



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**AT**

**LAND OFF OXFORD ROAD, KINGSTON BAGPUIZE,**

**ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE OX13 5AP**

**NGR SU 4082 9816**

*On behalf of*

*Auclum Properties Ltd*

**MAY 2017**

**REPORT FOR** Auclum Properties Ltd  
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New Road  
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**JMHS Project No:** 3690  
**Site Code:** KBOR 17



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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation at land south of Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 4082 9816). The six evaluation trenches were devoid of any archaeological features apart from one small Late Post-Medieval rubbish pit in Trench 6. Two modern service trenches were identified in Trench 3.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The development site is located south of Oxford Road and east of Abingdon Road in Kingston Bagpuize (NGR SU4082 9816). The site is approximately 0.75 hectares in area and the geology woodland with grassy clearings. The geology is sandstone over most of the site with a limestone strip in the east of it. It lies at approximately 81m OD.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

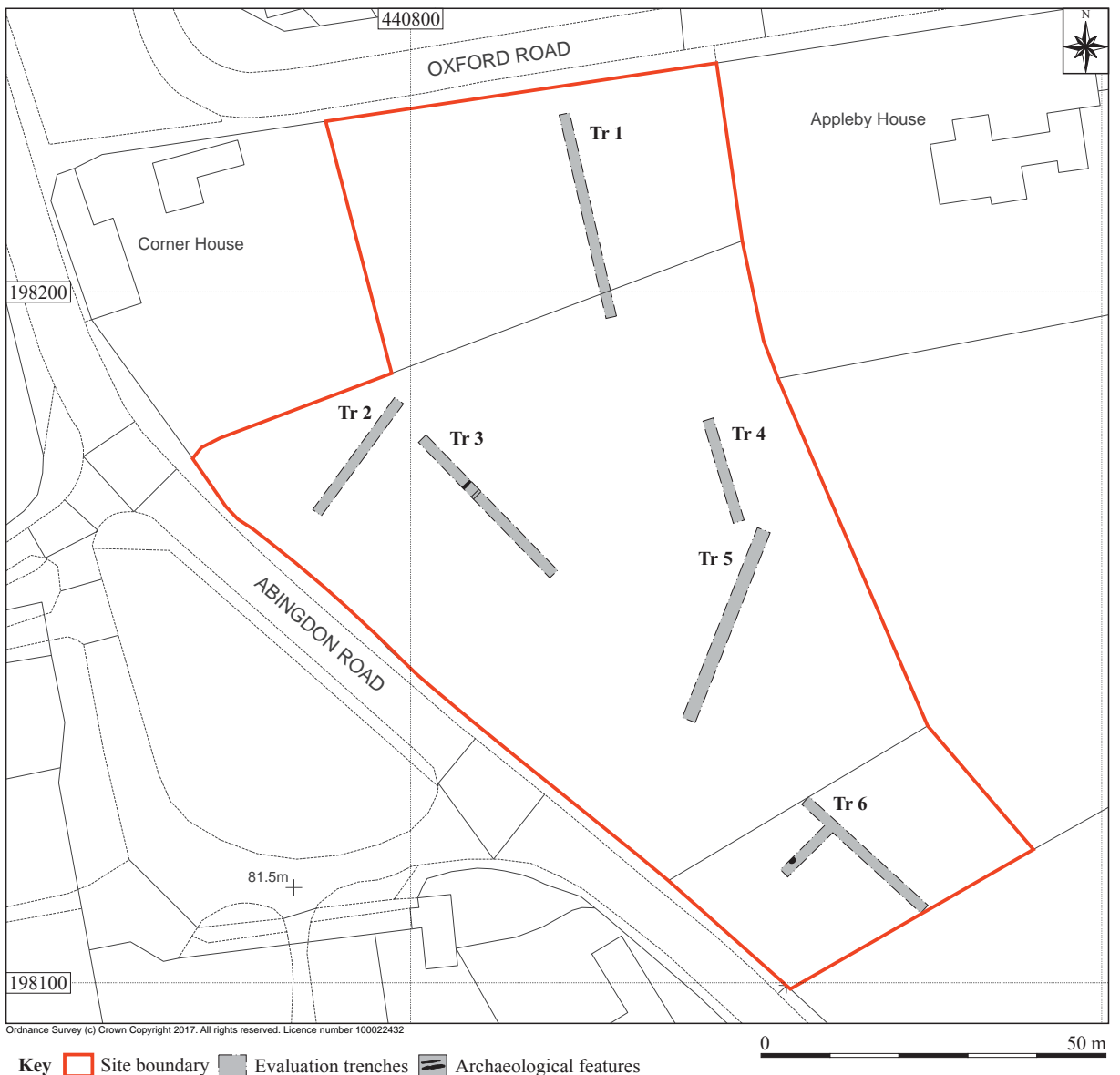
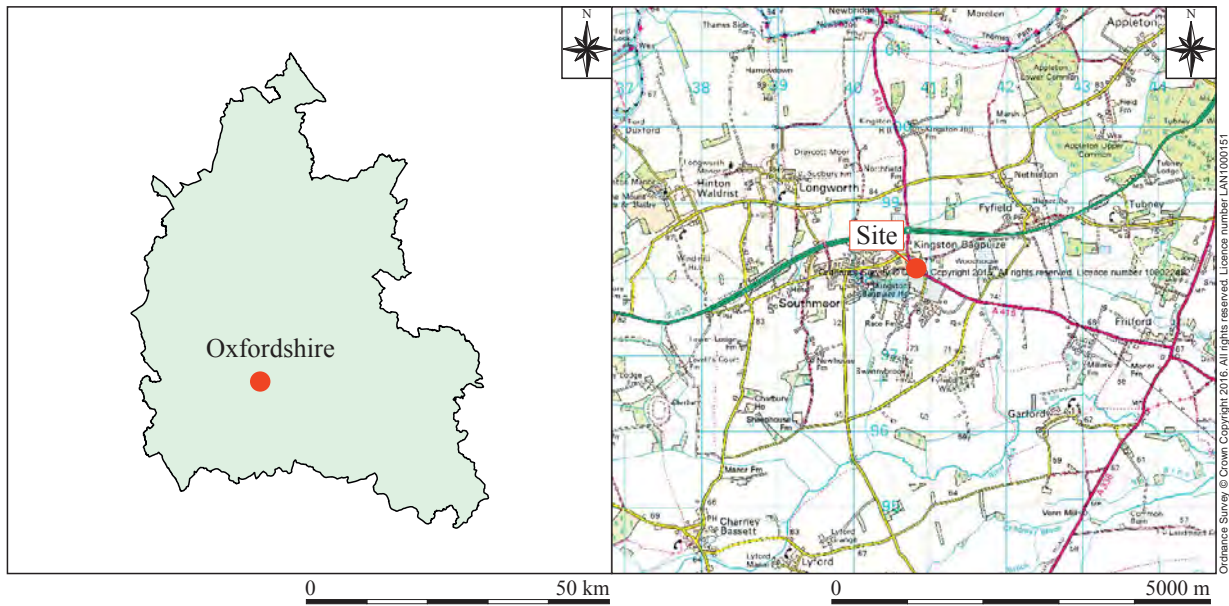
The Vale of White Horse District Council has granted planning permission for erection of 8 two storey residential dwellings and associated infrastructure (as amended by plans and documentation received on 24 November 2015 and 17 February 2016). Due to the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains two conditions relating to archaeology have been attached:

