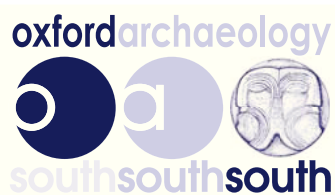


Lawn Upton House  
Littlemore  
Oxford



Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report



December 2010

**Client: Hives Planning**

Issue No: 1

OA Job No: 4824

NGR: SP 5374 0263





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Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Bryan Matthews Project officer	Nick Shepherd Regional manager	Nick Shepherd Regional manager	

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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

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## Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford

*Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

*Written by Bryan Matthews*

*and illustrated by Julia Collins*

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## Summary

*In November 2010 Oxford Archaeology carried out a archaeological watching brief at Lawn Upton house, Littlemore, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Hives Planning on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Trust. The watching brief covered the initial connection of drainage works and the formation of an access road to proposed new buildings within the western side of the site. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), has been commissioned by Hives Planning on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Trust to undertake a Watching Brief of the site of a proposed housing development at Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The work is being undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 04/02293/FUL).
- 1.1.3 This report details the results of the initial phase of the watching brief which covered the initial connection of drainage works and the formation of a access road within the western side of the site (Figure 2).

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on NGR SP 5374 0263.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of c. 0.2 ha.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is sand and calcareous sandstone of the Corallian Formation (British Geological Survey, 1994).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within a landscape of extensive and dispersed Roman manufacturing activity relating to the nationally important local Roman pottery industry.
- 1.3.2 In 1995 an archaeological evaluation for a housing development at David Nicholls Close identified two small pits and a ditch along with a small amount of residual 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and a piece of possible Roman kiln daub (TVAS, 1995). These features were located 56 m north of the maintenance depot site. Trenches directly north of the depot did not identify any significant archaeological remains. A subsequent watching brief failed to identify any further features (OA, 1996).
- 1.3.3 A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of buildings for John Henry Newman Primary School, directly east of the site (Tempus Reparatum, 1994), during which no significant archaeological features were identified.
- 1.3.4 A two phase evaluation was undertaken in 2002 and 2005 on the site of Speedwell First School to the west of the maintenance depot (JMHS, 2002; JMHS, 2005). A small quantity of Roman pottery and two undated gullies were discovered.



## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

### 2.2 General Aims and Objectives

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive. Should remains be found to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

### 2.3 Specific Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief are:

- (i) To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the ground works, paying particular regard to the potential for Roman and medieval activity.

### 2.4 Methodology

- 2.4.1 Oxford City Council has produced a *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford*, setting out the requirement and standards for the archaeological work (OCC 2010).
- 2.4.2 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it might meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2010).
- 2.4.3 The watching brief was conducted as a series of visits to monitor the excavation of drainage runs and construction of a new access road on the western side of the site.
- 2.4.4 The drainage trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator and were up to 1.8 m wide by 2 m deep. The position of the excavated trenches is shown on Figure 2.
- 2.4.5 The access road was found to have no archaeological impact, as it was constructed on levelled-up ground in a 'no-dig' zone immediately to the east of the drainage trenches.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The simple stratigraphical sequence was exposed within the excavated trenches and a general description can be applied throughout.
- 3.1.2 The underlying orange-yellow sand (103) was encountered at a depth of between 0.7 m and 0.9 m below the present ground level, at 8.75 m OD. This was overlain by a patchy fragmented natural sandstone (102) that was up to 0.2 m thick in places. The sand and fragmented stone were overlain by a 0.4 m layer of pale brown loam subsoil (101) and 0.3 m of dark brown loam topsoil(100).
- 3.1.3 No archaeological features or finds were seen.

### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The sand and fragmented sandstone observed are thought to be indicative of the underlying geology of the area and these are overlain by a relatively thick subsoil and the present topsoil. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.





## APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth(m)	Width(m)	Length(m)	Comments	Finds	Date
100	Layer	0.3			Topsoil		
101	Layer	0.4			Subsoil		
102	Layer	0.2			Stony natural		
103	Layer	1.1			Natural sand		



## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, 1994, Thame Sheet 237.

