

Wallingford RFC Wallingford



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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New Flood Lighting, Wallingford RFC, Hithercroft Rd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
1 Introduction.....	4
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	4
1.2 Geology and topography.....	4
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	4
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	5
2.1 Aims.....	5
2.2 Methodology.....	5
3 Results.....	6
3.1 Description of deposits.....	6
3.2 Finds.....	6
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	7
Appendix A. Context Inventory.....	8
Appendix B. Bibliography and References.....	9
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	10



List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Site Plan
- Fig. 3 Section 1



Summary

On the 24th and 25th November 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wallingford RFC, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (NGR: SU 5933 8938). The work was commissioned by RLF Birmingham acting on behalf of Wallingford RFC in advance of the construction of six floodlights. No archaeology was identified.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On the 24th and 25th November 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wallingford RFC, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Rasin of RLF Birmingham in respect of a planning application for the construction of six new floodlights (Planning Reference: P08/W0711).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services. This laid down the minimum requirements of the watching brief.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the western side of Wallingford, north-west of the Hithercroft Industrial Estate at NGR: SU 5933 8938. The site is currently in use as a sports pitch and lies at approximately 45 m above OD.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is 1st (Flood Plain) Gravel Terrace Deposits.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2008) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site is located in an area of archaeological potential immediately adjacent to a prehistoric or Roman settlement (PRN 15383) (SU 5900 8950). These features consist of a large trackway oriented NW-SE and a series of small field systems and enclosures. These features are visible on aerial photographs and show the features running under the A4130, and it is likely that these continue into the application area.



2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present) that the contractor's works may remove or damage within the area of site being investigated.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard. All groundworks will be halted until the remains have been suitably investigated and dealt with by the attending archaeologist.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Six floodlight foundation pits measuring 1.2 m x 1.2 m x 1.2 m (Fig. 2) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator.
- 2.2.2 A continuous watching brief was maintained during the period of excavation, and details of all the stratigraphy encountered within the pits was recorded and sample sections drawn at a scale of 1:20.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 A series of four deposits were identified in each foundation pit (Fig. 3). The earliest deposit, which was identified between 0.9 and 1.2 m below current ground level comprised an orange sandy gravel (4). This was overlain by a 0.2 m thick grey sandy gravel (3), which was in turn overlain by an orangey brown, silty clay subsoil (2) and a silty loam topsoil (1).

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence for archaeological deposits, the sandy gravels identified are consistent within the underlying geology of flood plain gravel terraces.
- 4.1.2 Although field systems and enclosures have been identified through aerial photography, none were observed during the course of the watching brief. However given the limited size of the foundation pits it is still possible that these features exist between pits.



APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context Inventory						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.20	Gravel Layer	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.30	Gravel Layer	-	-



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects.

Hey, G. and Lacey, M. 2001, Evaluation of Archaeological Decision-making Processes and Sampling Strategies.

Oxford Archaeology, 1992, Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

Oxford Archaeology, 2000, OA Environmental Sampling Guidelines and Instruction, Manual.

Oxford Archaeology, 2008, WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Wallingford RFC, Wallingford, Oxfordshire



