

The Bungalow Queen Street Bloxham Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2011

Client: Corylus Planning


Issue No: 1

OA Job No: 5013

NGR: SP 428 355



Client Name: Corylus Planning
Client Ref No:
Document Title: The Bungalow, Queen Street, Bloxham, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: NGR SP 428 355
Planning Reference: APP/C3105/A/10/2133023
OA Job Number: 5013
Site Code: BLOQS11
Invoice Code: BLOQSEV
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum
Museum Accession No: OXCMS:2011.75
Event No:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Gerry Thacker Project Officer	Nick Shepherd Project Manager	Nick Shepherd Project Manager	

Document File Location:
Projects Server 1/ Bloqsev/
report
Graphics File
Location: \\servergo\invoice
codes a thru h\B_invoice
codes\BLOQSEN\PDF
Illustrated by Markus
Dylewski

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2011

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



The Bungalow, Queen Street, Bloxham, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Gerry Thacker and Ben McAndrew

with contributions from John Cotter, Lena Strid and Julia Meen and illustrated by Markus Dylewski

Table of Contents

Summary	4
1 Introduction	5
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	5
1.2 Geology and topography.....	5
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	5
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	5
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology	6
2.1 Aims.....	6
2.2 Methodology.....	6
3 Results	7
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	7
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	7
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	7
3.4 Trench 1 (N) (Fig. 3, section 101).....	7
3.5 Trench 1 (S) (Fig. 3, section 100).....	7
3.6 Trench 2.....	8
3.7 Trench 3 (Fig. 3, section 300).....	8
3.8 Trench 4 (W) (Fig. 4, sections 401, 402, 404).....	8
3.9 Trench 4 (E) (Fig. 3, section 400).....	8
3.10 Trench 5 (Fig. 4, sections 500, 502. Plates 1 and 2).....	9
3.11 Finds summary.....	9
4 Discussion and Conclusions	10
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	10



4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	10
4.3 Interpretation.....	10
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	11
Appendix B. Finds Reports.....	14
B.1 Pottery.....	14
B.2 Ceramic Building Material	15
B.3 Animal bone.....	15
Appendix C. Environmental Reports.....	17
C.1 Environmental samples.....	17
Appendix D. Bibliography and References.....	20
Appendix E. Summary of Site Details.....	21



List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench locations and archaeology against proposed development
Figure 3	Sections
Figure 4	Sections

List of Plates

Plate 1	Trench 5. Wall 503 and surface 504, facing west
Plate 2	Trench 5. Wall 503 and surface 504, facing north
Plate 3	Trench 3. Wall 304 facing south
Plate 4	Trench 1. Ditch 103, section 101, facing east



Summary

Between the 4th and 7th of April 2011 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation in the front and rear gardens of The Bungalow, Queen Street, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, on behalf of Corylus Planning and ahead of the construction of three new dwellings.

The evaluation consisted of three trenches and two test pits which were excavated on, or close to, the footprint of the proposed dwellings.

The earliest archaeological evidence comprised a length of ditch containing pottery of late Saxon early medieval date (11th century). A number of other undated ditches might be related and might represent a simple system of ditched enclosures, possibly agricultural, and associated with contemporary settlement nearby.

Evidence was also recovered for stone founded structures fronting on to both Queen Street and Kings Road. Cottages are mapped into the mid to late twentieth century (presumably similar to those surviving today elsewhere on both streets). Pottery and brick from within these structures suggest they may originate in the late medieval/Tudor period, although they may be later structures that incorporate residual or re-used materials.

A relict agricultural or garden soil of post medieval date, sealed by the modern topsoil, was visible in some of the trenches and suggested that the area had been put over to tillage at some point. A large quarry pit was cut through the soil and contained a mixed assemblage of pottery from the late medieval period to the nineteenth century.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The area of proposed development (the site) lies within the southern part of the historic village of Bloxham, occupying approximately 0.4 hectares and bounded by Queen Street to the west and King's Road to the east (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is currently occupied by a single bungalow with an associated garage, outbuildings and gardens. Planning permission has been granted on appeal for a replacement dwelling and two new dwellings (planning reference APP/C3105/A/10/2133023).
- 1.1.3 A condition of the planning permission appeal decision was that an archaeological investigation be carried out prior to demolition, although a formal brief was not issued. The specification for the archaeological investigation was outlined within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (OA 2011) and agreed by Oxfordshire County Council. The evaluation as specified in the WSI consisted of three trial trenches and two test pits (Fig. 2). Two of the trial trenches were split in two to avoid a buried electric cable.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The geology of the area is Jurassic Middle Lias Marlstone, which manifested as clays with ironstone outcrops.
- 1.2.2 The site is at around 120 m OD on slightly raised ground which falls away gently to the west.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (OA 2008) looked at the archaeological potential of the site and its environs. The assessment demonstrated that there is low potential for prehistoric remains to be present. Remains of Roman date, specifically burials, have been recorded within Bloxham and therefore a high potential was noted. Remains of medieval date had high potential, as settlement existed in Bloxham during this period. Remains of post-medieval date were also deemed to have high potential due to the presence of cottages on the site as indicated on the *Inclosure Map of South Bloxham* from 1801.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Tim Elkins of Johnson Gaunt, and James Burt of Corylus for help in commissioning and setting up the project. Also Richard Oram, the Planning Archaeologist for the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service who monitored the work, and Mr and Mrs Timms who are resident within the current building. The field work was managed for OA by Nick Shepherd and conducted by Gerry Thacker, Ben McAndrew and Emily Plunkett.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the project were detailed in the WSI and are as follows:

