



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

12 NORHAM GARDENS,

OXFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 51315 07454

JANUARY 2019

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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 12 Norham Gardens, Oxford. During the excavation of the basements, a truncated ditch terminus was investigated and recorded. Five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the feature which was roughly 2m in total length. External works on the site revealed only 19th and 20th century material, which was likely to be from the construction phase of the house and the continuing use of the extant structure and gardens from the mid to late 19th century onwards. There was disturbance from modern services along the eastern side of the house, extending nearly the full depth of the excavation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at 12 Norham Gardens, Oxford, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 51315 07440).

The site lies at approximately 64m OD. The underlying geology is the boundary of the 1st (Flood Plain) and 2nd (Summertown-Radley) Terrace Deposits.

1.2 Planning Background

Oxford City Council granted planning permission for demolition of existing rear extension. Erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension incorporating replacement conservatory. Insertion of 1No. additional window and replacement of dormer window to east elevation. Extension and conversion of basement to habitable space with formation of lightwells and insertion of windows to south and east elevations. Replacement of garage. Widening of existing vehicle access with reinstatement of gates and railings to front boundary. Alterations to landscaping. Provision of bin and cycle store (16/02279/FUL). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site. This was in line with NPPF and Local Planning policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

Evidence from aerial photographs and archaeological excavations indicates the presence of an extensive prehistoric ritual and agricultural landscape across this part of the Oxford gravel terrace, involving Neolithic/Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments, Iron Age /Roman agricultural field systems and subsequent Saxon settlement. An extensive cropmark complex recorded in the University Parks to the south incorporates a possible Neolithic/Bronze Age linear barrow cemetery and later Iron Age/Roman agricultural enclosures. A Neolithic/Bronze Age henge monument and three Bronze Age ring ditches belonging to this complex have recently been excavated at Queen Elizabeth House, St Giles and at the Radcliffe Infirmary site (TVAS and MoLAS, forthcoming).

