Folly Farm
Faringdon
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology

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Client: DPDS for Bloor Homes/ Wicklesham Properties

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Folly Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Folly Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire (centered on SU 2930 9505). The first phase of work on Trenches 5 to 24 was completed during November and December 2006, however it was not possible to excavate Trenches 1 - 4 located on the Faringdon Cricket Ground due to ground saturation, these were completed during May 2007 after a period of dryer weather. The work was carried out on behalf of Bloor Homes and Wicklesham Commercial Properties (now Aslan Developments LLP), in advance of a proposed mixed used development comprising residential and business units and leisure facilities.

The evaluation revealed little evidence of significant archaeological features or deposits with the exception of one undated possible ditch. Some evidence for 19th and 20th century landfill was also recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by DPDS Consulting on behalf of Wicklesham Commercial Properties and Bloor Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land off Park Lane, Faringdon, Oxfordshire (centered on SU 2930 9505).

1.1.2 The proposed mixed-use development will comprise the construction of residential and business units and leisure facilities - Planning Application No. GFA/19883/OUT - *Land off Park Road and Stanford Road, Faringdon.*

1.1.3 The evaluation followed on from two Desk Based Assessments (OA Oct. 2006a and OA Oct. 2006b) that highlighted the positive potential for there to be archaeological remains at the site due to the presence of known sites of archaeological interest within the immediate vicinity.

1.1.4 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation or WSI (OA Nov. 2006) which was designed to meet the requirements of the *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC Sept. 2006). The aim of the evaluation was 'ground truth' the potential archaeological resource identified at the site by the DBA's.

1.1.5 The site is located to the south-east of the historic market town of Faringdon, with the A420 to the east and Park Road to the west. The Site is centred on NGR SU 2930 9505 (Figure 1). The Site lies within the parish of Great Faringdon, formally part of the County of Berkshire. It is now within the County of Oxfordshire and within the administrative area of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

1.1.6 The site encompasses *c.* 14.71 hectares, comprising a cricket ground, a former nursery and an area of public parkland. The former nursery is not presently utilised

and the land, with the exception of the cricket ground and paths, is covered in thick undergrowth up to 1m high.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the Site is mainly composed of Kimmeridge Clay and Corallion beds, with a small area to the north east being Middle Chalk. The area surrounding the site is underlain primarily by limestone of the Corallian Beds (GSGB, 1971, Sheet 253).

1.2.2 The site is located on the southern slope of the Corallian ridge. The site slopes gradually from an approximate height of 112m OD at the northern end to 105m OD at the southern end over a distance of approximately 400m. To the west of the site the ground gradually rises, and directly to the north east it rises sharply to form two hills, Faringdon Hill and Jespers Hill. To the south east the ground gradually falls away down towards the Vale of the White Horse.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The following is reproduced from both desk based assessment (OA Oct. 2006a and b)

Prehistoric Period (500,00 BP - 43 AD)

The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods (c 500,000 BC to 4000 BC)

1.3.1 The river terrace gravels are the principal sources of Palaeolithic artefacts in the Oxfordshire region. There are however, some hints of activity on the higher ground in the Oxfordshire region, such as the Corallian Ridge on which the Site is located.

1.3.2 Case has suggested that the higher ground above the Thames (such as that on which the Site lies) may have been used for Early Mesolithic settlement or exploitation.

1.3.3 There are no recorded sites or finds of Palaeolithic origin within the Site or the study area. There are no recorded sites or finds of the Mesolithic period within the Site. A lithic scatter has been recorded *c* 430m south west of the Site. The flint finds were dated to between the Early Mesolithic and Late Bronze Age periods. It is also possible that the 'prehistoric lithics' found during an archaeological evaluation (*c* 540m south west of the Site) may include material of Palaeolithic to Bronze Age origin but this is uncertain.

The Neolithic period (c 4000-2400 BC)

1.3.4 Evidence of Early Neolithic settlement is sparse in this part of Oxfordshire, however Case observes that settlement and intense activity in the Middle and Later Neolithic appears to have shifted from the lower valley slopes and floodplains, onto higher ground such as that occupied by the Site. Such areas would have been attractive as they overlook the floodplain of the Thames Valley and include soils of varying qualities, which would have provided mixed environments for foraging, hunting and farming.

1.3.5 There is only one recorded archaeological findspot within the study area which relates to the Neolithic period. A Neolithic polished flint axe was found *c* 950m south west of the Site.

The Bronze Age (c 2400-700 BC)

1.3.6 The recorded pattern of earlier Bronze Age archaeology is of a focus of settlement activity on the alluvium close to the River Thames, with ritual sites located on the higher ground of the valley slopes. Later in the Bronze Age settlement and farming activity also extended up onto the higher ground, such as that occupied by the Site.

