

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

ON

LITTLEMORE PARK,

ARMSTRONG ROAD, OXFORD

NGR SP 5360 0214

On behalf of

Capita

SEPTEMBER 2014

REPORT FOR Capita
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SUMMARY

This document represents an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains on land at Littlemore Park, Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford (NGR SP 5360 0214). Unlike most archaeological desk-based assessments it can be noted that some archaeological investigations have been carried out on the site. This earlier work carried out by John Moore Heritage Services has been included in this report along with further predictive modelling from a wider search area.

Predictive modelling indicates that there is the potential for palaeo-environmental material in the base of the Littlemore Brook valley. Here the remains of a palaeochannel and beaver dam(s) have been identified in the beat and alluvial deposits. In later periods the Littlemore area appears to have seen sporadic industrial activity in a woodland or heath type landscape.

Previous research indicates that there Roman archaeology is on the site. Roman activity has been noted in the form of finds and features in and adjacent to the proposal site. The archaeology is sporadic in nature and is probably associated with the regional Oxford Roman pottery industry. This industry is considered previously to have been of national importance. The development of the site will probably destroy or degrade any archaeology of this nature located on the site thus implying some form of mitigation.

Early medieval features have been identified on the south side of the Littlemore Brook running in a line parallel to the brook. One Sunken Feature Building has been identified on the north side of the brook and thus there is the potential for a further group of buildings along the north side of the brook. These buildings are considered to be industrial structures (some associated with textile production). As yet no domestic structures of this period have been found in the area.

Medieval activity is indicated by antiquarian maps and finds on the northern part of the site. Lynchets running in a northwest to southeast direction are shown on Davis of Lewknor's map of 1797. The southern part of the site is indicated as being marsh or moorland.

In the 19th century the Oxfordshire County Asylum was constructed 1843-46, with later additions. It is a listed building and as such is considered a structure of national importance and a heritage asset. The proposal site lies in the former grounds of this building, thus the development has an impact on this heritage assets former curtilage. There is also a visible impact on this heritage asset. Features associated with the grounds include paths and terracing, an Engine House, gasworks, a reservoir and burial ground. Burials are noted in the Register of Discharges, Removals and Deaths from 1846 to 1893. However, those before December 1882 were taken to the consecrated cemetery of the church of Saint Mary and Saint Nicholas at Littlemore. This is known to be the case because the individuals are listed in the burial register of that cemetery. It is unlikely in Victorian England that people would have been placed in unconsecrated ground. In 1882 the Bishop of Oxford consecrated a cemetery at Littlemore Hospital. This was in use to 1901 and contains 545 burials. The burial ground is of special concern and the proposal is to be arranged so that this area is not built upon. A New Cemetery was created in 1901 and this took 1,318 burials. The

New Cemetery is located outside the area of the proposal site. The grounds of the curtilage of the listed building have to a large extent already been damaged by the construction of Armstrong Road that has split the listed building from its former curtilage.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Origins of the Report

Capita has commissioned this archaeological desk-based assessment on land adjacent to Armstrong Road, Littlemore. The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area.

1.2 Planning Guidelines and Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

The NPPF also makes provisions for the protecting significance of non-designated heritage assets (**135**), the setting of heritage assets (**137**) and stresses the desirability of the proposed development to make a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness (**131**).

The South East Plan was revoked on 25 March 2013 under the Regional Strategy for the South East (Partial Revocation) Order 2013. The revocation of the South East Plan decentralises planning powers to local authorities. However, local authorities have a duty to co-operate with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and reflected in local plans.

The NPPF makes provisions for the continued use of the Local Plan for decision making in the district (sections **58** and **126**). Due weight may be given to the policies in the Local Plan according to their degree of consistency with the NPPF. The Local Plan will therefore continue to form the basis for determining local planning applications until it is superseded by documents in the Local Development Framework, including a new draft Local Plan. Burials and cemeteries are not specifically mentioned in NPPF and these must be considered under previous framework policy EH (2007) and EH and CoE (2005).

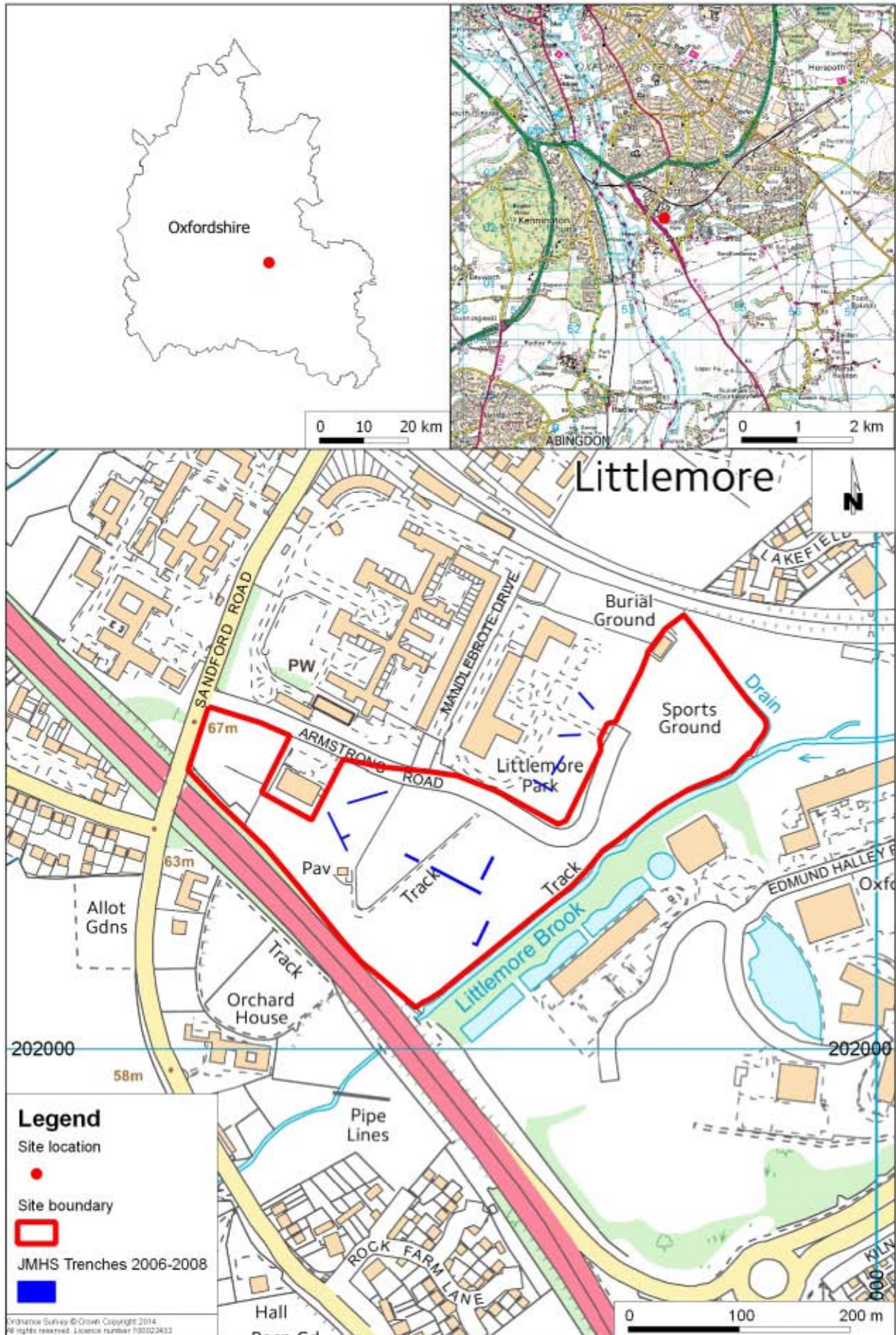


Figure 1: Site location

1.3 Historic Environment Impact Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the historic environment impact assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site and its setting. This follows the Government guidance in *NPPF* (2012) by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2012). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *NPPF* (2012), the historic environment impact assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.4 Historic Environment Impact Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2012). The work has involved the consultation of the available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2012).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives

- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The Oxford Urban Database (UAD)
- The Oxfordshire History Centre

The Oxford Urban Database holds details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

The heritage values of the site will be assessed using English Heritage Conservation principles (2008) guidelines, which state that people “value a place for many reasons beyond utility or personal association: for its distinctive architecture or landscape, the story it can tell about its past, its connection with notable people or events, its landform, flora and fauna, because they find it beautiful or inspiring, or for its role as a focus of a community”. These values can be summarised as:

- Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

There has been some archaeological work carried out at the proposal site, but this is limited. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 500 metres of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of NGR SP 6397 0188, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the Oxford Urban Database belongs to Oxford City Council.