- (i) To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development.
- (ii) To establish the potential significance of any archaeological deposits.
- (iii) To establish the potential impact on any archaeological deposits by the proposed development.
- (iv) To provide sufficient information such that a decision can be taken on the discharge of conditions, or proposals can be formed for mitigation of impact.
- (v) To locate any Roman settlement or burial features.
- (vi) To locate any medieval settlement features.
- (vii) To locate any remains from the earlier demolished cottages on the site.
- (viii) To make publicly available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Three trial trenches and two test pits (Fig. 2) were excavated (by a JCB with fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) to the top of the natural geology or other significant higher archaeological horizon. The methodologies as outlined in the WSI were followed at all times.
- 2.2.2 Trench 1 was orientated north-south and was located to the rear of the current bungalow. The trench was split into two (labelled north and south) to avoid a buried electricity cable. Trench 1 (N) measured 9.5 m long and 1.6 m wide, Trench 1 (S) measured 5 m long and 1.6 m wide.
- 2.2.3 Trench 2, a test pit, was located to the north of the current bungalow and measured 2 m by 2 m.
- 2.2.4 Trench 3, a test pit, was located on the front lawn of the current bungalow fronting onto Queen Street, and measured 2.3 m by 1.7 m.
- 2.2.5 Trench 4 was orientated west-east and was located to the north-east of the current bungalow. The trench was split into two (labelled west and east) to avoid a buried electricity cable. Trench 4 (W) measured 11.25 m long and 1.6 m wide, Trench 4 (E) measured 4 m long and 1.6 m wide.
- 2.2.6 Trench 5 was located to the rear of the garden, adjacent to King's Road. The northern end of the trench was orientated N-S and then 'dog-legged' to the south west. The trench was 25.1 m long and 1.6 m wide.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are summarised in section 3.3, and discussed by trench in section 3.4 below. Trench plans are illustrated on Fig. 2 and the corresponding sections on Figs. 3 and 4. A full context inventory is presented in the table in Appendix 1. Finds identification, discussion and quantification form Appendix 2. Environmental data are discussed and quantified in Appendix 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Topsoil was present within all trenches and varied in depth between 0.11 m (Trench 5) and 0.42 m (Trench 1). A buried garden soil (subsoil) of post-medieval date was present within Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5. The natural geology was extremely variable, but generally consisted of a heavy, light-yellow clay, although iron stone outcrops were also present.

3.2.2 Ground conditions were dry throughout, although root damage was often extensive especially within trenches 1 and 4.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Trench 1 (S) contained an undated ditch, and Trench 1 (N) contained a ditch of late Saxon/early medieval date. Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Trench 3 contained a probable post medieval wall and associated floor make up layer. Trench 4 (W) contained an undated ditch, a posthole and a probable nineteenth century quarry pit. Trench 4 (E) contained an undated ditch. Trench 5 contained a post-medieval wall and associated surface, a nineteenth century tree throw or 'scoop' and a modern pit.

3.4 Trench 1 (N) (Fig. 3, section 101)

3.4.1 An east-west orientated ditch (Plate 4) was present to the north of the trench. The ditch, 103, exhibited a slightly irregular profile due to root disturbance from an adjacent coniferous hedge. The ditch cut the light yellow clay natural (101). The lower fill (104) was a loose dark orange-brown silty clay containing occasional iron stone fragments. This was overlain by 105, an episode of deliberate backfilling that was a dark brown humic silty clay loam, and which contained large iron stone blocks, and several pottery sherds which dated from AD 900-1100 (see Appendix 2). Animal bones were also recovered from fill 105, the majority of which were from sheep/goat. Three very small fragments of slag and a single small piece of burnt clay/daub were recovered from the fill during flotation. The flots also contained quantities of charred cereal, legume seeds and charcoal (see Appendix 3). The ditch was sealed by a mid orange-brown subsoil (102) that contained charcoal flecks and iron stone fragments. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (100) which contained frequent mortar and wall plaster fragments and was sealed by turf.

3.5 Trench 1 (S) (Fig. 3, section 100)

3.5.1 A west-east orientated ditch, 106, truncated the orange-brown silty clay natural (109) and had a flat, slightly concave base and regular 45° sides. The lower fill (107) was similar to the underlying natural but with occasional sub angular stone inclusions. The upper fill (108) was a dark grey brown silty clay contained a very degraded bone



fragment which crumbled to powder on lifting. The ditch was sealed by an orange-brown clay subsoil (102) which was overlain by topsoil and turf (100).

3.6 Trench 2

3.6.1 The trench consisted of topsoil (200) and subsoil (201) overlying the natural ironstone and clay (202). No archaeology was present within the trench.

3.7 Trench 3 (Fig. 3, section 300)

3.7.1 At the base of the trench was a compact layer of mottled orange-brown clay with blue-grey and dark brown clay patches. This layer, 305, was up to 0.08 m deep and overlaid the natural orange clay and ironstone bedrock (306). The layer, 305, was hand excavated and two small refitting pottery sherds from an imported Raeren stoneware mug potentially dating from 1475 to 1550 were recovered. This layer is interpreted as the make up layer for a floor.