John Moore Heritage Services, 2002, *Phase 1 Archaeological Evaluation at Speedwell First School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

John Moore Heritage Services, 2005, *Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation at Speedwell First School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

Oxford Archaeology, 1996, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at David Nicholls Close, Littlemore Oxford.*

Oxford Archaeology, 2010, *A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief at Lawn Upton School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

Oxford City Council, 2010, *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford.*

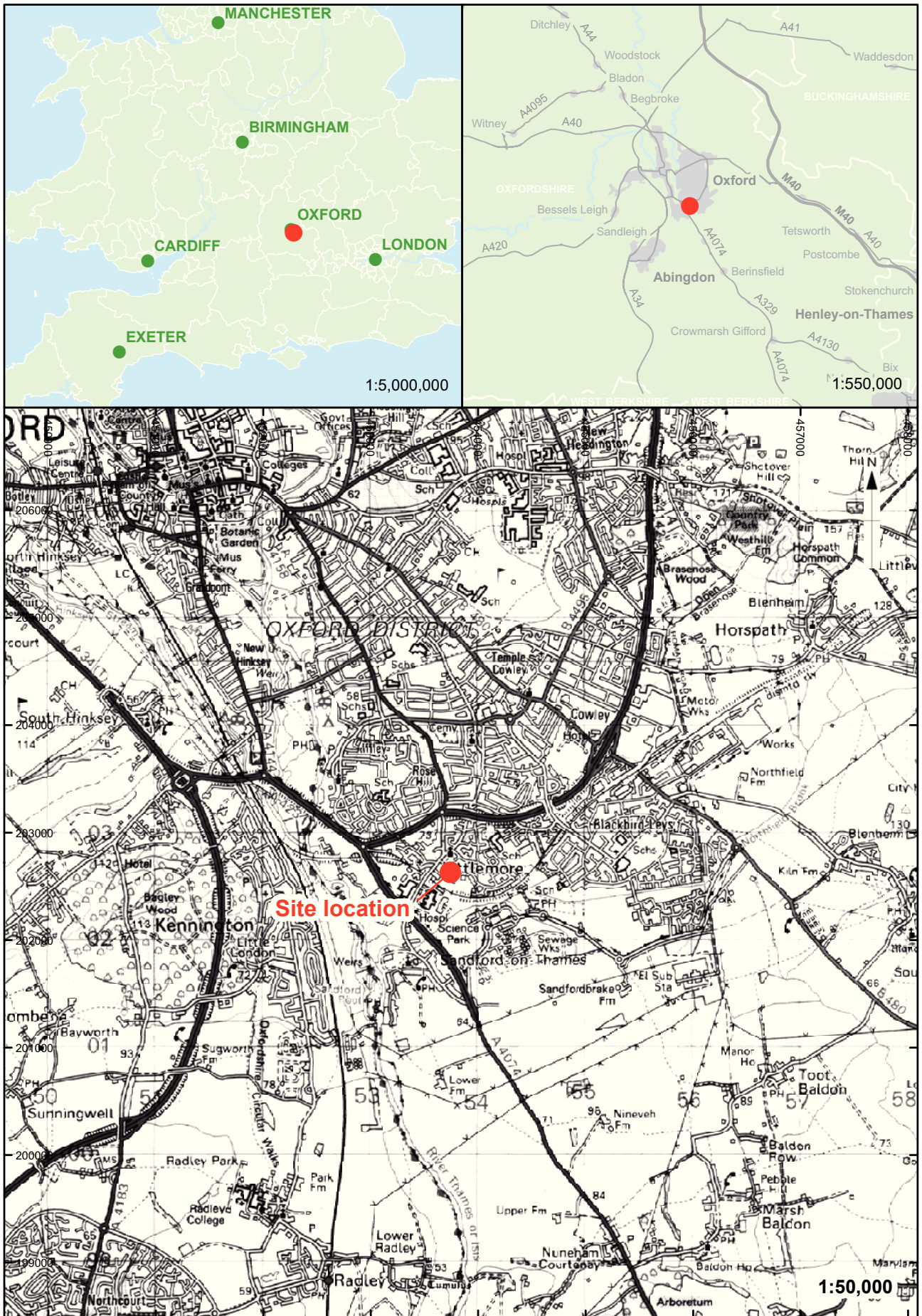
Tempus Reparatum, 1994, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at John Henry Newman Primary School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 1995, *Archaeological Evaluation at David Nicholls Close, Littlemore, Oxford.*



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford
Site code:	LILUH 10
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR SP 5374 0263
Type of watching brief:	Drainage and foundation trenches
Date and duration of project:	15/11/10 - 22/11/10
Area of site:	0.2 Hectares
Summary of results:	No archaeological features or finds were found
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 Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2010.54.