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

The site is located to the southeast and southwest of the Littlemore Hospital and Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford (NGR SP 5360 0214). The site is located in the ancient township of Littlemore, which was not an ancient parish, but the larger part formed part of the ancient parish of Saint Mary the Virgin in Oxford and a lesser part was associated with the parish of Iffley (VCH 1957, 206-14). The connection to Saint Mary's is thought to date back to pre-Norman times and as such Littlemore would have originated as part of the Oxford parochia. The township was included in the historic Hundred of Bullingdon, and in the historic County of Oxford. The site is now located in Oxford City.

2.2 Description (Figure 1)

The proposal site is L-shaped with the two arms extending from the southern point. The end of the east arm is bounded by a ditch and a small undeveloped field or parcel of land. The south side is bounded by the Littlemore Brook, beyond which is the Oxford Science Park. The southwest side of the site is bounded by the A4074, a dual carriageway in a cutting, beyond which is Orchard House and grounds. At the end of the west arm the proposal site is bounded by the Sandford Road. On much of the northwest and northeast sides on the inner part of the L-shape is Armstrong Road. On the other side of Armstrong Road is the former Littlemore Hospital, which contains the old county asylum. Indeed the proposal site is part of the original grounds of the asylum.

2.3 Geology and Topography

Topographically the site is on a southeast facing slope on the north side of the Littlemore Brook. The proposal site is located between 57m and 72m Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology is part of the Beckley Sand Member; a sandstone and sedimentary rock formed 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic period (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). In the lower part of the site on the southeast side there are alluvium deposits consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravel. This is a superficial deposit some 2 million years old laid down in the Quaternary.

In the two evaluations carried out by John Moore Heritage Services on the site (Williams 2007, Gilbert and Hammond 2008) the natural was described as a yellow orange sand or a orange yellow clay sand or sand. In the other excavation at the southern end of the site the natural is described as a blue

gray sand gley soil (Williams 2006), which must correspond to the alluvial deposits.

3 PROPOSED SCHEME (Figure 1)

The proposal is for the development of the site with the construction of a new estate. The applicant is aware that the Oxfordshire Asylum had a burial ground that extends partially onto the eastern part of the proposal site. The intention of the applicant is to avoid this area and leave this part of the site simply landscaped.

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2 to 13)

4.1 The Historical Development of Littlemore

The earliest evidence of activity in the area of Littlemore was detected during archaeological work, when Roman and medieval pits and a boundary ditch were identified (PRN 15837).

The name Littlemore is first recorded as *Luthlemoria* in c 1130, and is considered to refer to the small marsh (Gelling 1953, 180). The origins of Littlemore are obscure, as it is first noted historically as 1 knight's fee in the honour of Leicester (VCH 1957, 206-14). However, it is speculated by the Victoria County History that the settlement originated as one of 4 hides in Sandford, which were given by Edward the Confessor to Earl Godwin. On the Earl's death the land is considered to have been granted to Abingdon abbey. In 1219 Countess Margaret of Winchester granted Littlemore land to Roger de St Andrew. There were three other manors in Littlemore which were later held by the colleges of Lincoln, Corpus Christi and Oriel.

If the manor was part of Sandford holdings in 1086, then it has been suggested that Littlemore contained 7 households (VCH 1957, 206-14) at that time. In 1279 there were 16 households on the land in Saint Mary's parish, and 10-12 households on the land held by Iffley Manor.

The rector of Saint Mary held land in Littlemore from the 13th century (VCH 1957, 206-14). The connections between Littlemore and Saint Mary's parish are explicitly mentioned for the first time in 1341.

A number of developments took place in the 19th century that are considered to have transformed the village and its surroundings. A Baptist Chapel was established at Littlemore in 1804 (Anonymous 2008).

Newman established the Church School in 1838 (Anonymous 2008); this school became affiliated to the national society in 1851. In 1840 John Henry Newman acquired a 10 acre plot next to the church (EHBID 246519), who held the living of Saint Mary in Oxford with Littlemore (Sherwood and Pevsner 1974, 688), and who proposed to establish a monastery at the site

prior to his conversion to Rome in 1845. This developed into Lawn Upton House.

The Dool House was built probably in 1810 by John Jannaway (VCH 1957, 206-14). This was incorporated into the hospital when a 13 acre site was purchased in 1843 for the construction of Littlemore Hospital. The Hospital was opened in 1846, and enlargements are documented 1847 and 1852. The contractor for the construction was John Castle of Oxford and the architects H J Underwood who was succeeded by J C Buckler. In 1848 there were 200 patients and in 1900 there were 543 patients. In 1902 a further 35 acres were purchased and accommodation for a further 200 patients was made under architect H T Tollit. These developments are catalogued in a series of documents at the Oxford History Centre (H1/Y/1, H1/Y/8, H1/Y/9, H1/Y/10, and H1/Y/11).

The asylum produced a Register of Discharges, Removals and Deaths, which commences in 1846 and the first section of which continues to 1893 (OHAL 7 B1/4). This record refers to burials at Littlemore or Littlemore Hospital from 1846. The earliest burials refer to John Clifton (1846), William Fowler, William Bushnell, William Mills, William Castle, Elizabeth Church, Ann Slatter, Charlotte Chapman and Richard Randolph (all 1847), and William Wright (1848). At first it was not overly apparent where these burials were located as they refer to Littlemore Hospital. The Burial Register for the church of Saint Mary and Saint Nicholas at Littlemore has a series of associated entries as being listed as the County Lunatic Asylum. These burials included John Clifton (29th August 1846), Thomas Fowler (28th Jan 1847), William Bushnell (11th Feb 1847), William Mills (22nd Feb 1847), William Castle (20th Mar 1847), Sarah Coles (28th Apr 1847), Elizabeth Church (24th Jul 1847), Ann Slatter (31st Jul 1847), Charlotte Chapman (6th August 1847), Richard Randolph (27th Aug 1847), Jabez Collins (5th Dec 1847), and William Wright (4th Feb 1848). There is some inconsistency in the lists but it would appear that the two should coincide and that the early burials from the hospital were being taken to Littlemore Church and not being buried in an unlocated cemetery on the hospital grounds.

A cemetery was first consecrated at Littlemore Asylum in the year 1882 in the consecrations faculties licences and co. 1871 to 1882 (Ms.oxfdisc.misc.750). The reference in the margin reads:

“Dated 12th Dec 1882. Sentence of consecration of a piece of land with the grounds belonging to the Littlemore Asylum as a burial ground for pauper lunatics dying in the said Asylum”.

The act of consecration was carried out by John Fielder, Bishop of Oxford. References in the full text refer to *“granted to the Committee of Visitors to be held in Trust as a burial ground”*, and also *“grounds of the Asylum appropriated”*, and also *“conveyed to the Committee of the Visitors”*. The wording in the text appears to indicate that the legal status of the burial ground has changed and it is no longer under the ownership of the Asylum authorities but that this had been relinquished to a trust. The earliest burial recorded as

being placed in the cemetery was a Mary Clapton of Witney who died on the 14th Dec 1882 aged 60 (OHA 1 7 B1/4), which is labelled burial 1. The last burial is no. 545 and was a John Simmonds of Woodstock who died on the 13th Feb 1901, aged 41. This was the final interment of the Old Cemetery. A plan survives of which part has been produced here to show the density of cemetery use (Fig. 2). The New Cemetery lay to the northwest of the earliest cemetery and is thus not on the plan viewed at the Oxford History Centre. The first burial listed in this cemetery is Jeanette Adams of Thame who died 26th Feb 1901 and the last burial is that of Sarah Knibbs of Bullingdon who died 3rd Feb 1954. This indicates that in the first cemetery there are 545 burials and in the latter there were 1,318 burials. This provides a combined number of 1,863 burials. A group of four negative photographs survive of the probable boiler house and the cemetery (OHA L 3 C1/1/17). If this is the boiler house then it was designed to appear as a two storey structure. There are apparently no stone grave markers on the cemetery site, but one would expect this if they were pauper burials.