1.3.7 A number of possible Bronze Age ring ditches were seen on an aerial photograph located *c* 750m south-west of the Site. No other Bronze Age artefacts or activity sites are recorded within the Site or the study area.

The Iron Age (c 700BC- AD 43)

1.3.8 Iron Age activity over this region appears to primarily consist of pastoral exploitation of the valley floodplains, with more intensive arable farming tending to be located on the higher ground. There is some evidence that arable cultivation may have spread out over previously pastoral landscapes of the valley floodplains by about the 4th century BC, when enclosed settlements become more common.

1.3.9 There are no recorded Iron Age features or artefacts within the Site. Within the study area there are three features of possible (but uncertain) Iron Age origin. These comprise;

1.3.10 cropmarks of a circle of post holes, which were seen on aerial photographs, could be of Iron Age origin (*c* 500m north east of the Site);

1.3.11 The discovery of two sherds of possible Iron Age pottery (*c.* 600m north west of the Site);

1.3.12 Cropmarks of enclosures and pits (*c* 500m south west of the Site).

Romano-British Period (AD 43-410)

1.3.13 The use of the landscape in the Roman period would have been very similar to that of the later Iron Age, consisting of small farmsteads set in enclosures with mixed field systems and trackways. This pattern of land use is likely to have been spread over both the floodplain and the higher ground on which the Site stands. An association has been proposed between the topographical feature of the Corallian ridge (upon which the Site stands), and Roman villas, which means there is a possibility of a Roman villa on the ridge in this vicinity. However there is no evidence of this in the Site or in the study area.

1.3.14 There are two recorded archaeological discoveries within the study area of Roman artefacts; Roman pottery was found *c* 500m to the south-west of the Site and three Roman coins were found *c* 700m north-west of the Site.

The Medieval Period (AD 410-1550)

The Early Medieval Period (AD410-1066)

1.3.15 Blair notes that there is some documentary and archaeological evidence to suggest that by the 8th or 9th century the Roman landscape pattern of enclosures and mixed field systems had evolved into a pattern of large, open fields dominated by arable cultivation. Estates of the early medieval period in this region may have been laid out to incorporate mixed landscapes of meadow (floodplain), woodland and land suitable for arable farming, in a pattern designed to be of maximum economic efficiency.

1.3.16 Faringdon is known to have existed prior to the Conquest of 1066, and appears to have been a royal residence as it is recorded that Edward the Elder died here in 924. It was not fortified against the Danes however, which suggests it was not deemed to be of sufficient importance, or possibly, to be indefensible.

1.3.17 There are two archaeological discoveries within the study area of early medieval artefacts. A possible sherd of Anglo Saxon pottery was found within the Historic Core of Faringdon (*c* 700m north west of the Site) and an infant inhumation buried with Anglo Saxon pottery has been recorded as being found *c* 950m to the north west of the Site.

The Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

1.3.18 The rural landscape of this region of England was slowly changing from the open landscape of dispersed settlement and farmsteads of the early medieval period to a more focussed landscape in the later medieval period. Settlement becomes concentrated or nucleated into villages and townships, surrounded by a pattern of open fields with comparatively few early enclosures

1.3.19 During the later medieval period the Site appears to have been located well to the south of the historic core of Faringdon (located *c* 760m to the north; Figure 2). It is likely that the Site would have lain in an essentially rural landscape and is most likely to have been under arable cultivation in an open field (see 4.6.1 below).

1.3.20 Faringdon is recorded as 'Ferendone' in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and was by this time a demesne of the Crown, 1 hide being held by the Bishop of Salisbury and 4 hides by Alsi.

1.3.21 Later medieval settlement reached its peak in the Vale of the White Horse towards the end of the thirteenth century, (Bond, 1986, 136). Faringdon is known to have had a market from 1218 and a fair was granted in 1227.

1.3.22 Within the study area there are ten recorded later medieval archaeological entities. These comprise:

- A late medieval beam slot and cess pit recorded during an excavation in 1977 (*c* 440m north west of the Site)
- Earthworks of a possible deserted medieval village, together with the findspot of a medieval quern fragment (*c* 470m south east of the Site)

- Late medieval pottery and manuring finds recovered during an evaluation (*c* 460m north west of Site)
- The castle mound at Faringdon Folly, possibly of 13th century origin (*c* 720m north of the Site)
- Site of the first gaol in Berkshire, built at some point before 1197 (*c* 1km north west of the Site)
- Later medieval Deer Park, dating from the mid 14th century (*c* 170m south of the Site)
- Late medieval well and paved surfaces found during a site clearance (Within historic core of Faringdon)
- Late medieval pottery found at Sudbury House. (Within historic core of Faringdon)
- An archaeological evaluation which recovered medieval pottery. (Within historic core of Faringdon)
- Late medieval pottery found during an evaluation (*c* 550m south west of the Site.
- There are no recorded later medieval features or finds within the Site.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1550+)