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Figure 1: Site location



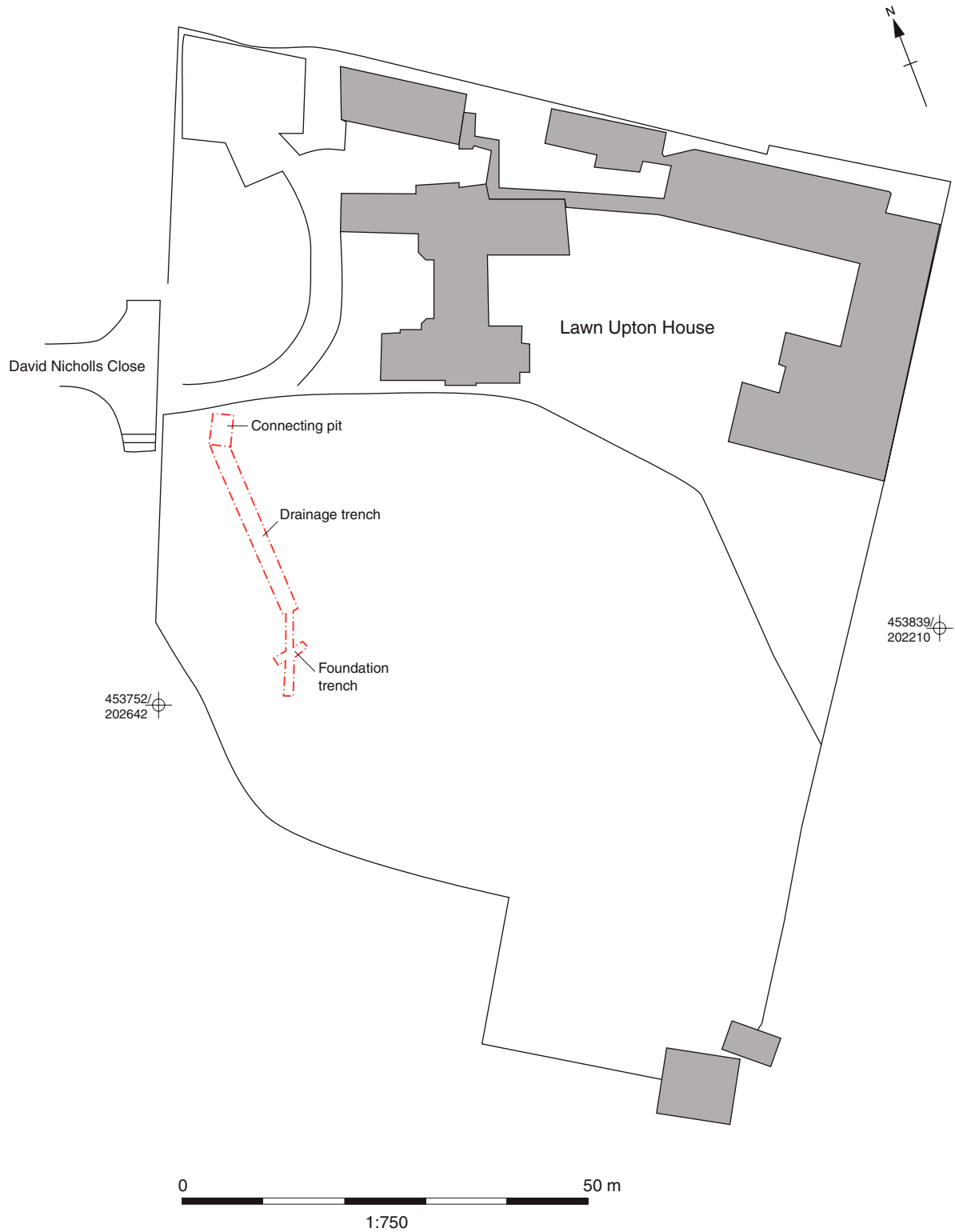


Figure 2: Location of drainage trenches





### **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](mailto: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 850 500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599  
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

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