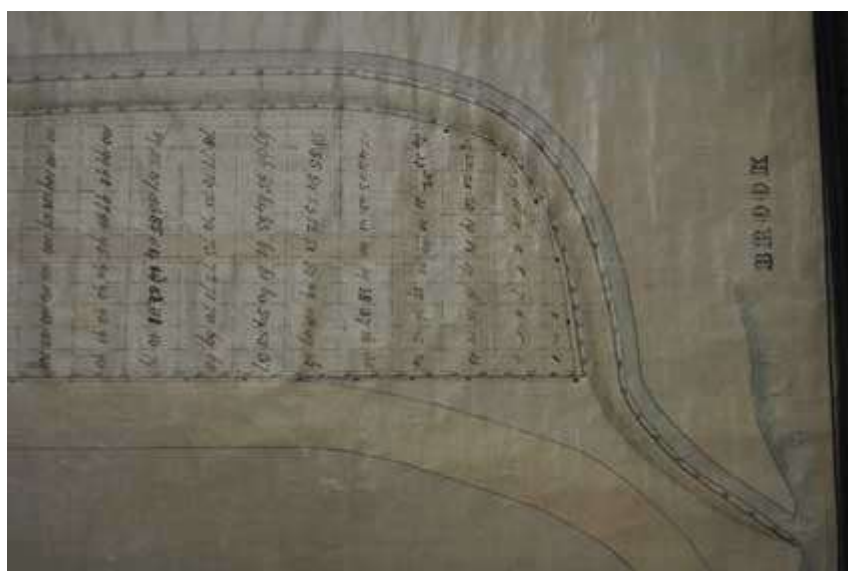


Figure 2 Part of plan of the burial ground immediately north of the Brook

4.2 Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 2 to 4)

A search was made at the local UAD covering an area of 500m radius from NGR SP 5360 0214. This produced a total of 25 monuments, some of which contained activity from a number of periods. John Moore Heritage Services have excavated evaluation trenches on part of the site previously (Fig. 3).

A number of the earliest finds from the search area have been located in the archaeological investigations on the Oxford Science Park. The investigations have raised certain issues about the area of the Littlemore Valley in general. The geology of the site was noted above, but here it would suffice to say that some notion of the wider geology and hence the soil types should be considered. The lowest deposit in the valley is the Beckley Sand Member, which at the base of the valley is covered by deposits of alluvium and peat. The next bedrock deposit is the Amphill Clay Formation, which contains deposits of Head. To the south there are other bands of Kimmeridge Clay

Formation and Portland Group limestone. These latter bedrock bands are further out from the valley base. Significant but sporadic activity has been noted on the Beckley Sand Member. The excavation suggests that parts of the Beckley Sand Formation contained bands of limestone (Moore 2001, 169, fig 3).

The earliest feature recorded on the Historic Environment Record is a possible palaeochannel identified in an evaluation at Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 1**, SP 5398 0230), (Fig. 2). This lies near the Littlemore Brook. This palaeochannel included the remains of two Beaver Dams, the co-ordinates for which are listed for the palaeochannel generally.

Prehistoric flints were recovered from a site on Heyford Hill Lane (**JMHS 2**, PRN 16030-MOX11245: SP 5320 0225). Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flints have been found at the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 3**, EOX1578: SP 53900 02100). The Oxford Science Park also produced indications of other prehistoric activity (Moore 2001, 167-69). The earliest activity was that of a series of stake-holes on the edge of the alluvial deposits (**JMHS 50**: SP 53838 021107). There was a pit containing Beaker Pottery also on the site (**JMHS 51**: SP 53796 01957).

A Middle Iron Age ditch has been detected on the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 4**, EOX2608: SP 5390 0212). The remains of an Iron Age pit were identified on the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 5**, PRN 16299-MOX12169: SP 5390 0210), along with Iron Age and Roman pottery. Late Iron Age and early Roman pot was recovered along with pottery, flint and a piece of ceramic building material (**JMHS 6**, EOX1954, SP 5372 0215, Williams 2006) on Littlemore Park.

Roman material has turned up from across the area in a sporadic fashion. Some of this can clearly be seen relating to the Oxford Roman pottery industry which was a regional industry of national importance (see also Fig. 1b). An evaluation on Littlemore Park identified the remains of a Roman ditch and recovered 29 sherds of pottery (**JMHS 7**, PRN MOX26652: SP 5369 0223, Gilbert and Hammond 2008). Other gullies and postholes may be contemporary with this feature, but were essentially undated. The remains of a Roman kiln and pottery were recovered from Littlemore Hospital (**JMHS 8**, PRN 8017-MOX11237: SP 533 024). Roman finds were recovered from Heyford Hill Lane (**JMHS 9**, PRN 16030-MOX11245: SP 5320 0225). Roman coins and pottery were recovered in Littlemore (**JMHS 10**, PRN 1435-MOX11246: SP 5367 0254). Roman pottery has been recovered from Speedwell First School (**JMHS 11**, PRN 16966-MOX12768: SP 53700 02550). A gully was located at Speedwell First School that contained an abraded Roman sherd (**JMHS 12**, PRN 16967-MOX12771: SP 53650 02550). Roman kiln lining and furniture along with pottery of the 2nd century were identified in Armstrong Road (**JMHS 13**, PRN 26121-MOX23492: SP 5353 0220, Williams 2007). The Roman pottery industry was a key feature of the area and this particular evidence was recovered from the footprint of the proposal site. To the west of Minchery Farm further Roman pottery was recovered (**JMHS 14**, PRN 26248-MOX23665: SP 540 022). Roman tile

fragments were recovered from the Community Support Unit (**JMHS 15**, EOX2580: SP 5338 0263). Residual Roman finds were recovered from the Ashurst Clinic Site (**JMHS 16**, EOX2606: SP 5331 0256).

Undated kilns were detected at the Littlemore Mental Health Centre (**JMHS 17**, EOX3351: SP 5330 0234); they are probably of a Roman date.

Settlement and buildings of an early medieval (Anglo Saxon) date have been identified on the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 18**, PRN 16299-MOX12169: SP 5390 0210, Fig. 3). The report accounts for 12 Sunken Feature Buildings (Moore 2001, 168-76). The features are aligned along the line of the valley of the Littlemore Brook. These features are often irregular in shape and some of them extremely shallow due to truncation by later ploughing. The features contain a mixture of Roman and early medieval (Anglo Saxon) pottery. Traditionally analysis has tended to attribute a 5th to 7th century AD date for these features.

However, there are indications that nationally such structures were in use from the 1st century AD and that examples of these buildings have been excavated at Monkton in Kent dated to the 2nd century AD (Yeates 2012). This, therefore, means that if only Roman pottery is recovered from a Sunken Feature Building that it may be of an earlier date. However the majority of the Oxford Science Park buildings contained Anglo Saxon pottery.

The remains of a further Sunken Featured Building (SFB) were identified in the grounds of Peers School in Littlemore on the north site of the Littlemore Brook (**JMHS 52**: SP 5424 0289). The remains of a bone-pin beater was recovered along with early medieval pottery from this SFB. The interpretation of the activity in the structure was tentatively identified as being associated with textiles. Early medieval pottery has been recovered from the site of the Community Support Unit (**JMHS 19**, EOX2580: SP 5338 0263). A further SFB was discovered at the Minchery Farm allotments just east of the study area. The finds from along Littlemore Brook have meant that this area has produced some of the more significant early medieval remains from the 5th to the 7th centuries AD in the Oxford area.

An assessment of the Early Medieval activity in the 5th to 7th centuries cannot necessarily see this area as a primary location of Anglo-Saxon settlement. Modern DNA analysis has found that only 5.5% of the population is derived from migration into Great Britain in the 4th and 5th centuries AD as stated by Oppenheimer and Sykes (Yeates 2012). This implies that 19 out of 20 people in those centuries were from lines of the population that continued to occupy the land. Such an analysis of this and other aspects of archaeology have thus meant new theoretical models are needed. Theories of long term settlement and territorial development have been proposed (Yeates 2006, 2008, 2012). The key location of earlier Roman settlement is not known precisely in the Oxford *parochia* but it is probable that a linear settlement may have existed along the Banbury Road out of north Oxford. The area around Littlemore in the Roman period was probably an area of land covered in trees; we can assume this from the analysis of the pottery industry. Kilns were primarily

located where wood and clay were freely available for fuel. In the 7th to 8th century key power centres were recognised as developing, one under central Oxford, where a minster was established, and the second at Headington, which became the Lay Lord's centre with church. Although the Littlemore Brook area has produced a significant amount of early medieval pottery the designs of the buildings as Sunken Feature Buildings also have an implication for the nature of the settlement. As yet no non SFB dwellings have been recognised, for example rectangular structures that could form halls or long houses. SFBs are primarily considered in recent interpretation to be industrial buildings. This would imply that the valley was still being used as a probable peripheral area associated with industrial processes and that the labourers were probably commuting to the area from hamlets and farmsteads. In the case of the Oxford Science Park such rectangular structures, usually only recognised by a series of postholes, may have been ploughed away.