*13 Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).*

*14 Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 13 above, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed 12. Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with the NPPF (2012).*



**Key**  Site boundary  Evaluation trenches  Archaeological features

Figure 1: Site location

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The site is within an area of archaeological potential. To the north evidence of a later prehistoric settlement has been revealed within a field system that is contemporary and appears to have continued to be used into the Roman period. Field walking across adjacent fields has revealed wide spreads of Mesolithic flint artefacts. These include microblades, cores, microburins and waste flakes.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the prehistoric and Roman landscape.
- To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits. The forms in which such evidence may be present will be determined in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* and *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the proposed development.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team (OHET) the archaeological advisors to The Vale of White Horse District Council.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The investigation was to involve the mechanical excavation of six 30m long evaluation trenches supplemented by sample hand excavation of any features. All trenches were 1.60m wide. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits was not to be compromised. Initially consideration was given to preservation *in situ* and OHET was consulted in all matters.

Upon arrival on site some of the trenches had to be moved or shortened due to the location of trees with tree preservation orders (TPO's) (Fig. 1). Trench 1 was moved to a north – south orientation, Trench 2 was 20m in total length, Trench 3 was 27.5m in total length, Trench 4 was 15.5m in total length and Trench 6 was 'T' shaped in plan due to the proximity of drystone walls and trees, and had a total length of 33m.

Excavation was undertaken by an 8t excavator using a ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation was to be taken down to the top of "natural" deposits or any higher archaeological horizon. During the evaluation trenching sufficient features were sampled by hand excavation to achieve the objectives.