3.7.2 Layer 305 may have been truncated by a N-S running wall, 304, although the relationship was not clear. The wall was of un-mortared construction and built from limestone and iron stone blocks (Plate 3). The western side of the wall ran N-S, the eastern side ran NW-SE, the whole forming a 'wedge' shape which terminated to the north of the trench, perhaps indicative of a doorway.

3.7.3 Layer 305 was sealed by layers 302 and 303, both of which abutted wall 304. Layer 302, to the east of wall 304, was fairly localised, and may have been caused by a decayed timber, or a build up of material after the building went out of use, but prior to formal demolition. To the west of the wall layer 303, which appeared stratigraphically equivalent to 302, was a redeposited clay rich in iron stone fragments. Layers 302 and 303 were sealed by layer 301 a fairly loose mid to light brown silty clay contain frequent mortar patches and fragments of whitewashed plaster. This layer is thought to represent the demolition of the remains of the cottages, probably in the 1950s and prior to the construction of the present bungalow. Layer 301 was sealed by topsoil and turf (300).

3.8 Trench 4 (W) (Fig. 4, sections 401, 402, 404)

3.8.1 To the eastern end of the trench a NW-SE orientated ditch terminal was present. The ditch, 403, had a concave profile and cut the natural clay 401. The single fill, a mid orange-brown silty clay (404) was root disturbed from an adjacent coniferous hedge and contained no finds.

3.8.2 Adjacent to the ditch was a posthole, 405, which was slightly irregular in plan and contained a single mid to dark brown silty clay fill (406).

3.8.3 The ditch and possible posthole were sealed by a mixed mid orange-brown clay loam subsoil, 402, which contained salt glazed stoneware dating from c.1720 to 1780. To the west of the trench subsoil 402 was cut by a large pit (407) interpreted as a quarry pit for iron stone. Pottery recovered from the homogenous clay backfill (408) contained pottery likely to be of 18th or 19th century date. Subsoil 401 was overlain by topsoil and turf (400).

3.9 Trench 4 (E) (Fig. 3, section 400)

3.9.1 A single N-S orientated ditch (411), which curved slightly to the south-west, was present within the centre of the trench. The ditch cut the iron stone and yellow clay natural (410) The lower fill, 412, was a compact, iron stone rich, dark brown silty clay, which



contained occasional fragments of animal bone, including sheep/goat, pig and red deer. The upper fill, 413, was lighter in colour with fewer inclusions. The fill profiles were reminiscent of the fills of ditch 103 (Trench 1 N) which was of late Saxon/early medieval date. The ditch was sealed by a mid brown silty clay subsoil overlain by topsoil and turf.

3.10 Trench 5 (Fig. 4, sections 500, 502. Plates 1 and 2)

- 3.10.1 Trench 5 contained the most variable geology (502), with iron stone present to the north, stone rich clay in the centre of the trench, and clay to the south and south-west.
- 3.10.2 A north-south aligned wall (503) was built directly onto the natural (502) to the south-western end of the trench and was constructed of roughly dressed limestone and iron stone blocks. To the west of the wall a rough surface, (504), was constructed from iron stone cobbles and half bricks, which were pushed into the natural clay (502). A partially articulated pig skeleton was also present within this layer, but may be intrusive. Bricks recovered from this surface dated pre 1600, and had mortar adhering to them from their previous usage.
- 3.10.3 To the north of the trench a shallow 'scoop' (505) was present with an associated posthole (506). Pottery recovered from the upper fill (507) dated to the 19th century. Subsoil (501) was not present to the north of the trench but was up to 0.7 m deep towards the centre of the trench, potentially due to recent landscaping, and with a redeposited iron stone layer (509) sandwiched between 501 and the natural 502. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (500).

3.11 Finds summary

- 3.11.1 Detailed finds reports are contained within the appendices.
- 3.11.2 Finds were recovered from trenches 1,3, 4 and 5 and included pottery sherds, ceramic building materials, fired clay and fragments of animal bone. Small fragments of slag were recovered from context 105 during flotation, however these were too small to be further analysed. The majority of the pottery was also from context 105 and dated to the late Saxon/early medieval period. The remainder of the pottery was of late medieval/post-medieval date. Bricks removed from surface 504 dated pre 1600. Animal bone was recovered from four contexts and included pig, cattle, sheep/goat and red deer.



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation covered a large part of the footprint of the proposed development and can be relied on to have provided a valid sample of buried archaeological remains. Ground conditions were dry throughout and this contributed to good visibility of archaeological deposits.

4.2 Interpretation of archaeology

- 4.2.1 Ditch 103 within Trench 1 (N) is firmly dated to the late Saxon/early medieval period, and the relatively large amount of cultural material recovered from the fills suggests that the ditch was located in the vicinity of activity potentially relating to crop drying (charred grain), metal working (slag) and associated settlement (pottery sherds and animal bone). Ditch 411 within Trench 4 (E) had a similar fill profile, and with ditch 106 may form part of an enclosure of late Saxon/early medieval date. Although only ephemeral features, these nevertheless represent good evidence for the medieval origins of Bloxham.
- 4.2.2 Wall (304) within Trench 3 is certainly associated with a cottage from the row shown on the map of 1801. It seems likely that the wall and possible floor layer 305 are associated, although the imported pottery from that deposit (dating c 1475 to 1550) does may be residual and only provides a *terminus post quem* for the structure.
- 4.2.3 The wall within Trench 5 (503) was of similar un-mortared construction to wall 304 and may represent the rear wall of a plot that fronted onto King's Road. The brick from the associated surface (504) dates pre 1600, and although probably not in its primary context, is indicative of a structure of this date in the vicinity.
- 4.2.4 The archaeological evidence for structures fronting the streets is unsurprising and matches the map evidence. The date of the structures, however, remains uncertain.