Grundy's road 6 was produced within the listing (PRN 8865-MOX10040), believed to be the location of a prehistoric or Roman track. The 'Weye' is an ancient forerunner of the A40 and was produced in the HER search due to the association with Oxford City. It and its replacements have not been included in the JMHS listing.

The church of Saint Andrew at Sandford is a late 11th century structure with 13th century additions (**JMHS 20**, PRN 5994-MOX10889: SP 53372 01750). There is evidence of a shrunken medieval village at Sandford (**JMHS 21**, PRN 11588-MOX10927: SP 5339 0180). A medieval ditch was identified at Heyford Hill Lane (**JMHS 22**, PRN 16030-MOX11245: SP 5320 0225). The remains of a medieval farmstead were identified on the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 23**, PRN 16299-MOX12169: SP 5390 0210). Medieval pottery has been recovered from Speedwell First School (**JMHS 24**, PRN 16966-MOX12768: SP 53700 02550). The remains of three medieval pits were uncovered in Littlemore (**JMHS 25**, PRN 26334-MOX23761: SP 5348 0257). Medieval features were identified at the Four Pillars Hotel (**JMHS 26**, PRN 27495-MOX24006: SP 53281 01843), and four late medieval pits were identified, which were in keeping with the date of the site for the use by the Hospitallers of Saint John (**JMHS 27**, PRN 28320-MOX26593: SP 5315 0184). Medieval plough soils were detected at Littlemore Hospital (**JMHS 28**, EOX1118: SP 536 023). A ditch of an 11th to 13th century date was identified at the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 29**, EOX2608: SP 5390 0212). Medieval pottery and tile were recovered from the Ashurst Clinic Site (**JMHS 30**, EOX2606: SP 5331 0256).

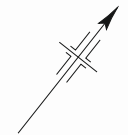
The Temple Farmhouse, now the Four Pillars Hotel, is a listed building of a 16th century date that may contain earlier components (**JMHS 31**, PRN 1433-MOX9464: SP 53184 01877, Fig. 4). The timber framing may contain 15th century features.

At the Temple Farmhouse there is a door and wall reusing medieval stonework. The door has a segmental pediment and a date stone of 1614 (**JMHS 32**, PRN 19667-MOX16384: SP 53149 01903).

Littlemore Park Armstrong Road Oxford

Key

- JMHS Evaluation trenches
- Asylum garden footpaths
- Terracing
- ⊠ Burial ground