Site procedures carried out followed Cifa guidelines and the requirements of OHET. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

### **4 RESULTS (Fig. 2)**

Trench 1 (Fig 1 & Plate 1) was 30m in length, 1.6m wide and contained a 0.3m thick layer of grey / brown silty sand loam (1/01) - a heavily root disturbed topsoil, that overlay a 0.2m thick layer of orange / brown silty sand (1/02) subsoil that represents a former plough soil. This overlay the orange / brown natural sand and limestone (1/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

Trench 2 (Fig. 1 & Plate 2) was 20m in length, 1.6m wide and contained a 0.3m thick layer of grey / brown silty sand loam (2/01) - a heavily root disturbed topsoil, that overlay a 0.1m thick layer of orange / brown silty sand (2/02) subsoil that represents a former plough soil. This overlay the orange / brown natural sand and limestone (2/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.

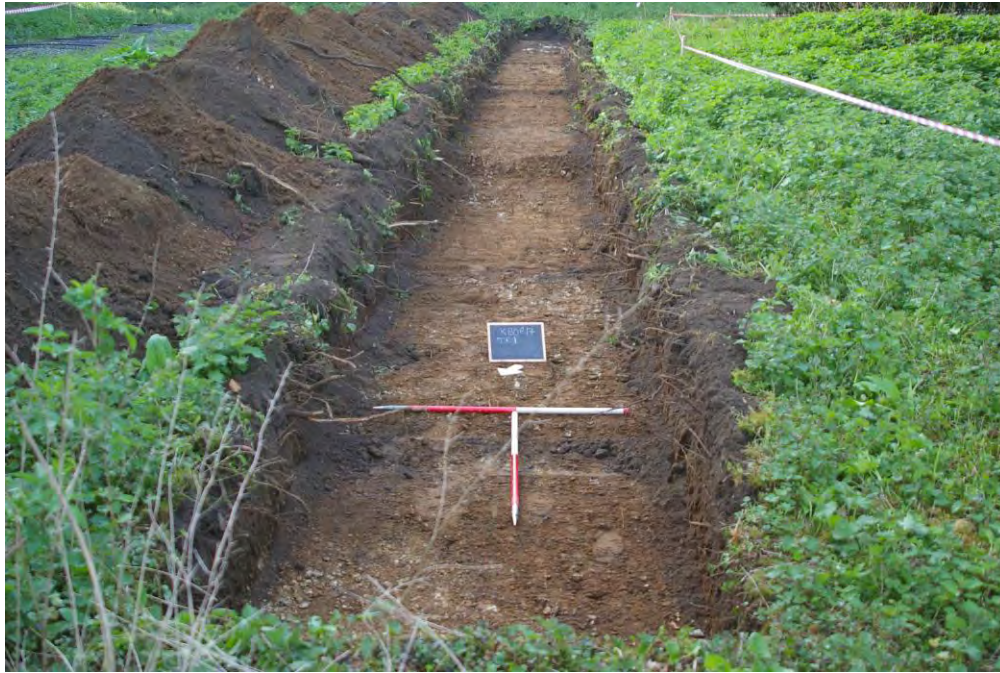


Plate 1. Trench 1



Plate 2. Trench 2

Trench 3 (Fig. 2 & Plate 3) was 27.5m in length, 1.6m wide and contained a 0.3m thick layer of grey / brown silty sand loam (3/01) - a heavily root disturbed topsoil, that overlay a 0.24m thick layer of orange / brown silty sand (3/02) subsoil that represents a former plough soil. This overlay the orange / yellow natural sand (3/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features. Cut into the natural sand was two modern services both orientated NE – SW (Fig. 2).

Trench 4 (Fig. 1 & Plate 4) was 15.5m in length, 1.6m wide and contained a 0.35m thick layer of grey / brown silty sand loam (4/01) - a heavily root disturbed topsoil, that overlay a 0.2m thick layer of orange / brown silty sand (4/02) subsoil that





Plate 3. Trench 3

represents a former plough soil, it contained a single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> Century pottery. This overlay the orange / yellowish brown natural sand (4/03) and (4/04). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 4. Trench 4

Trench 5 (Fig. 1 & Plate. 5) was 30m in length, 1.6m wide and contained a 0.3m thick layer of grey / brown silty sand loam (5/01) - a heavily root disturbed topsoil, that overlay a 0.4m thick layer of orange / brown silty sand (5/02) subsoil that represents a former plough soil. This overlay the light brown / yellow natural sand (1/03). The trench was devoid of any archaeological features.



