irregular deposit of rubbish including 20 <sup>th</sup> C painted tin, glass and brick. Dark brown topsoil and debris. L & W as pad. D: >0.2m

## Appendix 2: OASIS Entry

**OASIS ID:** [cfaarcha1-296267](#)

### Project details

Project name 1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames

Short description of the project CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out a watching brief at 1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane in Dorchester-on-Thames during the construction of an extension in the yard to the rear of the property. Four foundation pads for the extension were monitored but only topsoil and modern services were exposed.

Project dates Start: 19-09-2017 End: 19-09-2017

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated MLDO - Sitecode

project reference codes	
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DORCHESTER 1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 5774 9430 51.644064108884 -1.165443722025 51 38 38 N 001 09 55 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Tamlin Barton
Project supervisor	Tamlin Barton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

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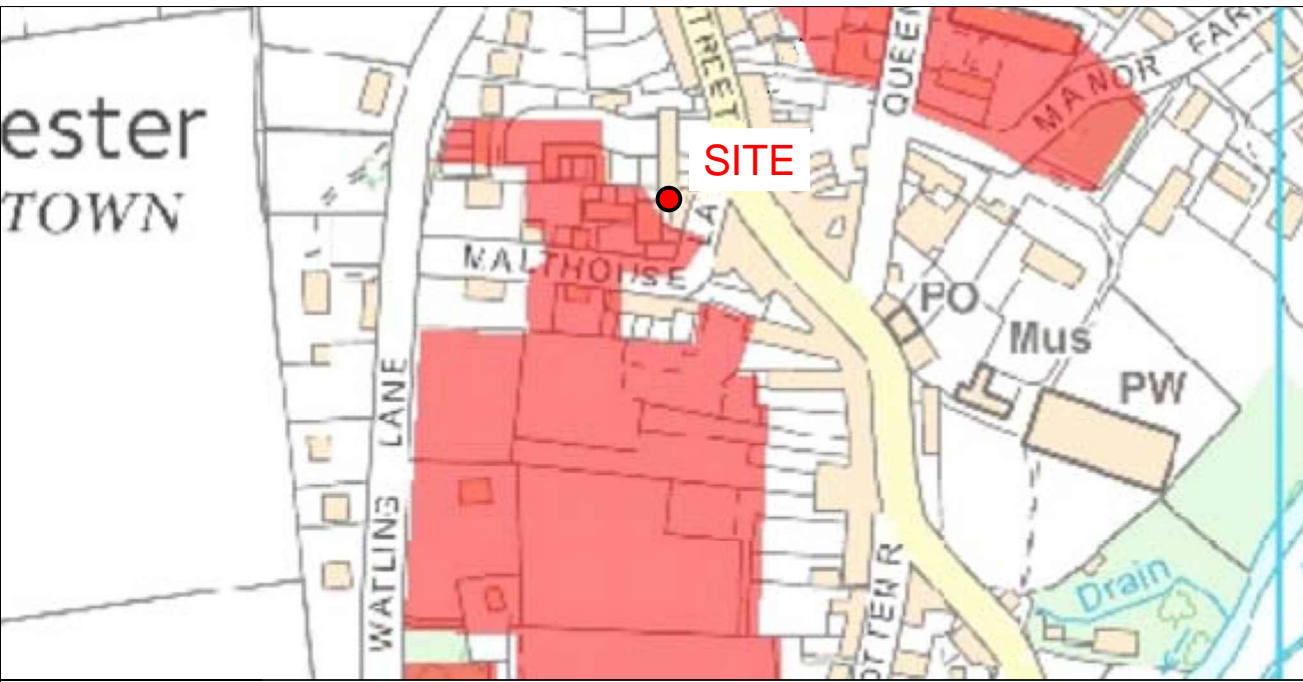
### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Oxfordshire Museums
Digital Contents	"Survey","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