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: OAS Watching Brief Report

Site code: WAFLOD08

Grid reference: NGR: SU 5933 8938

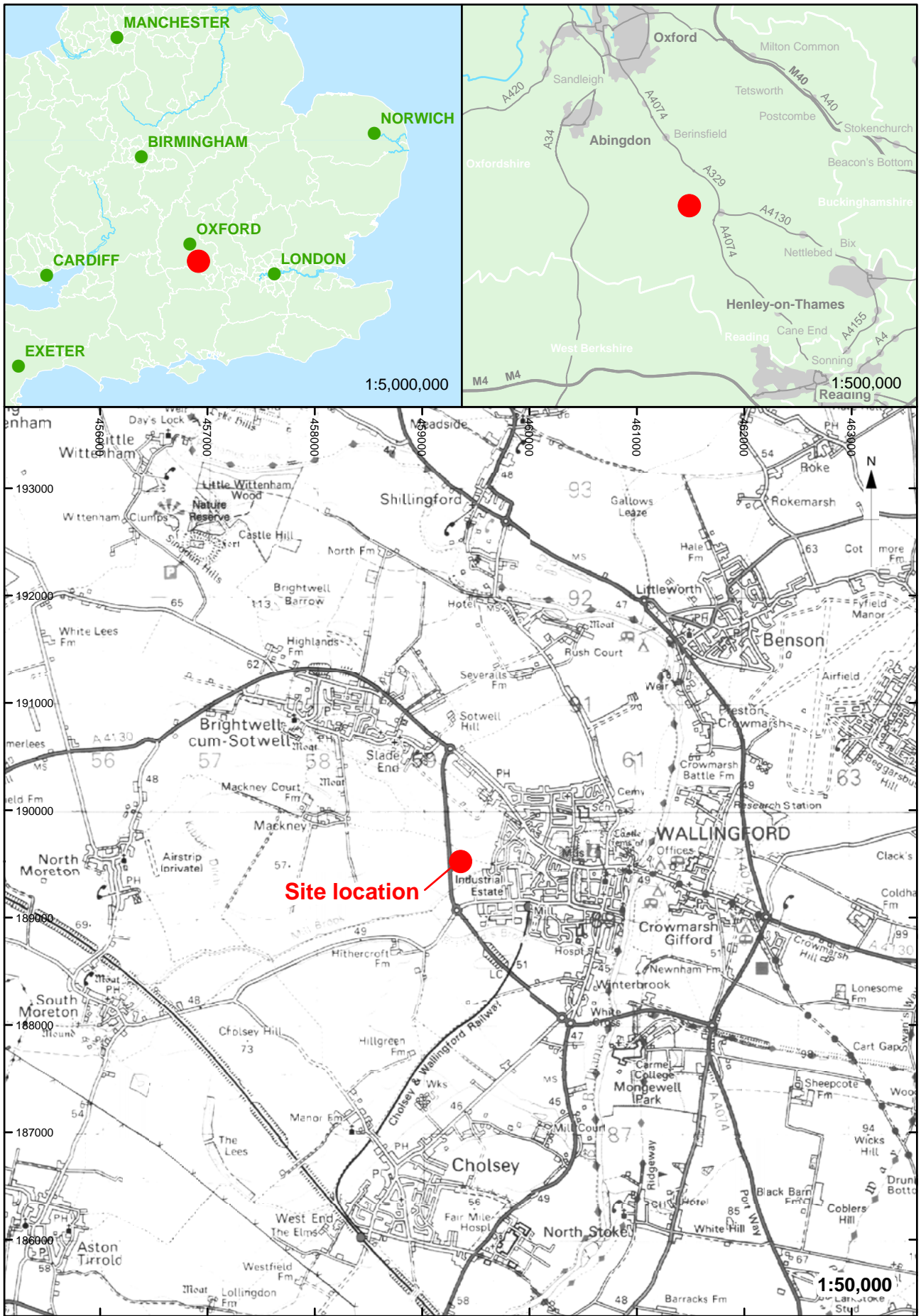
Type: Watching Brief

Date and duration: 24th and 25th November 2008

Area of site:

Summary of results: Six foundation pits measuring 1.2 m x 1.2 m x 1.2 m were excavated. No archaeology was identified.

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 in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2008.141