4.3 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.3.1 The presence of archaeological features, deposits and structures was confirmed by the evaluation. The extent of these was recorded within the footprints of the trenches and test pits. The archaeology was characterised through excavation and datable material recovered where present.
- 4.3.2 The evaluation located no evidence for prehistoric activity, Roman settlement or Roman burial features.
- 4.3.3 Ditches likely to relate to an enclosure of late Saxon/early medieval date were located.
- 4.3.4 The remains of late/post-medieval cottages and associated surfaces were located fronting onto both Queen Street and King's Road.
- 4.3.5 The proposed development consists of three new dwellings with associated surfacing and services. The excavation of the wall footings and service trenches will impact on below ground remains. However archaeological features within Plot 1 (Fig 2) are likely to have been partly or wholly destroyed on construction of the current bungalow, and much of the area within Plot 3 is occupied by a hollow to a depth that may preclude or lessen any impact on below ground remains. The main impacts on buried archaeological deposits from the proposed development are likely to be within Plot 2.



- 4.3.6 The results of the investigation will be made publicly available in due course through deposition of the archive with Oxfordshire County Museum, and of this report with both the Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record and the through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>). Additionally OA will publish the report on its own online Library (<http://library.thehumanjourney.net/>).



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1 (NORTH)						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a single W-E aligned ditch of late Saxon/early medieval date. Trench considerably root disturbed from adjacent conifer hedge.					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	9.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Topsoil	-	0.42	Brown silty loam	-	-
101	Natural	-	-	Mid yellow clay	-	-
102	Subsoil	-	0.23	Orangey brown silty loam	-	-
103	Cut	0.6	0.24	Ditch	-	-
104	Fill	0.56	0.24	Dark brown silty clay loam fill of 103	-	-
105	Fill	0.54	0.1	Dark brown silty clay loam fill of 103	Pot	c. 900-1100

Trench 1 (SOUTH)						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a single undated W-E aligned ditch. Trench considerably root disturbed from adjacent conifer hedge.					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Topsoil	-	0.26	Brown silty loam	-	-
102	Subsoil	-	0.28	Orangey brown silty loam	-	-
106	Cut	1	0.3	Ditch	-	-
107	Fill	0.52	0.1	Light brown silty clay fill of 106	-	-
108	Fill	1	0.3	Dark orange-brown silty clay fill of 106	-	-
109	Natural	-	-	Mid orange-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 2			
General description		Orientation	-
Trench devoid of archaeology.		Avg. depth (m)	0.5
		Width (m)	2



				Length (m)	2
Contexts					
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	
200	Topsoil	-	0.2	Brown silty loam	
201	Subsoil	-	0.3	Mid orange-brown silty loam	
202	Natural	-	-	Mid yellow-brown stony clay	

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	W-E
Trench contained a floor/floor make up layer butting a N-S aligned stone wall. The wall and floor were overlain by a layer of material consistent with the gradual decay of the building, which was sealed by a layer of demolition material overlain by topsoil and turf.					Avg. depth (m)	0.64
					Width (m)	1.7
					Length (m)	2.3
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Topsoil	-	0.24	Brown silty loam	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.2	Demolition layer	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.14	"out of use" layer	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.14	Redeposited natural	-	-
304	Structure	0.6	0.2	Wall	-	-
305	Layer	-	0.08	Floor make-up/ trample	Pot	c. 1475-1550
306	Natural	-	-	Light orange-brown ironstone & clay	-	-

Trench 4 (WEST)						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a N-S running undated ditch which terminated within the confines of the trench. An adjacent possible posthole was also undated. A quarry pit of post-medieval date was located at the western end of the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	11.25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Topsoil	-	0.4	Brown silty loam	-	-
401	Natural	-	-	Light yellow clay	-	-
402	Subsoil	-	0.3	Orange-grey clay loam	Pot	c.1720-1780
403	Cut	0.4	0.11	Ditch	-	-
404	Fill	0.4	0.11	Orange brown silty clay fill of 403	-	-
405	Cut	0.36	0.08	Post Hole	-	-
406	Fill	0.36	0.08	Dark brown silt clay fill of 405	-	-



407	Cut	4	1.4	Quarry pit	-	-
408	Fill	4	1.4	Fill of 407	Pot	c.16 th -19 th

Trench 4 (EAST)						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained a single undated slightly curving N-S aligned ditch.				Avg. depth (m)	0.75	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	4	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Topsoil	-	0.25	Brown silty loam	-	-
409	Subsoil	-	0.5	Orangey grey clay loam	-	-
410	Natural	-	-	Light orangey brown clay	-	-
411	Cut	1.3	0.5	Ditch	-	-
412	Fill	1.3	0.5	Brown brown silty clay fill of 411	Bone	-
413	Fill	1.1	0.3	Brown grey silty clay fill of 411	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation	N-S/NE-SW	
Trench contained a N-S aligned stone wall and associated stone and brick surface. Depth of overburden varied from 0.2 m at the north end, 0.7 m to the centre and 0.4 m at the south-west end of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	25.1	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Topsoil	-	0.1	Brown silty loam	-	-
501	Subsoil	-	0.3	Orangey grey clay loam	-	-
502	Natural	-	-	Clay, Ironstone cornbrash, light yellow clay	-	-
503	Structure	0.4		Stone wall	-	-
504	Structure	1.6		Brick and cobble floor surface	Brick	c.16th
505	Cut	1	0.1	Shallow depression/cut	-	-
506	Cut	0.4	0.5	Posthole	-	
507	Fill	1	0.5	Fill of cut 505 and Post hole 506	Pot	19th
508	layer	1	0.1	Fill of 505	-	-
509	Layer	-	0.2	Iron stone/cornbrash layer	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