1.3.23 Post-medieval expansion of Faringdon was concentrated on the area now forming the western part of the existing town. There appears to have been little expansion south toward the area in which the Site lies prior to the 19th century. For most of the Post-medieval period the Site lay well outside of the urban environment of Faringdon. In the 16th century the 'champion' or arable land lay outside of the town.

1.3.24 Faringdon seems to have been a prosperous town, as out of the nine market towns in the vicinity, it is one of only two to have retained its market status throughout the Post-medieval period. It is known to have suffered damage during the Civil War however, when the Royalists seized and held Faringdon House between 1643 and 1646.

1.3.25 The Ordnance Survey 2" Map of 1811 is the first map to show clearly the area in which the Site lies. It shows the Site to the south of the town in a complex of enclosed fields (Figure 3). It also shows a building later known as the 'Old Pest House'. It shows the Site to include field boundaries, which are still in existence today.

1.3.26 The Enclosure Map and Award of 1772 shows only a few small enclosures and not the whole of Faringdon. The Site is not shown on the map. A Parliamentary Enclosure map for the whole of Faringdon does not appear to have been commissioned: it is very likely that most of the land had already been enclosed prior to the 18th century. The remaining open fields in the parish were enclosed by an act of Parliament in 1773.

1.3.27 The Tithe map of 1850 (BCRO ref. IR 30/2/54 Sub 2) does not depict the land on which the Site lies in any detail. It merely notes it as belonging to Daniel Bennett Esq. The accompanying Tithe Apportionment (BCRO ref. IR 29/2/54 23) shows Daniel Bennett Esq. to be a wealthy landowner with 10 tenants paying him rent. Bennett had acquired the manor of Faringdon in 1847 from William Hallett. The OS

Book of Reference of 1877 records that all of the land within the Site was then in pasture.

1.3.28 The Ordnance Survey First Edition Twenty Five Inch map of 1876 records both Faringdon and the area of the Site in some detail. The map shows the Site as being divided into seven fields.

1.3.29 The building shown on the 2" OS map of 1811 is for the first time labelled on the 1st Edition 25" OS map of 1876 as the 'Old Pest House' (This is also present on the 2nd and 3rd Editions of 1900 and 1914). Historically, Pest Houses have been built in isolated areas to house patients with infectious diseases. Many were built during the 1660s to isolate plague victims, but they were still being built in the mid 18th century to house Small-pox victims. The 'Old Pest House' is not mentioned in the 1772 Enclosure Award and does not appear on any less detailed maps consulted pre-dating 1811. It is probable, therefore, that it was built late in the 18th century or early in the 19th century. However, the historical and cartographic evidence is not absolute and it is possible that the 'Pest House' may have been built earlier. It is very unlikely that burials would have taken place in the environs of the Pest House in the 18th or 19th century. If the Pest House had been built and used in the later medieval period, then there is a possibility that burials may have been interred in the environs of the Pest House.

1.3.30 A Rifle Range and butts are first shown on the 1st Edition 25" OS map of 1876. There is also a building located on the alignment of the Rifle Range. The range would have consisted of a number of markers or firing points at measured intervals from which the troops would shoot towards the targets set up just below the Butts, which would have safely contained any overshots.

1.3.31 A cricket ground and Pavilion used by the Faringdon & District Cricket Club are also first shown on the 1st Edition 25" OS map of 1876. The cricket ground is also shown on the 2nd and 3rd Editions but only the Pavilion is shown on the revised 1998 OS map, despite the club still playing there. The club was established in the 1840s.

1.3.32 Also shown for the first time on the 1876 map are two clay pits shown on the OS map of 1876; and the former location of a windpump which are all possibly associated with the Faringdon Kiln, located *c* 150m to the north east. There is also the former location of a small unlabelled building shown for the first time on the OS map of 1876**,** along with two former field boundaries.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed site and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.

2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation in the form of a report that will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further archaeological action at the site.

2.1.4 To help define any relevant research priorities if additional archaeological investigation proves necessary.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of twenty trenches; numbers 5 - 24 measuring 30 m long x 1.5 m wide, with a further 4 trenches; numbers 1 - 4 measuring 20 m long by 1.5 m wide. Five of the trenches were targeted to locate features identified in the DBA:

- Trench 12 - the Pest House
- Trenches 6 and 11 - the Rifle Range
- Trenches 19 and 20 - a field boundary.