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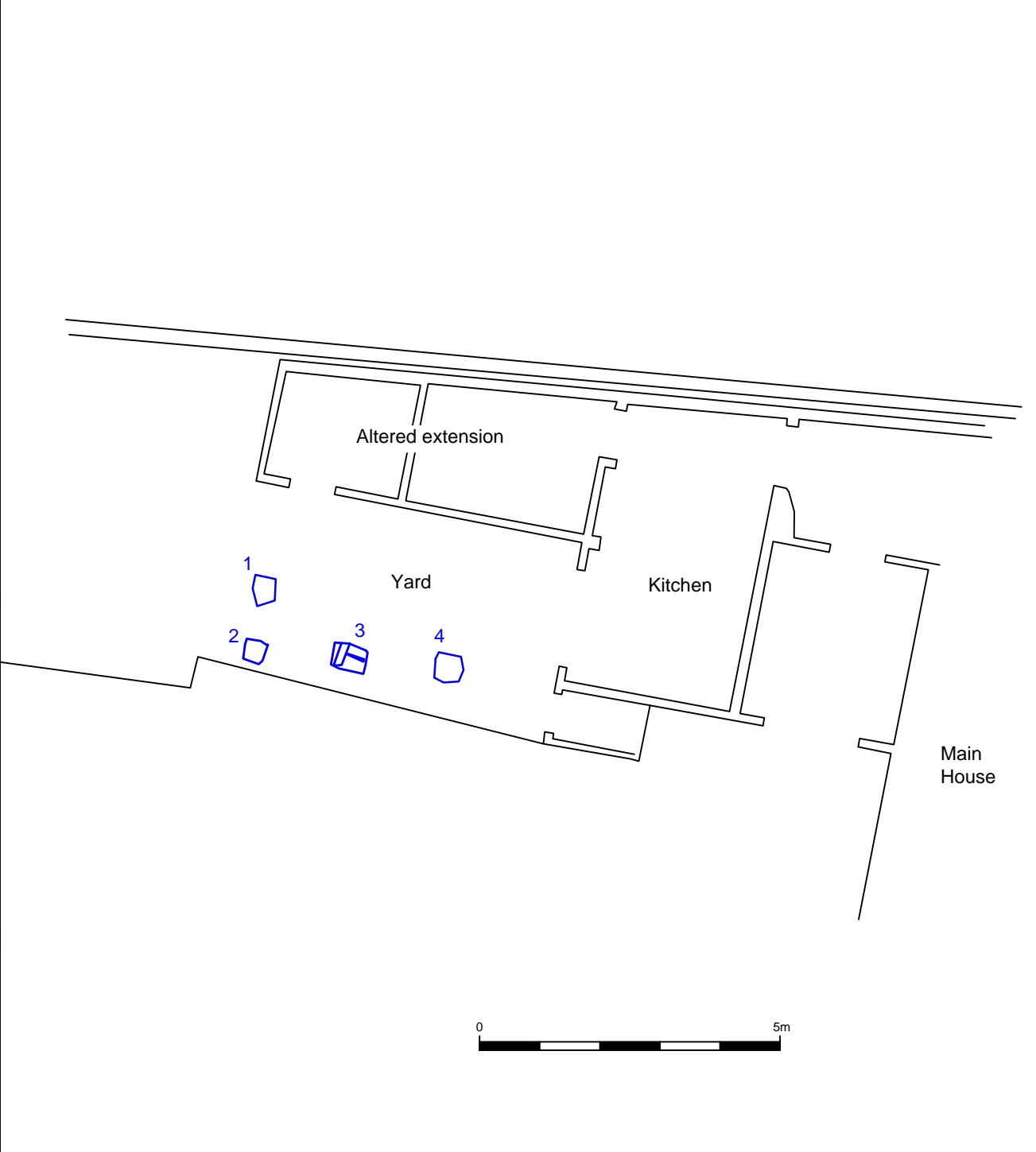
**Project  
bibliography 1**

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**Key:**

- Property Boundary
- Monitored Foundation Pads
- Scheduled Areas



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Title:  
Site location plan showing foundation pads monitored

Project:  
1 Forge Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames: Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:  
Ian Lea

Scale at A3:  
Detailed plans, 1:200 and 1:100

Drawn by: TB	Checked: SW	Date: 26/09/2017
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Fig. 2 - Photo of foundation pads for extension in rear yard of property, from the W



Fig. 3 - Shot of Pad 1 excavated to final depth through topsoil 0102, from the W

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Report No: MK102/17		Fig. No: 2-3





Fig. 4 - Shot of Pad 2 excavated to final depth through topsoil 0202, from the W



Fig. 5 - Shot of Pad 3 showing waste water service and steel pipe cut into topsoil layer 0302, from the W

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Report No: <b>MK102/17</b>		Fig. No: <b>4-5</b>





Fig. 6 - Shot of Pad 4 excavated to final depth through topsoil 0402 and into rubbish layer 0403, from the E

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Report No: <b>MK102/17</b>		Fig. No: <b>6</b>



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