0 50 m



Figure 3: Trench locations and features on proposal site

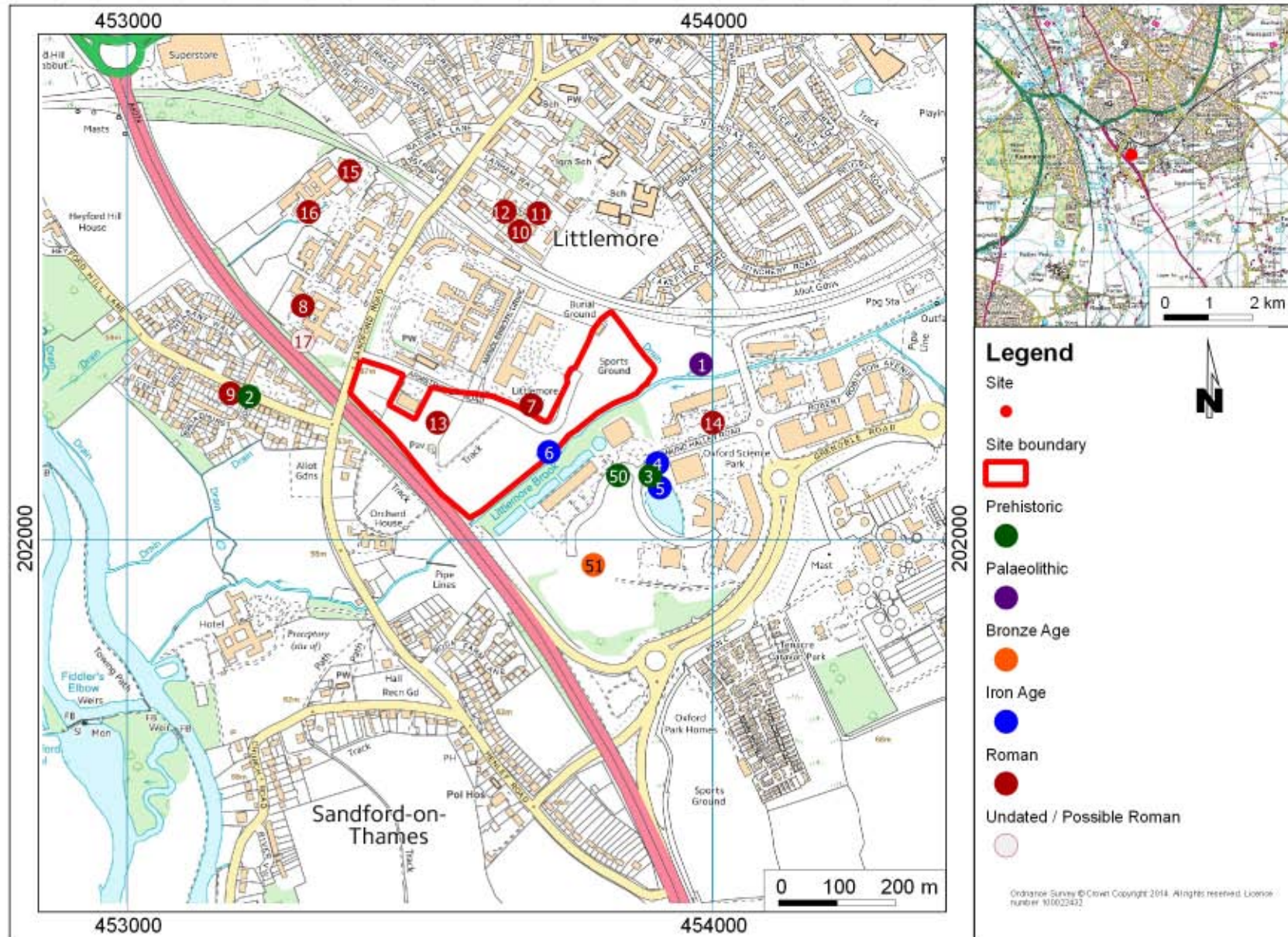


Figure 4: Prehistoric and Roman Historic Environment Record Sites

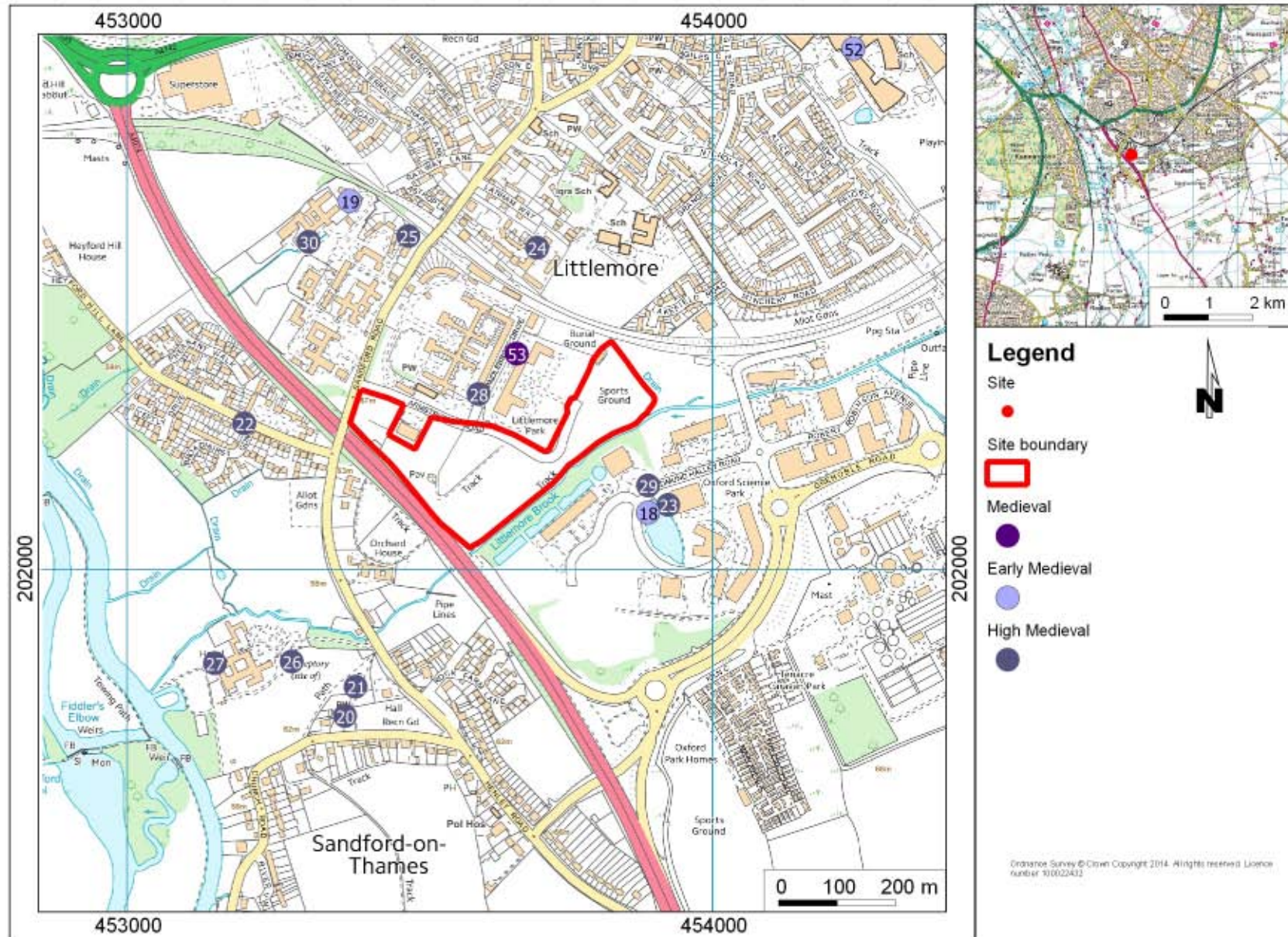


Figure 5: Medieval Historic Environment Record Sites

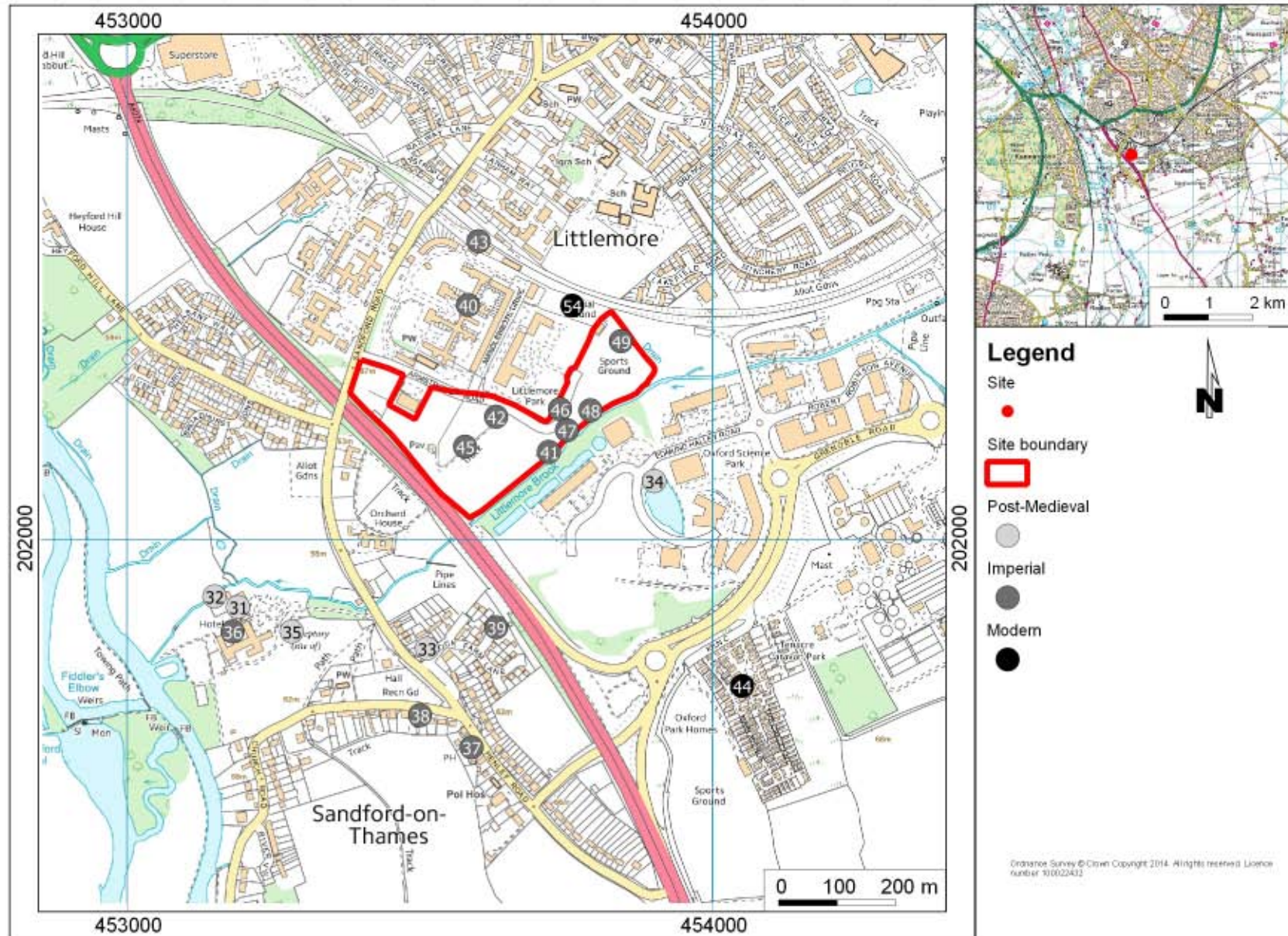


Figure 6: Post-Medieval, Imperial and Modern Historic Environment Record Sites

Sandford House is a listed structure of a late 17th century date (**JMHS 33**, PRN 19669-MOX15903: SP 53512 01814). A post-medieval quarry was identified on the Oxford Science Park (**JMHS 34**, PRN 16299-MOX12169: SP 5390 0210). The remains of a post-medieval path and landscaping was identified at the Four Pillars Hotel (**JMHS 35**, PRN 27495-MOX24006: SP 53281 01843).

A barn and building at the Temple Farm is considered an 18th century structure that uses 15th century elements (**JMHS 36**, PRN 19666-MOX16759: SP 53180 01843). The Catherine Wheel Public House is a late 18th century building (**JMHS 37**, PRN 19670-MOX17325: SP 53588 01645).

A Toll House occurs on Bryant's map of 1823-4 (**JMHS 38**, PRN 10200-MOX10922: SP 535 017). A 19th century Dovecote at Rock Farm (**JMHS 39**, PRN 11589-MOX10928: SP 5363 0185) is a brick structure with limestone details.

The County Lunatic Asylum is a grade II listed structure with construction from 1843-6, and further work 1847, 1852, and 1902 (**JMHS 40**, PRN 6749-MOX8503: SP 53582 02401). Evaluation in 2006 noted the remains of a terrace in the former grounds of the Asylum (**JMHS 41**, SP 5372 0215, Williams 2006). Evaluations in its former grounds have identified cultivation beds (**JMHS 42**, EOX2152: SP 5363 0221; Williams 2007).

The Littlemore Railway Station was constructed in 1864 (**JMHS 43**, PRN 12445-MOX11241: SP 5360 0251).

A brickworks and clay pits was located to the east of Sandford village (**JMHS 44**, PRN 11590-MOX10929: SP 5405 0175). This is first marked on a map *c.* 1920.

4.3 Cartographic Evidence (Figures 7 to 13)

A number of antiquarian maps can be identified of the Littlemore area. The earliest is that of Jefferys' of 1767 (CP/103/M/1, Fig 7), which shows the Littlemore to Sandford Road, and Littlemore Brook. There are extensive areas of marsh or moorland indicated along the course of the brook especially to the north of Minchery Farm. Nothing is marked on the proposal site.