3.1.2 The remaining trenches were distributed so as to give a random but even distribution across the remainder of the site.

3.1.3 The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geology, which also represented the first archaeological horizon. The trenches were excavated by a 7.5 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching/grading bucket. Trenches 18 and 20 revealed significantly increased depths of overburden, which were sampled by means of machine excavated sondages.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and, where excavated, their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black-and white-print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Although some artefactual material was recorded within the trenches, this was exclusively from 19th or 20th century contexts and was consequently not retained.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the evaluation.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 All trenches were subject to the influx of surface water from the waterlogged topsoil. A number of the trenches in the lower lying areas of the site also experienced flooding from rising ground water. Additionally, a spring was encountered in Trench 19. The varied nature of the geological deposits encountered reflected the location of the site on the interface between various geological deposits and the unconformity of the Corallian Beds (BGS, Sheet 253).

4.2 Description of deposits

General

4.2.1 The nature of the deposits overlying the natural geology varied according to the location of the trench within the site and as such the results are presented to reflect this differentiation. OD levels at the top and bottom of each end of each trench are presented in the context inventory, together with detailed deposit descriptions.

Cricket Pitch
(Trenches 1-4)

4.2.2 A mid grey brown, silty clay loam topsoil (101, 202, 302 and 402) between, 0.14 m - 0.24 m thick supporting an established grass turf, directly overlay a similar thin layer of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural geology. The geology comprised a clay natural which varied in colour from pale bluey-grey to mid-orangey-brown (100, 200, 300, and 400). Within this matrix were some patches of limestone pieces in Trench 3 and a sandier component to the east of Trench 4.

4.2.3 No archaeological features were present, however a vague linear alignment of mid grey-brown sandy clay, 204, - c. 1m wide - with very diffuse edges, was observed running for c. 5 m on a SW-NE orientation through the southern part of the Trench 2. This is considered to be a remnant of a modern hedgeline field boundary.

Field south of Cricket Pitch
(Trenches 5-7)

4.2.4 A mid grey brown, silty clay loam topsoil (500, 600, 700), 0.25 m - 0.30 m thick, directly overlay the natural geology which comprised a consistent mid yellowish grey clay (501, 601, 701).

4.2.5 No archaeological features were present, and no evidence for the Rifle Range was observed within Trench 6.

Former Nursery
(Trenches 8-11)

4.2.6 The natural geology (803, 902, 1002, 1102) was predominantly comprised of an orange grey clay with patches of mid brown sandy clay and occasional pockets of mid bluey-grey clay. This was overlain by a fairly consistent mid -dark grey clay loam (801, 901, 1001, 1101) which may have represented a truncated(?), buried topsoil pre-dating the construction of the nursery. The deposits overlying this soil were all associated with the construction of the nursery. The exception to this was a *c* 6 m

wide NW-SE aligned cut filled with re-deposited(?) Kimmeridge Clay, which represented the water main shown on service plans provided by Thames Water.

4.2.7 No archaeological features were present, and no evidence for the Rifle Range was observed within Trench 11.

Field east of Former Nursery
(Trenches 12-20)

4.2.8 The natural geology (1203, 1301, 1402, 1502, 1601, 1703, 1902, and 2000) was predominantly composed of orange brown clay with localised variations in colour and composition, and significantly higher sand content in the trenches to the south and west. The natural clay in the trenches to the north of the field (14 and 15 particularly) contained concentrations of limestone fragments.

4.2.9 The natural geology was overlain by a layer of modern topsoil which varied in thickness from 0.25 m (Trench 14) to 0.55 m (Trench 19) but was a fairly consistent mid-dark greyish brown silty loam. There were some variations to this general model, most notably in Trenches 12, 18, 20 and 16.

Trench 12

4.2.10 The natural geology (1203) was directly overlain by a dark grey brown silt clay with ceramic building material (CBM) and ?19th century tin glaze pottery throughout (1202), although particularly concentrated to the south of the trench. As this trench was located over the potential location of the Pest House, it is possible that the concentrations of CBM suggest the proximity of the demolished building, although no in-situ structural remains were encountered.

4.2.11 This may suggest that deposit 1202 represents a buried topsoil similar to the deposits encountered within the former nursery (e.g. - 801), although containing intrusive brick rubble originating from the demolition of the Pest House. Alternatively, this deposit may represent a demolition deposit comprising re-deposited topsoil mixed with brick rubble etc., implying that the deposits overlying the natural geology have been truncated during the demolition.