Plate 5. Trench 5

Trench 6 (Fig. 2 & Plate. 6) was 33m in length, 1.6m wide and contained a 0.3m thick layer of grey / brown silty sand loam (6/01) - a heavily root disturbed topsoil, that overlay a 0.3m thick layer of orange / brown silty sand (6/02) subsoil that represents a former plough soil. This overlay the orange / brown natural sand (1/03). Cut through the subsoil (6/02) and natural layer (6/03) was pit 6/04, 1.2m wide, 0.8m long and 0.4m deep. It was oval in shape with moderate – steep sloping sides and a concave base and contained a single fill of a mid-brown / orange sandy silt (6/05) that contained frequent amounts of pottery, glass and metalwork all dated to the Late Post-Medieval period.



Plate 6. Pit 6/04 in trench 6

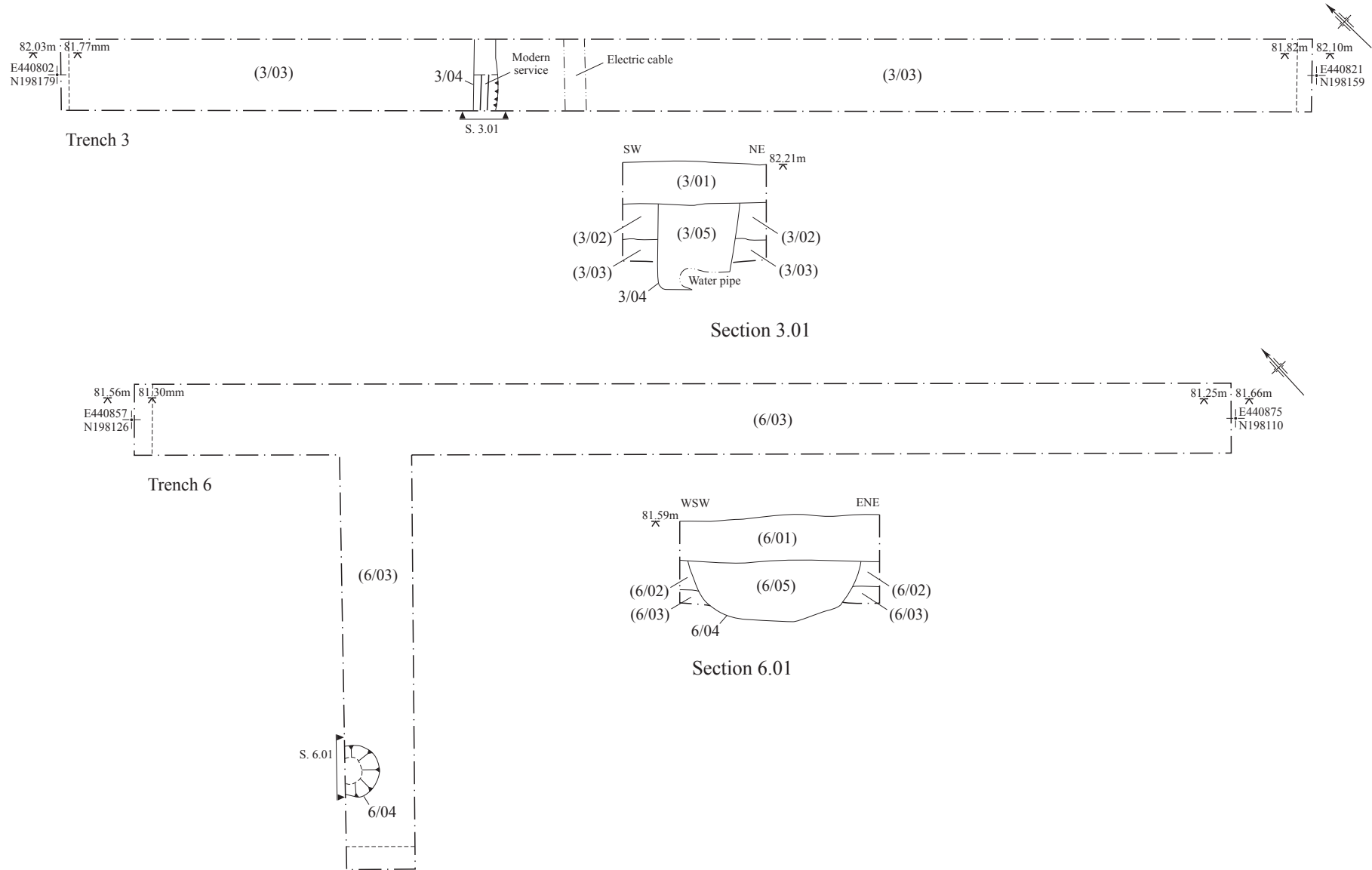


Figure 2: Trenches 3 and 6 with sections

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery *By Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 60g. It was all post-medieval, and recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

**OXDR:** Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 2 sherds, 43g.

**WHEW:** Mass-produced White Earthenwares, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 17g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region.