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Figure 1: Site location

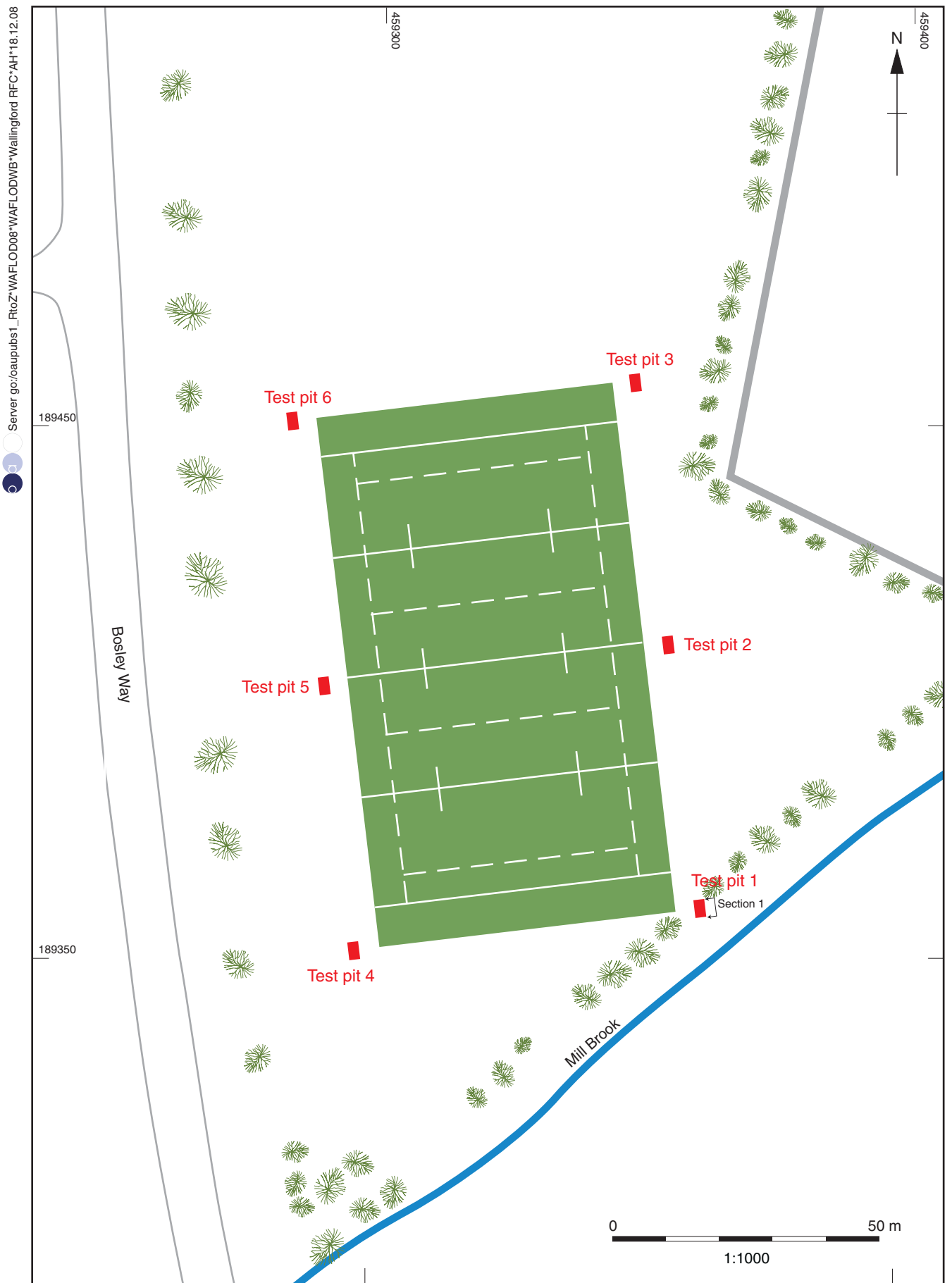


Figure 2 : Site plan

Sample Section

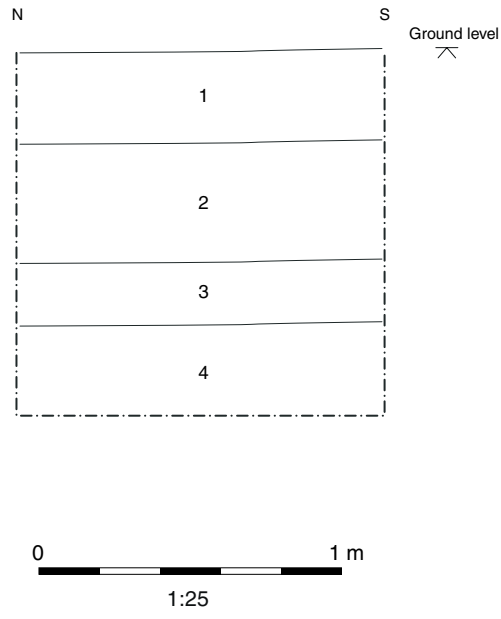


Figure 3 : Section 1 (sample section)



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