4.2.12 The trench was also located over a well-established footpath and the deposit(s) overlying 1202 (1200 and 1201) reflected this, being comprised of compacted gravel rich material.

Trenches 18 and 20

4.2.13 Both Trenches 18 and 20 were excavated through very mixed deposits comprising bands of re-deposited clay and sandy clay natural, interspersed with layers of dark grey silty clay (1800, 2003). It is possible that the silty clay elements of the deposits represent re-deposited topsoil(s) mixed with re-deposited natural clays. Modern finds were observed throughout these deposits.

4.2.14 The trenches were located to the east of the site, where the ground slopes from the NE. At the top of the slop is a modern housing estate and the deposits encountered

within these trenches are likely to originate from the construction of these buildings. In Trench 18 the mixed deposits were at least 2.00 m thick and in Trench 20 approximately 1.5 m. This would be consistent with material being dumped from the NE. Modern material observed on the ground surface would suggest that these deposits extend as far as the tree-line to the east of Trench 17 and at least 20 m to the south of Trench 20.

4.2.15 The fact that these deposits appeared to directly overlie the natural geology in Trench 20 (the base of the deposits was not reached in Trench 18) would suggest that either the old topsoil has been truncated during the dumping of this material, or that it has been contaminated with modern debris during this process (i.e. the lower *c* 0.3 m - 0.8 m of the deposit represent the buried topsoil which contains intrusive 20th century finds).

4.2.16 The presence of 19th century material mixed with more modern artefacts would either imply that the re-deposited soils originated from 19th century contexts, or that the area had already been subject to landfill in the 19th century which has become mixed with the more modern material during the deposition of the latter.

4.2.17 Beneath the landfill deposits in the western end of Trench 20 was the western edge of a possible N-S aligned cut (2001) which was filled by a pale grey clay silt (2002). No further characterisation of this feature was possible given the instability of the landfill deposits sealing it, and the constant influx of ground water. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 16

4.2.18 The initial excavation of the western end of Trench 16 revealed a WSW-ENE aligned ceramic pipe at approximately 112.23 m OD. This appeared to cut through the upper fills of a much wider and deeper trench filled with re-deposited bluey-grey clay and almost certainly representing the eastern continuation of the water main trench observed within Trench 8, with a storm(?) water drain cut through the top of the backfill.

4.2.19 Consequently the trench was re-located and re-aligned (see Fig. 2). The stratigraphic sequence was as described above, with natural clay (1601) overlain by modern topsoil (1600). However an ephemeral NNW-SSE aligned 'cut' was observed in the top of the natural geology, which had irregular spreads of material at regular intervals along its length. The composition of the fill of this 'cut', and the irregular spreads of material, was very similar to the overlying topsoil and it is likely that these features represent a fairly recent hedge-line.

Field NE of A417/A420 junction
(Trenches 21-24)

4.2.20 The natural geology varied from limestone fragments in a brown clay matrix to the west of the field (Trench 24 and the western end of Trench 22) to a mid-orangey brown sandy clay in the trenches to the east (Trenches 21 and 23). These deposits were overlain by a *c.* 0.30 m thick layer of silty clay loam topsoil.

4.2.21 Some evidence for modern landscaping was revealed within the northern end of Trench 22, which is likely to originate from the construction of the industrial units to the west.

4.2.22 Additionally, the topsoil in Trench 24 overlay a sporadic deposit of tarmac, which did not form a surface but may represent the stockpiling of surfacing material during the construction/surfacing of the A420 and/or A417. The fact this deposit directly overlay the natural geology would suggest a certain amount of truncation has occurred during this construction/surfacing and that this area may have been utilised as a compound.

4.2.23 Trench 23 also displayed some evidence for modern landscaping as the topsoil at the northern end of the trench overlay a mixed deposit of re-deposit clays which was originally thought to lay within a NW-SE aligned cut, the southern edge of which was *c.* 3 m from the northern end of the trench. The trench was extended *c.* 5 m north in an attempt to define the northern limit of this deposit but no corresponding northern edge was encountered. This suggested that material was deliberate backfilling of a low-lying area to the north, probably contemporary with the construction of the embankment for the A420 to the east.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 Although almost all the trenches were subject to a degree of flooding during the evaluation, it was evident during the initial machine excavation of the deposits overlying the natural geology that very few archaeological features were apparent. The few potential features observed were hand excavated and proved to be either a result of bioturbation (such as the features in Trench 16) or land drains (such as that in Trench 19 - ref. Context Inventory, Appendix 1).

5.2 Interpretation

5.2.1 With the exception of the possible linear feature beneath the landfill deposits in Trench 20, no significant archaeological features were observed during the course of the evaluation.