- B.1.1 A total of 21 sherds of pottery weighing 176 g. were recovered from five contexts. The pottery is of mixed post-Roman date and includes late Saxon/early medieval and post-medieval material. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fuller details of this small assemblage may be consulted in the spot-dates table (see table B.1 below). A brief summary however is provided below.
- B.1.2 The assemblage is in a fairly fresh but very fragmentary condition with a mixture of large and small sherds present. Common domestic pottery types are represented. The earliest pieces (context 105) date within c 900-1100. This produced 11 sherds of local and regional Saxo-Norman pottery types - most notably several sherds from one or two vessels in an abundantly shell-tempered ware - probably St Neot's-type ware (OXR), which is common in the Oxford region c 900-1100 but may well be pre-conquest in date. There is a slight possibility, however, that this is actually Northamptonshire-type shelly ware (OXBK, c 1100-1350) as the shell content is a little coarser than is usual for St Neot's-type ware. Nevertheless a spot-date no later than the 12th century is likely on the basis of the other regional wares present (OXAC, OXBF).
- B.1.3 The other contexts produced only a few sherds of pottery but these range from late medieval to the 19th-century. Context (305) produced the rim of a German Raeren stoneware mug of 1475-1550 which might indicate a fairly well-to-do habitation (at least in terms of the vessel being found so far inland). A few common types of 18th- and 19th-century pottery are also present. The small late Saxon/early medieval element in the collection is of some interest - particularly for dating purposes - but otherwise the assemblage is fairly unremarkable and no further work is recommended.

Table B.1

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
105	c900-1100	11	105	6x OXR St Neots ware (?or OXBK Northamptonshire shelly ware) mostly 1 sagging jar base but also small delicate inturned rim from bowl or cpot. 3x OXAC Cotswolds-type (1 vess, bss). 2x OXBF coarse flint-tempered SW Oxfordshire/Newbury B-type ware, 2 vess incl sag jar base. All fresh. 1x tiny scrap fired clay/daub (left in bag)
305	c1475-1550	2	8	1 vess. Raeren stoneware mug rim
402	c1720-1780	1	3	Bs Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware



408	c1675-1800	3	43	Midlands Blackware bowl rim - prob 18/19C? Flanged w int glossy black glaze. Bs medieval Brill ware OXAM from large vess w int glaze - poss 16/E17C bowl? 1x scrap St Neots or Northamptonshire shelly ware?
507	19C	4	17	2x Staffs refined whiteware incl transfer-printed. 1x red flowerpot base. 1x 18C Staffs white stoneware
TOTAL		21	176	

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By John Cotter

- B.2.1 The ceramic building material (CBM) assemblage comprises 3 pieces of brick weighing 3427 g. from a single context (504). These have not been recorded on a separate spreadsheet, as they are so few in number, but are simply described here. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be regarded with caution.
- B.2.2 Each of the three fragments comprises about half a brick. Apart from a bit of edge damage these are all fairly fresh. These are typical, thin, early 'Tudor' bricks. A date in the first half of the 16th century is quite likely and certainly no later than c 1600. The bricks are in a very similar soft red fabric, handmade, un-frogged and fairly neatly made. Widths vary between 113-116 mm. and thickness 43-52 mm. Traces of white lime mortar occur on two of the bricks. No further work is recommended.

B.3 Animal bone

By Lena Strid

- B.3.1 A total of 88 animal bones were recovered from this site (Table B.2), 63.6% derived from sieved samples. The bone condition was mostly good to fair. One bone was burnt and two had been gnawed by carnivores, probably dogs.
- B.3.2 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, red deer, mole and shrew. Dog is implicitly present in the form of gnaw marks on two bones. The majority of the pig bones came from a single layer (504), and may represent the semi-articulated remains of one animal. Traces of butchery and pathologies were absent.
- B.3.3 The assemblage is too small to be useful for a discussion on animal husbandry. However, all species present are common in archaeological assemblages from Oxfordshire.



Table B.2 All bone

	Cattle	Sheep / goat	Pig	Red deer	Mole	Shrew sp.	Micro-fauna	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet .
Skull			1			2				
Mandible	1	2	2							
Tooth		6								
Vertebra							1			
Rib			6					2		
Radius			1		1					
Ulna			1							
Metacarpal			1	1						
Tibia			1							
Astragalus			1							
Metapodial			3							
Lateral metapodial			1							
Long bone								2	1	
Indeterminate			2				1			48
TOTAL	1	8	20	1	1	2	2	4	1	48
Weight (g)	20	30	129	39	0	0	0	12	37	15



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Julia Meen

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single environmental sample was taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, and to establish the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence at the site. The sample was from context (105), the fill of a late Saxon/early medieval ditch, and was a yellowish brown silty loam. The sediment had no observable structure and was fairly loose, with frequent subangular/angular yellow-brown ironstone pebbles making up around 10% of the deposit.