The second map is of 1797 by Davis of Lewknor (CH XX/2, Fig. 8) and shows the Littlemore to Sandford road. The area along Littlemore Brook is shown as moorland or marsh for the proposal site. The north part of the site and the area underneath the later Littlemore Asylum is shown as having agricultural lynchets running southeast to northwest (**JMHS 53**: SP 53665 02369).

The Inclosure Map of Littlemore dated to 1819 (PAR163/16/H/1, Fig. 9) shows some of the area enclosed. There are buildings marked near the junction of the Sandford Road and Heyford Hill Lane. This conforms to a location to the southwest of the A4074 and thus out of the proposal site.

An Ordnance Survey map (CH XXIV/4) of c. 1850 (Fig. 10) shows a building opposite Heyford Hill Lane on the Littlemore to Sandford road. The rest of the land between it and the Littlemore Brook is left as fields. The hospital is not shown, which suggests that this panel of the map had to have been surveyed in the 1830s or 1840s.



Figure 7 Jefferys' Map of 1767

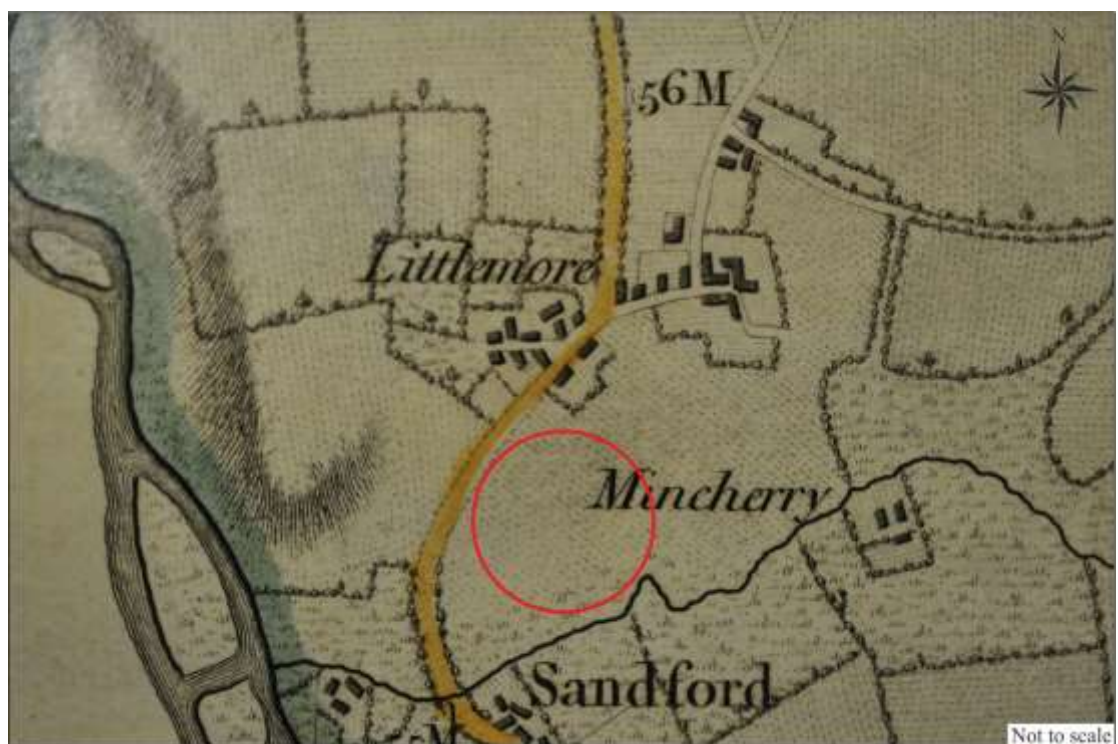


Figure 8 Davis of Lewknor's map of 1797

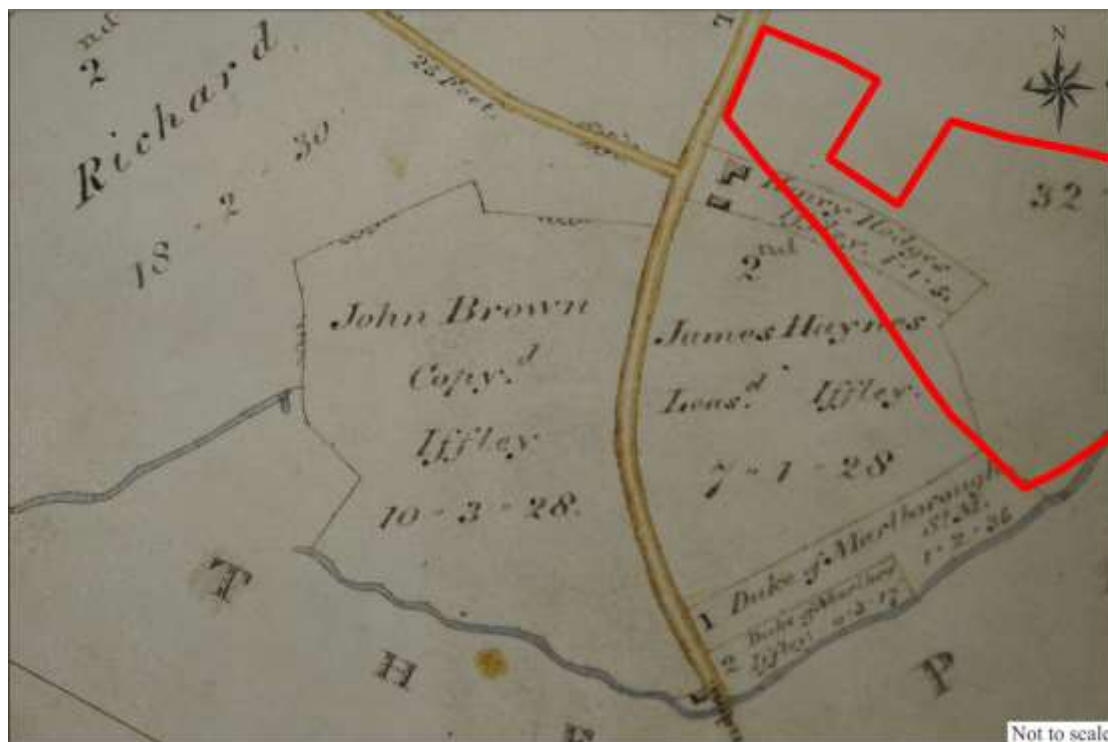


Figure 9 Littlemore Inclosure Map of 1819



Figure 10 Ordnance Survey map of 1850

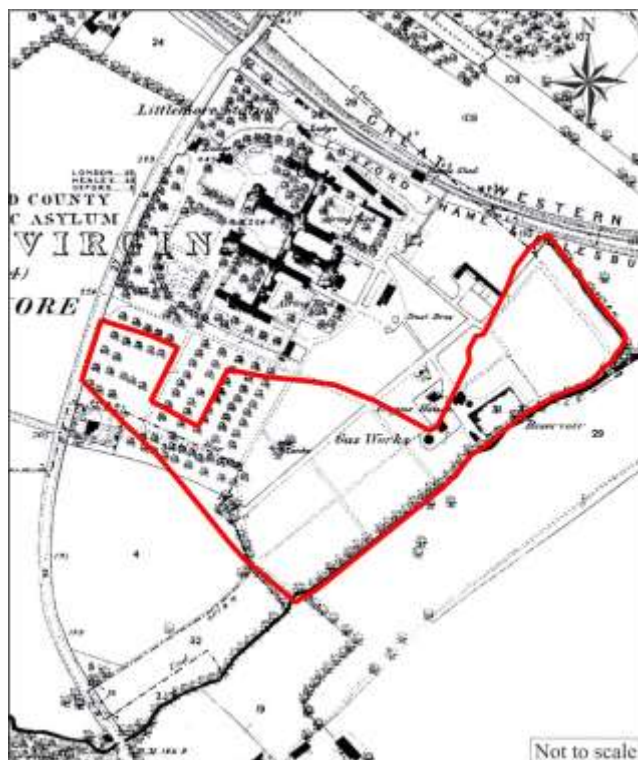


Figure 11 Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1876



Figure 12 Ordnance Survey Second Edition of 1899



Figure 13 Ordnance Survey Third Edition of 1913

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map at 1: 2,500 (Oxon 39.12) dated 1876 shows the Littlemore Hospital and grounds as a laid out formal garden (Fig. 11). There is a building at the edge of these grounds opposite the entrance to Heyford Hill Lane. The grounds have a series of formally laid out paths, and is associated with a listed building, which is the asylum. In the northwest there are trees in rows, which is suggestive of there being established orchards. Tanks (**JMHS 45**, SP 53577 02159, Fig. 6) are marked at a location on the southern part of the proposal site, but their exact use is not known. In the southeast part of the site the remains of an Engine House (**JMHS 46**, SP 53739 02223), Gasworks (**JMHS 47**, SP 53751 02187) and Reservoir (**JMHS 48**, SP 53791 02221) are marked. These are evidently Industrial structures of Victoria's reign that are associated with the construction and development of the listed asylum buildings and its grounds.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map at 1: 2,500 (Oxon 39.12) shows the Oxfordshire Asylum and grounds (Fig. 12). There are changes in the layout of the paths around the park and a Cricket Ground has replaced the area of earlier orchards. In the southeast of the proposal site the Engine House is still marked, and the Gasworks have seen further development. An addition to the area is the burial ground (**JMHS 49**, SP 53843 02339) on the northeast side of the proposal site.

The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map at 1: 2,500 (Oxon 39.12) has similarities to the Second Edition map (Fig. 13). The burial ground was expanded to the northwest. Additional buildings are noted on the Gasworks. Areas of the site are shown with hachures and thus it is indicative of there being earth movement in these gardens or terraces are depicted for the first

time. This Third Edition map shows the extension of the burial ground which occurred in 1901 (JMHS 54: SP 43760 02400).

4.4 Air Photographs and Site Visit

No aerial photographs were observed from the NMR due to the 20th century landuse. However, it was observed on Google Maps that terracing marked on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map survived at the south end of the site (SP 53621 02129).



Plate 1 Southeast part of the site with extensive vegetation cover



Plate 2 Path below terrace, to right, with extensive vegetation

A site visit was carried out of the site, but what this chiefly showed was that much of the land was overgrown and very little was visible (Plate 1). The remains of a path running northeast to southwest was noted as surviving from the late 19th century grounds (Plate 2), which had terracing on the northwest side going upslope, and terracing on the downward side on the southeast.

A further bank was noted curving parallel to Armstrong Road. It was thus presumed that this was probably a feature intended to stop modern vehicle access from Armstrong Road.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Archaeological Potential of the Site (Figure 3)

There undoubtedly is some archaeology on the site; this was demonstrated by the excavations carried out by John Moore Heritage Services on the site (Williams 2006; Williams 2007) and adjacent to the site (Gilbert and Hammond 2008). Investigation at the Oxford Science Park identified the remains of an earlier palaeochannel in the base of the Littlemore Brook valley, and also accompanying beaver dam(s), although only one is shown on plan.

The most significant archaeology so far identified in the area is of a Roman date, or undated and possibly of this date (Williams 2006, Williams 2007, Gilbert and Hammond 2008). There are not significant concentrations of the archaeology of this date but enough indications to show that it turns up across the site sporadically. The material is not that of a significant settlement, but is probably associated with the local pottery industry that appears to be spread across the Littlemore and Sandford area. Having stated this though, it is worth noting that the Oxford Roman pottery industry was a regional industry of national importance. Thus any further knowledge that can be obtained on this industry would be significant.

No early medieval archaeology has been identified on the site as yet, but other investigations, such as that at the Oxford Science Park have shown that there are a series of early medieval (Anglo Saxon) features (interpreted as SFBs) running in a staggered line to the south of the brook. Sunken Feature Buildings are not considered domestic structures but industrial in nature. Two have been found on the north side of the brook, which raises the potential for more of these buildings located on the north side of the Littlemore Brook. As yet no domestic structures of this date have been located.

In the north-eastern part of the site and in areas adjacent to it the remains of medieval plough soils are thought to survive.