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
Trench 1									
100	layer			mid brown with pale grey patches	clay		natural kimmeridge clay		
101	deposit		0.20	mid grey	clayey silt		top soil		modern
102	deposit		0.06		clayey loam	grass and root base	turf		modern
Trench 2									
200	layer			mid pale bluey-grey			natural kimmeridge clay		
201	deposit		0.06	mid grey	silty clay		buried post-medieval[?] soil		post-medieval?
202	deposit		0.10	mid grey	clayey silt		top soil		modern
203	deposit		0.06		clayey loam	grass and root base	turf		modern
204	deposit			mid grey-brown	sandy clay		possible hedgeline disturbance		modern[?]
Trench 3									
300	layer			mid orangey-brown with patches of mid brownish-grey	clay	concentrations of limestone pieces	natural kimmeridge clay		
301	deposit		0.06	mid grey	silty clay		subsoil		modern
302	deposit		0.18	mid grey	clayey silt		topsoil		modern
303	deposit		0.06		clayey loam	grass and root base	turf		modern
Trench 4									
400	layer			mid brown with pale grey patches	clay	sandier to east of trench	natural kimmeridge clay		
401	deposit		0.08	mid grey	silty clay		subsoil		modern
402	deposit		0.10	mid grey	clayey silt		topsoil		modern
403	deposit		0.04		clayey loam	grass and root base	turf		modern

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
Trench 5									
500	deposit		0.28	mid grey brown	silty clay loam		topsoil		modern
501	layer			yellow grey	clay		natural ?kimmeridge clay - irregular spreads of topoil may indicate bioturbation		
Trench 6									
600	deposit		0.25	mid grey brown	silt clay loam		topsoil		modern
601	layer			yellow grey	clay		natural ?kimmeridge clay - irregular spreads of topsoil probably indicative of bioturbation		
Trench 7									
700	deposit		0.25	mid grey brown	silt clay loam		topsoil		modern
701	layer			yellow grey	clay		natural ?kimmeridge clay - irregular spreads of topsoil probably indicative of bioturbation or possibly plough scars		
Trench 8									
800	deposit		0.28	mid brownish grey over sand over clay	silt clay loam over sand over yellow brown clay		topsoil - overlies geotextile within former nursery which in turn overlies sand and clay made ground associated with construction of nursery or re-instatement following installation of water main		modern
801	deposit		0.03	mid blue grey	clay		re-deposited oxford clay which also fills water main trench suggesting ground reduction either side of water main during installation		modern
802	cut		1.50 +				water main trench filled by mid blue grey clay (re-deposited oxford clay)		modern
803	layer			mid orange brown	clay with irregular sandy variations		natural clay - ?corallian beds		
Trench 9									
900	deposit		0.18		gravel and sand		modern made ground associated with former nursery - overlies geotextile		

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
901	deposit		0.14	mid grey brown	clay loam		buried and ?truncated topsoil		
902	layer			mid orange brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds - mid blue grey clay variations throughout		
Trench 10									
1000	deposit		0.10	mixed	mixed		made ground associated with former nursery. varies from loamy soil to gravel, possibly representing nursery beds and gravel pathways between same		
1001	deposit		0.38	mid grey brown	clay loam	10% gravel fragments	buried and ?truncated topsoil		
1002	layer			mid orange brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds - mid blue grey clay variations throughout and pockets of sandy clay towards eastern end of trench		
Trench 11									
1100	deposit		0.10	mixed	mixed		made ground associated with former nursery. varies from loamy soil to gravel, possibly representing nursery beds and gravel pathways between same		
1101	deposit		0.25	mid grey brown	clay loam	5% gravel fragments	buried and ?truncated topsoil		
1102	layer			mid orange brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds - mid blue grey clay variations throughout. occasional sandy lenses		
Trench 12									
1200	deposit		0.12	mid-dark grey brown	clay silt	20% gravel fragments	compacted and gravel rich deposit reflecting well established path over which trench is located		
1201	deposit		0.05	orange brown	clay	5% graavel fragments	thin and sporadic lens of re-deposited clay under compacted 'surface' of pathway		
1202	deposit		0.45	dark brown	silt clay		either buried soil 'contaminated' with demolition rubble from pest house OR re-deposited buried soil with demolition rubble throughout	CBM, tinglaze pottery (not retained)	?19thC
1203	layer			mid orange brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds - blue		