Tr	Cntxt	OXDR		WHEW		Date
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	2	1	29			16thC
6	5	1	14	2	17	19thC
	Total	2	43	2	17	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

### 5.2 Other finds *By Simona Denis*

#### Glass

A small assemblage of glass was collected from context (6/05). The group is composed by 3 complete small bottles, weighing 148.7g combined, dating between the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Colour	Base	Marks	Comments	Date Range
6/05	Ink well	1	63.1	Aqua	Octagonal	HYDE LONDON (embossed)	Burst top	Ca. 1890s
	Hair oil bottle	2	85.6	Aqua	Circular	S(?)TU(?)Y & Co PERFUMED HAIR OIL (paper label)	Burst top	?20 <sup>th</sup> C.

Table 2: Glass occurrence by type

It is not recommended to retain the glass bottles due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

## Metalwork

Two metal objects, of a combined weight of 20.5g, were recovered from context (6/05).

Context	Material	Type	Weight (g)	Comments	Date Range
6/05	Iron	Jar/bottle lid	11.4	Extreme oxidation	?20 <sup>th</sup> C
	Copper alloy	Fitting	9.1	Verdigris	

Table 3: Metal occurrence by type

It is not recommended to retain the metal objects due to their unstable state and very limited potential for further analysis.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The excavation was conducted in good weather conditions and good light. The natural sand and limestone horizons were clear and both the topsoil and subsoil layers were heavily disturbed by rooting. Some difficulty was encountered due to the presence of existing trees and walls in achieving the total required lengths of some of the trenches. Five of the trenches were devoid of any archaeological features, one small Late Post-Medieval / 20<sup>th</sup> Century pit was identified in Trench 6 and two modern services were located in Trench 3.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Findings	Interpretation	Date
<b>Trench 1</b>								
1/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty sand loam	0.3m	1.6m	30m	-	Topsoil	
1/02	Deposit	Orange / brown silty sand	0.2m	1.6m	30m	-	Subsoil	
1/03	Deposit	Orange / brown sand and limestone	-	1.6m	30m	-	Natural	
<b>Trench 2</b>								
2/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty sand loam	0.3m	1.6m	20m	-	Topsoil	
2/02	Deposit	Orange / brown silty sand	0.1m	1.6m	20m	-	Subsoil	
2/03	Deposit	Orange / brown sand and limestone	-	1.6m	20m	-	Natural	
<b>Trench 3</b>								
3/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty sand loam	0.3m	1.6m	27.5m	-	Topsoil	
3/02	Deposit	Orange / brown silty sand	0.24m	1.6m	27.5m	-	Subsoil	
3/03	Deposit	Orange / yellow sand	-	1.6m	27.5m	-	Natural	
3/04	Cut	NE-SW linear feature	0.6m	0.6m	1.6m	-	Modern service	
3/05	Deposit	Mid-brown / orange sandy silt	0.6m	0.6m	1.6m	-	Modern service fill	Modern
<b>Trench 4</b>								
4/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty sand loam	0.35m	1.6m	15.5m	-	Topsoil	
4/02	Deposit	Orange / brown silty sand	0.2m	1.6m	15.5m	Pottery	Subsoil	16 <sup>th</sup> Century
4/03	Deposit	Light brown / yellow sand	-	1.6m	15.5m	-	Natural	
4/04	Deposit	Orange / brown sand	0.35m	0.8m	1.3m	-	Natural	
<b>Trench 5</b>								
5/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty sand loam	0.3m	1.6m	30m	-	Topsoil	
5/02	Deposit	Orange / brown silty sand	0.4m	1.6m	30m	-	Subsoil	
5/03	Deposit	Light brown / yellow sand	-	1.6m	30m	-	Natural	
<b>Trench 6</b>								
6/01	Deposit	Grey / brown silty sand loam	0.3m	1.6m	33m	-	Topsoil	
6/02	Deposit	Orange / brown silty sand	0.3m	1.6m	33m	-	Subsoil	
6/03	Deposit	Orange / brown sand	-	1.6m	33m	-	Natural	
6/04	Cut	Oval pit	0.4m	1.2m	0.8m	-	Pit	
6/05	Deposit	Mid-brown / orange sandy silt	0.4m	1.2m	0.8m	Pottery, glass,	Pit fill	Late Post-Medieval