In the 19th century it is known that the listed Oxfordshire Asylum was constructed and that the proposal site lies in the grounds of that building. Aspects of the features of the grounds can be identified. Paths and terracing survive at the very southern end of the site. In the eastern part of the site there are other features that were associated with the grounds of the listed asylum, which included the Engine House, Gasworks, Reservoir and Burial Ground. The Old Cemetery is located on the proposal site, which contains 545 burials. The other 1,318 burials lie outside the proposal site. Unclaimed deaths before the 1882 consecration were taken to the consecrated cemetery at the church of Saint Mary and Saint Nicholas. The buildings cannot be seen at present, but it

is likely to be the case that foundations of these structures would survive. The reservoir presumably has been deliberately filled or has silted up, it is probably located in the area landscaped north of the brook.

5.2 The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains

Human activity is an ongoing process of destruction within the environment. Roman material has been identified, but it is the case that this only survives as negative features and that ploughing in the medieval period would have removed any or most positive or upstanding features and leave only negative or cut features below ground layer.

This situation would have remained the case until the 19th century when the site was transformed into the grounds of the asylum, and the asylum was constructed on land adjacent to the proposal site. The grounds at this time appear to have been laid out with paths marked on maps at this time. It is only on later maps that indications of terracing with hachure lines are drawn, but the probability is that any terracing would have taken place during initial laying out and would remove any earlier negative features on the site. The construction of buildings near the brook would again have removed or degraded any potential earlier features, in the case of the reservoir this would have been complete destruction. What these developments achieved was the establishment of new archaeological features that would survive in some form.

In the late 19th century a burial ground was established at the east end of the site. It is not apparent at present how the graves were marked, and this is likely to have undergone above ground clearance over the years. Underground one must assume that the burials are still in location in laid out rows.

Armstrong Road has been inserted roughly where one of the earlier paths was located across the asylum grounds. However, its construction has probably caused considerable damage and has separated and destroyed the coherence which would once have existed between the listed hospital and its grounds. The SW-NE paths within the southern grounds are on the edges of terraces. The northwest part of each terrace has been levelled by cutting down, often into natural geological deposits, with the resulting spoil laid on the originally lower slope of each terrace.

5.3 The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Cultural Assets

Palaeo-environmental evidence has been noted in the alluvium and silt deposits in the base of the Littlemore Brook valley. The proposal aims to leave this part of the site alone.

Roman archaeology does occur in limited formats in and around the site, this has been demonstrated by John Moore Heritage Archaeological evaluation trenches on the southern part of the site and on land adjacent to it (Williams 2006; Williams 2007; Gilbert and Hammond 2008). Though this archaeology

exists it is sporadic in nature and any development is likely to compromise this archaeology if not destroy it. Kiln lining and furniture have been reported from the area and it is known that the area contains evidence for the important Oxford Roman pottery industry. Due to the importance of the industry and the possibility that kiln remains may exist on the site archaeological mitigation may be required.

The Littlemore Brook valley has also been identified as a location of significant early medieval activity of the 5th to 7th centuries AD. The activity uses Sunken Featured Buildings, which are regarded as industrial structures, and not domestic. A row of these buildings lie to the south of the brook, while one has been found to the north. There is a potential for such features to survive on the north of the valley but this is not yet demonstrated.

The Oxfordshire Asylum, now a hospital, is a listed building and as such is regarded as a heritage asset of national importance. The proposal site is thus located in the former grounds of this site that were laid out in the 19th century. The development falls into a problematic area in that it would once have been regarded as curtilage land and, therefore, subject to controls in respect to that building. Land subsequently sold from the curtilage of a listed building that represents part of the original setting of that building is thus left in a grey area. There is no proper explanation from English Heritage about how this process should operate effectively.

Much of the site is visible from the hospital, which as stated is a listed building and of national importance.

The asylum had a burial ground of which the part consecrated and used from 1882 to 1901 lies in the proposal site. This part of the cemetery contains 545 burials. It is stated by the developer that there is no plan to build over this consecrated land.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The desk-based assessment has noted the historical background, archaeological knowledge, cartographic evidence and a site visit was carried out. This has determined that archaeology is probably present in some form across parts of the site. The previous exploratory work across the site would suggest that there is the potential for at least three phases of activity on the site. Roman activity, probably associated with the local pottery industry, shows up sporadically across the search area. Investigations on adjacent sites have recovered finds and recorded features associated with the Roman period. Any archaeology of this nature on this site will probably be sporadic and will be destroyed or degraded by the development. The Oxford Roman pottery industry is considered to be an industry in the Roman period with a significant importance. Today it is seen as significant due to the dating evidence that it can provide for other sites throughout the region.