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
							grey clay and orangey brown sand variations throughout		
Trench 13									
1300	deposit		0.55	mid grey brown	silty clay		topsoil		
1301	layer			mid orange brown	sandy clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
Trench 14									
1400	deposit		0.08	turf	turf		turf overlying topsoil - 'surface' of pathway		
1401	deposit		0.16	mid-dark brown	clay loam		topsoil		
1402	layer			mid orange brown	sandy clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
Trench 15									
1500	deposit		0.10	turf	turf		turf overlying topsoil - 'surface' of pathway		
1501	deposit		0.53	mid-dark grey brown	silty clay		topsoil - contains brick rubble in eastern end of trench possibly marking northern extent of landfill deposits in trenches 18 and 20		
1502	layer			mid orange brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds - sandy clay variations throughout		
Trench 16									
1600	deposit		0.30	mid-dark brown	silty clay		topsoil		
1601	layer			mid orange brown	sandy clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
Trench 17									
1700	deposit		0.06	turf	turf		turf overlying topsoil - 'surface' of pathway		
1701	deposit		0.26 max	dark grey brown	silty clay		similar in composition to topsoil 1702 but with modern brick rubble and pottery throughout - possibly marking north-western extent of landfill seen in trenches 18 and 20 - confined to northern end of trench	modern debris throughout	modern
1702	deposit		0.36	mid brownish	silty clay		topsoil		

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
			max	grey					
1703	layer			mid orange brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds - sandy clay variations throughout, particularly towards southern end of trench		
Trench 18									
1800	deposit		0.30	mid-pale brownish grey	silty clay		'topsoil' - upper element of landfill deposit 1801	modern debris throughout	modern
1801	deposit		1.70+	mixed	mixed		landfill - comprising re-deposited sand and clay interspersed with dark grey clayey silts possibly either re-deposited topsoil or contaminated buried soils (at base of landfill deposits)	modern debris throughout	modern
Trench 19									
1900	deposit		0.20	dark brown	silty loam		topsoil		
1901	deposit		0.37	orangey brown	silty clay		?colluvial subsoil at base of slope - very similar in composition to sandy clay natural but appears to overlie the fill of 1904 (1903) so potentially quite a recent deposition - possibly part of landfill?? comprising re-deposited natural, although very sterile. alternatively, upper part of fill 1903 is re-deposition of this material suggesting that 1904 cuts it		
1902	layer			mid orange brown	sandy clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
1903	fill		0.30+	mixed	mixed		fill of cut for ceramic drain comprising mixed re-deposition of ?subsoil 1901 and crushed cinder block		?19th C
1904	cut	1.50+	0.30+				cut for land drain		?19th C
Trench 20									
2000	layer			pale greenish brown	clay		natural geology - ?kimmeridge clay		
2001	cut	1.50+	0.80+				possible linear feature overlain by landfill		

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
2002	fill	1.50+	0.80+	mid-pale grey	clay silt		fill of possible linear feature		
2003	deposit		1.20	mixed	mixed		landfill - comprising re-deposited sand and clay interspersed with dark grey clayey silts possibly either re-deposited topsoil or contaminated buried soils (at base of landfill deposits)	modern debris throughout	modern
2004	deposit		0.30	mid-pale brownish grey	silty clay		'topsoil' - upper element of landfill deposit 2003	modern debris throughout	modern
Trench 21									
2100	deposit		0.30	mid orangey brown	silty clay loam		topsoil		
2101	layer			bownish orange	sandy clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
Trench 22									
2200	deposit		0.25	mid orangey brown	silty clay loam		topsoil		
2201	deposit		0.28	pale grey	silty clay	20% gravel fragments	modern made ground - probably originates from construction of industrial units to west - overlain by topsoil suggesting that the latter is a fairly recent deposition / re-deposition	modern debris throughout	modern
2202	layer			white / orangey brown	limestone in clay matrix		natural geology - ?cornbrash of corallian beds		
2203	layer			orangey brown	clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
Trench 23									
2300	deposit		0.30	mid orangey brown	silty clay loam		topsoil		
2301	deposit			mixed	mixed		modern landfill/made ground - predominantly re-deposited ?oxford clay with sandy and orangey brown clay variations - overlain by topsoil suggesting that the latter is a fairly recent deposition / re-deposition		
2302	layer			brownish orange	sandy clay		natural geology - ?corallian beds		
Trench 24									

Ctxt No	Type	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Comment	Finds	Date
2400	deposit		0.28	reddish brown	silty clay loam	2% limestone	topsoil		
2401	deposit		0.02	tarmac	tarmac		thin and sporadic layer of tarmac beneath topsoil and directly overlying natural		
2402	layer			white / mid brown	limestone in clay matrix		natural geology - ?cornbrash of corallian beds		

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

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OA 2006b, *Land at Folly Park View, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Bloor Homes (Final draft)*