Methodology

- C.1.2 19L of the sample was processed for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm, and both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

Results

Finds

- C.1.3 The main category of find to be recovered from the sample was bone, with both mammal and bird/small mammal bones occurring frequently. A small quantity of pottery was also recovered, although limited to fairly small body sherds. Although a large part of the fine residues were strongly magnetic, the only metallic item recovered was a small flake of metal from the 4-2mm fraction; no hammer scale was observed in the 2-0.5mm residue. In addition, two pieces of slag were recovered from the 4-2mm residue. The 2-0.5mm fraction was retained due to its abundance of CPR and small mammal bones.

Charred Plant Remains

- C.1.4 The CPR flot from the sample contained a large range and number of charred remains. Grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were common, many of which could be identified as free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum*), although in the remainder of examples preservation was not good enough to allow identification beyond genus level. There was also one example each of cereal grains to which a possible identification of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale*) was given. A moderate number of leguminous species were also observed, with at least two examples c.f. pea (*Pisum sativum*) and at least one of celtic bean (*Vicia faba*), as well as one small legume, one fragment of large legume, and assorted legume fragments. Little chaff was observed, with a small quantity of cereal nodes/internodes, and one example of a possible free-threshing rachis fragment of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) The wild/weed seed assemblage was limited to the frequent occurrence of *Galium* sp (bedstraws). Seeds of *Avena/Bromus* type were however fairly common, with one example identified as very likely to be cultivated oat (*Avena* sp.). Charcoal was also present in significant quantity, with many items greater



than 4mm in size. A snail was also observed in the flot. The heavy residues also produced a similar range of charcoal, cereal grains and legumes.

Discussion

- C.1.5 The frequent presence of bone in the sample, including small items such as rodent teeth, suggests that conditions are suitable for the preservation of bone at this site. The magnetized nature of the fine residues indicates that the ditch fill was exposed to high temperatures, and the presence of a fragment of metal, together with the two items of slag, is evidence that industrial activity may have been taking place in the vicinity of the ditch.
- C.1.6 The charred plant assemblage recovered from this sample indicates that these type of remains are preserved well at this site. Although it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from one sample, the remains do suggest that there was crop processing occurring in the vicinity of the ditch.



Table C.1: Assessment of charred plant remains from Queen's Street, Bloxham

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Date/ Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	chaff	weeds	other CPR	Charcoal	Molluscs	CPR/ WPR Potential	Full Analysis
1	105	Ditch	19	Late Saxon/ Early Medieval	100	+++	++	++	+	+++	+	GOOD	YES

Key: + = 10 items, ++ = 10-50 items, +++ = 50-100 items, ++++ = 100 = items.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

English Heritage, 2002. *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. Centre for Archaeology guidelines 2002.01.

OA, 2005. *Sampling guidelines*. Oxford Archaeology. Unpublished document.

OA, 2008. *Land at Bloxham, Oxfordshire*. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Oxford Archaeology. Unpublished report.

OA, 2011. *The Bungalow, Queens Street, Bloxham*. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Oxford Archaeology. Unpublished document.

Stace, C. 1997. (second edition). *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Bungalow, Queen Street, Bloxham, Oxfordshire

Site code: BLOQS11

Grid reference: NGR SP 428 355

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 4th to 7th April 2011

Area of site: 0.4 Ha

Summary of results: Between the 4th and 7th of April 2011 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation in the front and rear gardens of The Bungalow, Queen Street, Bloxham, Oxfordshire.