Medieval cultivation is noted across the north part of the site and under the present hospital building on earlier maps and from excavations. This was in the form of ridge and furrow running southeast to northwest. If associated cuts survive then they are only as negative features. These features according to the 1797 map never extended into the area along the brook, where marsh or moorland is marked.

The last significant phase of archaeology would be associated with the construction of the Oxfordshire Asylum in the 19th century. This led to the grounds having laid out paths and terracing, the construction of an Engine House, gasworks, reservoir and burial ground. These features probably survive in some format. The only part of the burial ground that can be identified on the proposal site is that which was consecrated in 1882 and in use till 1901 and which contained 545 burials. There are no plans to build on the cemetery site.

Development of the site will thus have an impact on some archaeology. On the impact of this development on cultural assets it is apparent that the proposal site is located on the former grounds of a listed building and also has a visual impact on that building. The building itself will not be disturbed by this development.

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7.2 Historic Maps

- CP/103/M/1 1767 Jefferys' Map
- CH.XX/2 1797 Davis of Lewknor's map
- PAR163/16/H/1 1819 Littlemore Enclosure Map
- CH.XXIV/4 1850 Ordnance Survey Map
- Oxon 39.12 1876 First Edition 1: 2,500
- Oxon 39.12 1899 Second Edition 1: 2,500
- Oxon 39.12 1913 Third Edition 1: 2,500

Other Documents

- H1/Y/1, H1/Y/8, H1/Y/9, H1/Y/10, H1/Y/11 19th Century Plans and drawings of the Asylum of various dates

OHA L 3 B2/1 1882 Plan of the earliest part of the burial ground

OHA L 3 C1/1/17 Negative of building assumed to be the boiler room and
shots of the cemetery site

OHA L 7/D1/1 1882-1926 Littlemore Hospital Burials Register

OHA L 7 B1/4 1846-93 Register of Discharges, Removals and Deaths at
Littlemore Hospital

Saint Mary and Saint Nicholas, Littlemore Births, Marriages and Burials
Register

7.3 Gazetteer of Historic Environment Records

ID	Period	Identifying Number	X coordinate	Y coordinate	Description
1	Palaeolithic	EOX5590	453980	202300	Oxford Science Park: Possible palaeochannel
2	Prehistoric	PRN 16030-MOX11245	453200	202250	Heyford Hill Lane: Prehistoric flints recovered
3	Prehistoric	EOX1578	453900	202100	Oxford Science Park: Flints of a Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age date
4	Iron Age	EOX2608	453900	202120	Oxford Science Park: A Middle Iron Age ditch
5	Iron Age	PRN 16299-MOX12169	453900	202100	Oxford Science Park: Remains of an Iron Age pit, with Roman pottery also recovered
6	Iron Age	EOX1954	453720	202150	Armstrong Road: Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery along with flint and pieces of building material
7	Roman	PRN MOX26652	453690	202230	Littlemore Park: A Roman ditch associated with 29 sherds of Roman pottery. Other gullies and postholes that were undated were also thought to be Roman
8	Roman	PRN 8017-MOX11237	453300	202400	Littlemore Hospital: Roman kiln and pottery
9	Roman	PRN 16030-MOX11245	453200	202250	Heyford Hill Lane: Roman finds
10	Roman	PRN 1435-MOX11246	453670	202540	Littlemore: Roman coins and pottery
11	Roman	PRN 16966-MOX12768	453700	202550	Speedwell First School: Roman pottery recovered
12	Roman	PRN 16967-MOX12771	453650	202550	Speedwell First School: Gully with a Roman sherd
13	Roman	PRN 26121-MOX23492	453530	202200	Armstrong Road: Roman kiln furniture and pottery recovered
14	Roman	PRN 26248-MOX23665	454000	202200	Minchery Farm: West of the farm Roman pottery was recovered
15	Roman	EOX2580	453380	202630	Community Support Unit: Roman tile
16	Roman	EOX2606	453310	202560	Ashurst Clinic Site: Residual Roman finds
17	Undated-Roman	EOX3351	453300	202340	Littlemore Mental Health Centre: Undated kilns in an area known to have had a significant Roman pottery industry
18	Early Medieval	PRN 16299-MOX12169	453900	202100	Oxford Science Park: settlement and a building of an early medieval date
19	Early Medieval	EOX2580	453380	202630	Community Support Unit: Early medieval pottery
20	High Medieval	PRN 5994-MOX10889	453372	201750	Sant Andrew's Church: A late 11th century church with 13th century material
21	High Medieval	PRN 11588-MOX10927	453390	201800	Sandford: Evidence for a shrunken medieval village
22	High Medieval	PRN 16030-MOX11245	453200	202250	Heyford Hill Lane: A medieval ditch
23	High Medieval	PRN 16299-MOX12169	453900	202100	Oxford Science Park: Remains of a medieval farmstead

24	High Medieval	PRN 16966-MOX12768	453700	202550	Speedwell First School: Medieval pottery recovered
25	High Medieval	PRN 26334-MOX23761	453480	202570	Three medieval pits
26	High Medieval	PRN 27495-MOX24006	453281	201843	Four Pillars Hotel: Medieval features
27	High Medieval	PRN 28320-MOX26593	453150	201840	Four pits identified contemporary with the Hospitaller complex
28	High Medieval	EOX1118	453600	202300	Littlemore Hospital: Medieval plough soils
29	High Medieval	EOX2608	453900	202120	Oxford Science Park: Ditch of an 11th to 13th century date
30	High Medieval	EOX2606	453310	202560	Ashurst Clinic Site: Medieval pot and tile
31	Post-Medieval	PRN 1433-MOX9464	453184	201877	Temple Farmhouse: A listed building of the 16th century, that may contain earlier 15th century components
32	Post-Medieval	PRN 19667-MOX16384	453149	201903	Temple Farmhouse: Door and wall reusing medieval stone, the door has a segmental pediment and a date stone of 1614
33	Post-Medieval	PRN 19669-MOX15903	453512	201814	Sandford House: A listed structure of the 17th century
34	Post-Medieval	PRN 16299-MOX12169	453900	202100	Oxford Science Park: A post-medieval quarry
35	Post-Medieval	PRN 27495-MOX24006	453281	201843	Four Pillars Hotel: Remains of a post-medieval path and landscaping
36	Imperial	PRN 19666-MOX16759	453180	201843	Temple Farm: An 18th century structure that probably uses 15th century elements
37	Imperial	PRN 19670-MOX17325	453588	201645	Catherine Wheel Public House: A late 18th century building
38	Industrial	PRN 10200-MOX10922	453500	201700	Toll House: Marked on Bryant's map of 1824
39	Industrial	PRN 11589-MOX10928	453630	201850	Rock Farm: The remains of a brick and limestone dovecote of the 19th century
40	Industrial	PRN 6749-MOX8503	453582	202401	County Lunatic Asylum: A listed building of 1843-6, with additions of 1847, 1852, and 1902
41	Industrial		453720	202150	Asylum Grounds: Terracing in the former grounds of the Asylum marked on map of 1913
42	Industrial		453630	202210	Asylum Grounds: Cultivation beds identified
43	Industrial	PRN 12445-MOX11241	453600	202510	Littlemore Railway Station: Constructed in 1864
44	Modern	PRN 11590-MOX10929	454050	201750	Sandford: Brickworks and clay pits to the east of the village
45	Industrial		453577	202159	Asylum Grounds: Tanks marked on map of 1876
46	Industrial		453739	202223	Asylum Grounds: Engine House marked on map of 1876
47	Industrial		453751	202187	Asylum Grounds: Gasworks marked on map of 1876, expanded on later maps of 1899 and 1913
48	Industrial		453791	202221	Asylum Grounds: Reservoir marked on map of 1876
49	Industrial-Modern		453843	202339	Asylum Grounds: Burial ground marked on map of 1899 and map of 1913

50	Prehistoric		453838	202110	Oxford Science Park: 170 prehistoric stake holes associated with prehistoric flints
51	Bronze Age		453796	201957	Oxford Science Park: Pit containing Beaker pottery
52	Early Medieval		454240	202890	Peers School: Sunken Feature Building
53	Medieval		453665	202369	Cultivation lynchets shown on a map of the 18 th century
54	Modern		453760	202400	Littlemore Hospital: Modern cemetery with 1,318 burials