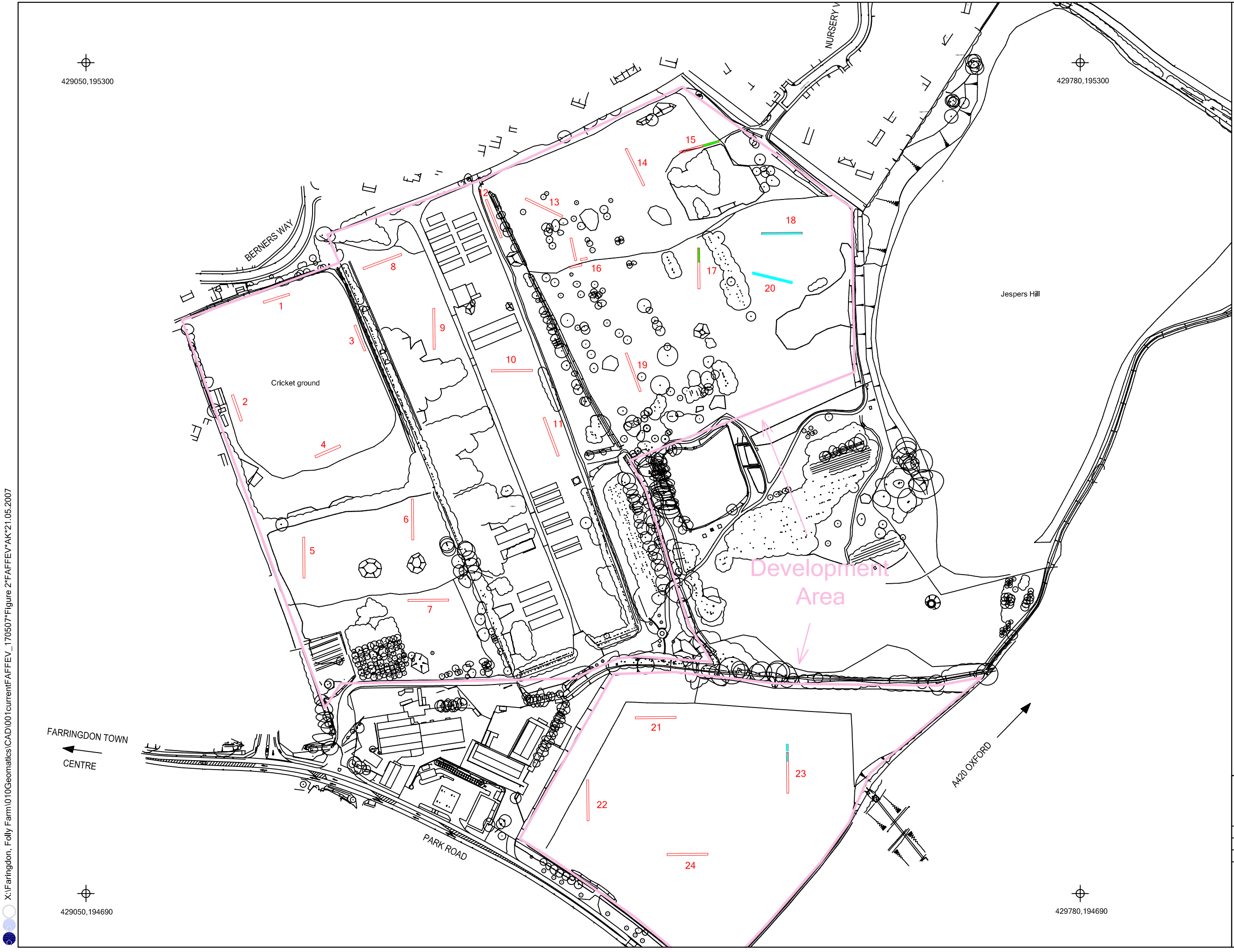
OA 2006, *Land off Park Lane, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Wilkinson, D, 1992 (ed) *OAU Fieldwork Manual*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Folly Farm, Faringdon, Oxfordshire
Site code: FAFF06
Grid reference: SU 2930 9505
Type of evaluation: Trenched
Date and duration of project: 27th November – 4th December 2006 and May 2007
Area of site: Twenty 30m x 1.5m trenches and Four 20 x 1.5m trenches
Summary of results: 19th/20th century landfill / 20th century landscaping / 1 possible undated linear feature.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

Figure 1: Site location



Drawing No.	FAFFEV/2
Date printed	31.05.2007
Drawing title	

Figure 2: Trench locations

CHECKED BY: AK/BF/SL 21.05.07

X:\Faringdon, Folly Farm\010Geomatics\CAD\001current\FAFFEV_170507*Figure 2*FAFFEV*AK*21.05.2007

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