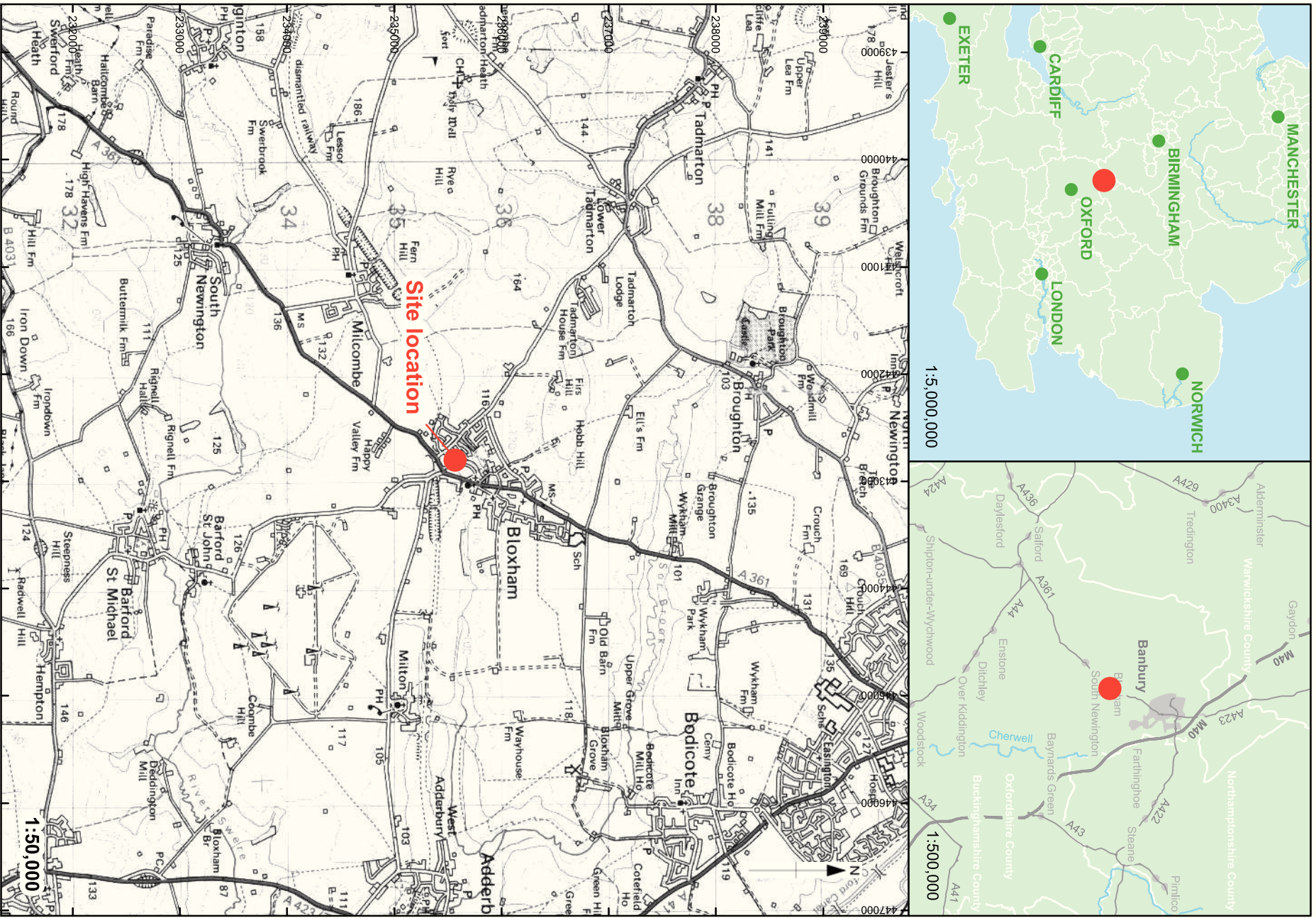
The evaluation consisted of three trenches and two test pits which were excavated on, or close to, the footprint of the proposed dwellings.

The earliest archaeological evidence comprised a length of ditch containing pottery of late Saxon early medieval date (11th century). A number of other undated ditches might be related and might represent a simple system of ditched enclosures, possibly agricultural, and associated with contemporary settlement nearby.

Evidence was also recovered for stone founded structures fronting on to both Queen Street and Kings Road. Cottages are mapped into the mid to late twentieth century (presumably similar to those surviving today elsewhere on both streets). Pottery and brick from within these structures suggest they may originate in the late medieval/Tudor period, although they may be later structures that incorporate residual or re-used materials.

A relict agricultural or garden soil of post medieval date, sealed by the modern topsoil, was visible in some of the trenches and suggested that the area had been put over to tillage at some point. A large quarry pit was cut through the soil and contained a mixed assemblage of pottery from the late medieval period to the nineteenth century.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum under the accession code OXCMS:2011.75 in due course.



Reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of
The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (c) Crown
Copyright, 1996 All rights reserved. License No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench locations and archaeology against proposed development

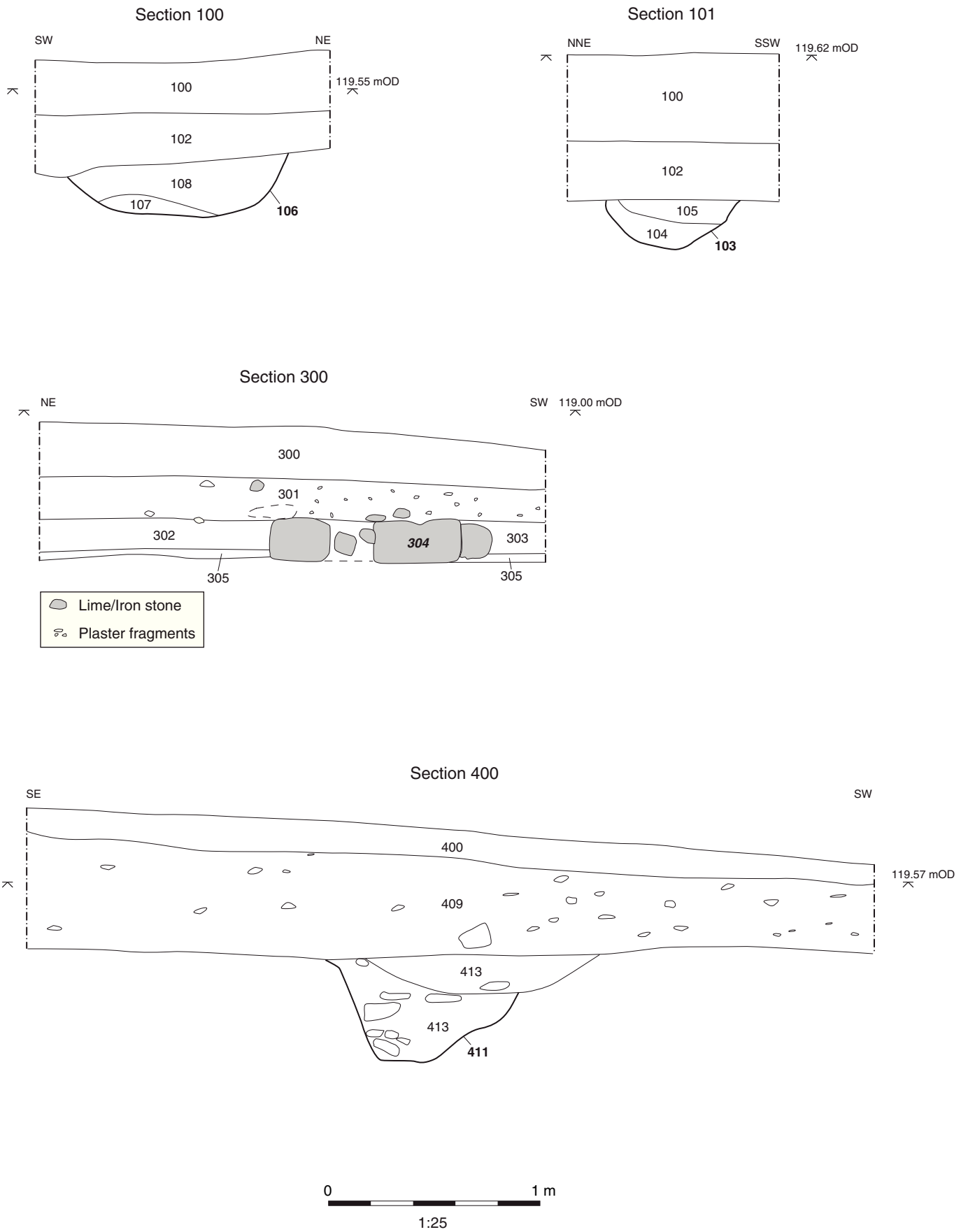


Figure 3: Sections

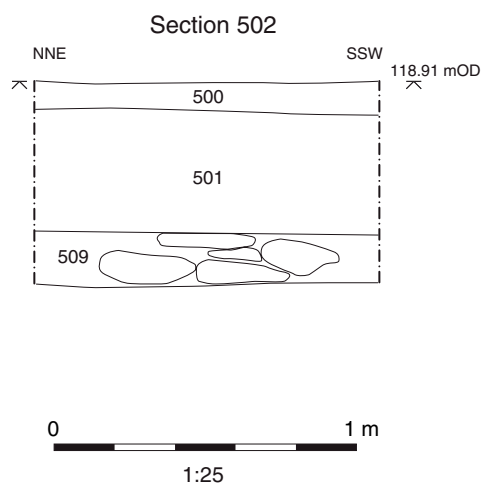
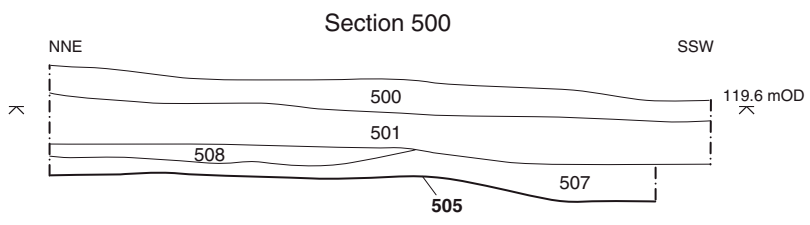
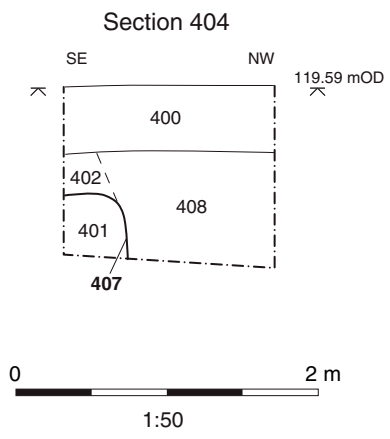
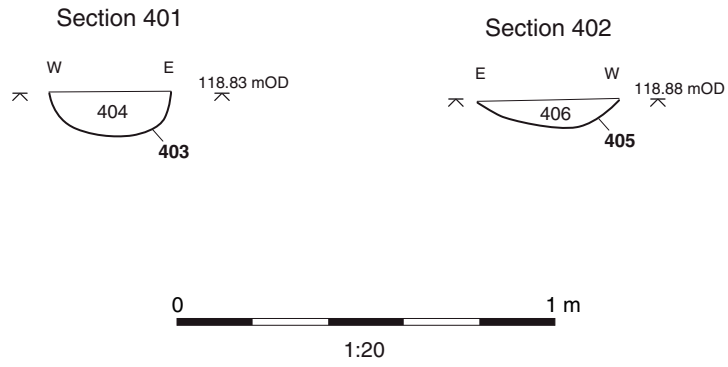


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: Trench 5. Wall 503 and surface 504, facing west



Plate 2: Trench 5. Wall 503 and surface 504, facing north



Plate 3: Trench 3. Wall 304 facing south



Plate 4: Trench 1 (N). Ditch 103, section 101, facing east



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oamed@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

OA Grand Ouest

7 Rue des Monderaines
ZI - Ouest
14650 Carpiquet
France

t: +33 (0) 249 88 01 01
f: +33 (0) 249 88 01 02
e: [info@oago.fr](mailto: info@oago.fr)
w: <http://oago.fr>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*