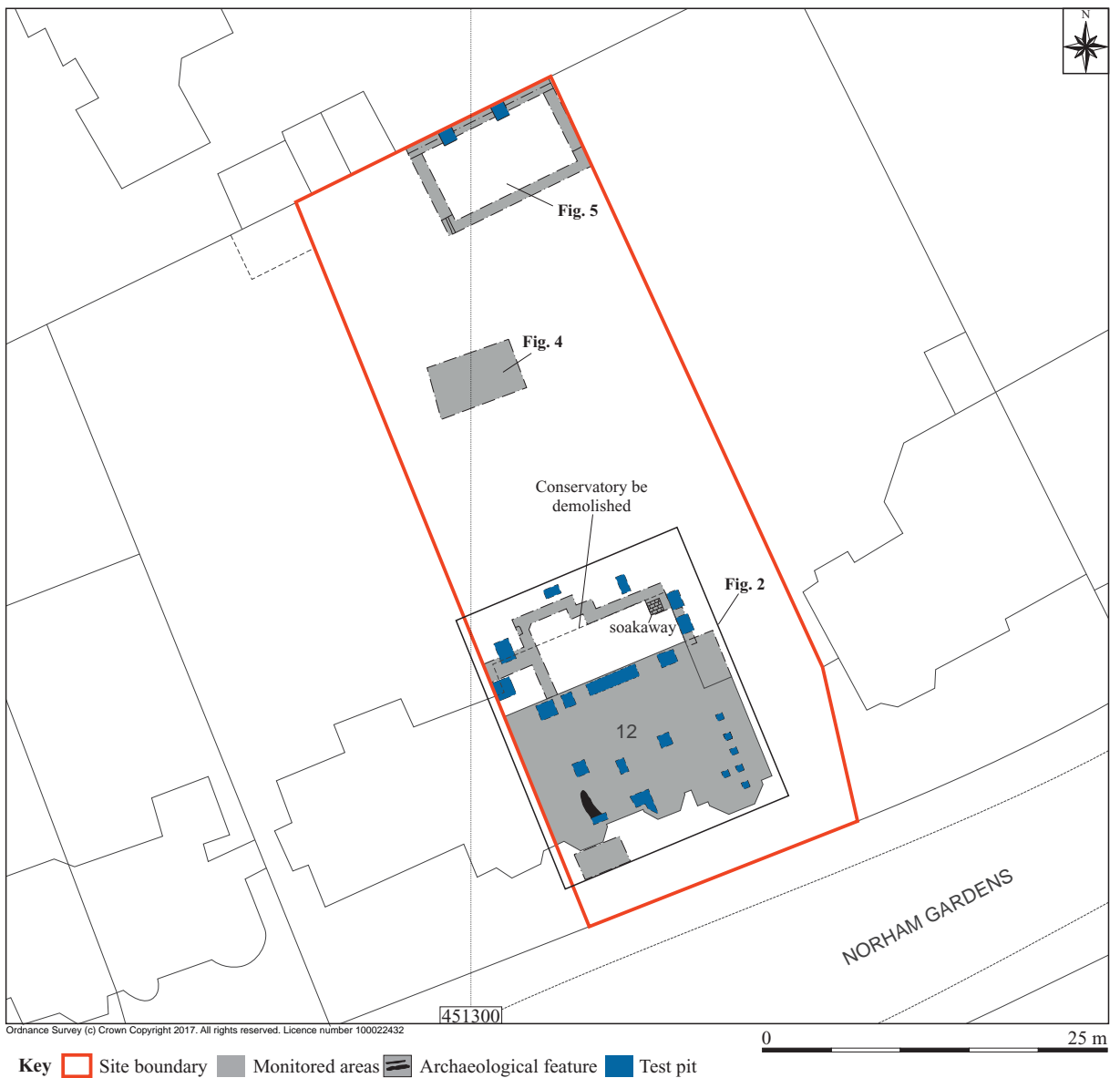
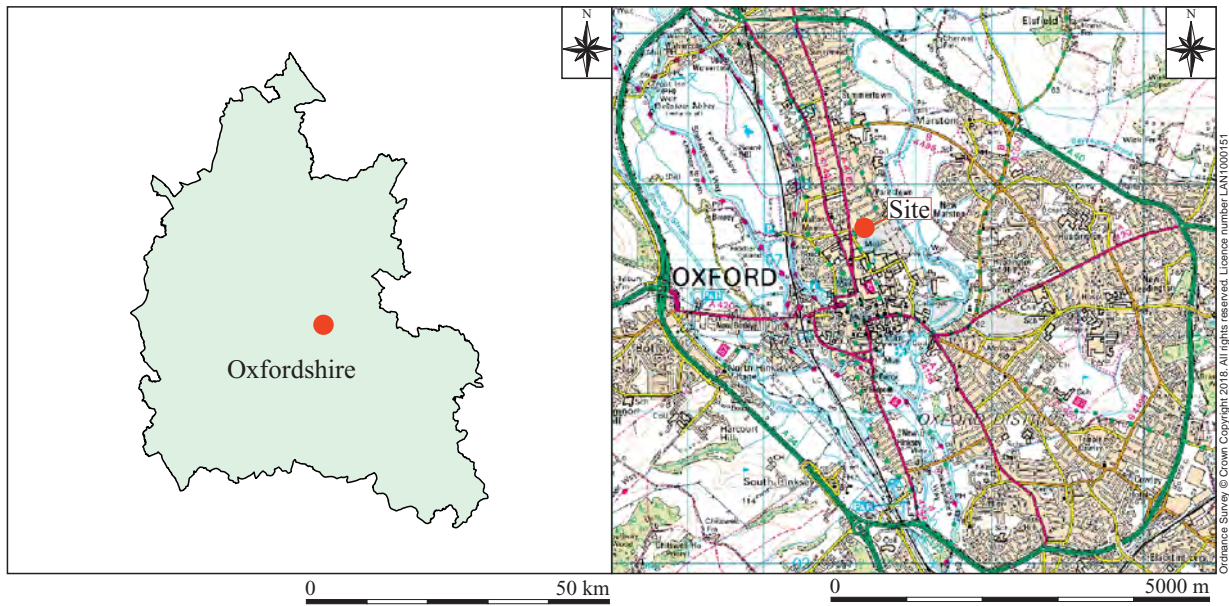


Figure 1: Site location

A Bronze Age burial was recorded c. 300m to the east of the application site during a watching brief in 2005 (JMHS, 2005; UAD No 1673) and another likely Bronze Age burial was recorded in 1864 approximately 240m to the north (County HER No 3592). Furthermore an Iron Age pit was recorded to the north of the application site at No 6 Crick Road in 1968 (County HER No 3593). The pit contained bones of an ox, red deer antlers and sherds of Iron Age pottery. More recent archaeological investigations to the east and south of the application site have produced ephemeral evidence for prehistoric activity. A gully of likely prehistoric date was recorded to the south of the application site during an evaluation in 2005 at 15 Norham Gardens (TVAS, 2005; UAD No 1711). Furthermore an undated gully was recorded during an evaluation in 2007 at Lady Margaret Hall (Oxford Archaeology, 2007; UAD No 1708).

In the near vicinity an inhumation/knife burial of possible Saxon date (HER No 5775) was recovered from the garden of No 10 Crick Road. The burial was reported in the Oxford Times in 1903 and is cited in Tania Dickenson's Anglo Saxon Burial Sites of the Upper Thames Basin (1972).

An evaluation in 2009 at No. 22 Norham Gardens found only 19th-20th century pits and a posthole (JMHS 2009).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by ground works.

In particular:

- To monitor for potential late Neolithic-early Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman landscapes recorded in University Parks possibly extending into this area.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with David Radford, the archaeological advisor to Oxford City Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

Excavations at 12 Norham Gardens were monitored and where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately.

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.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to Roman and prehistoric activities or materials. Due to the depth and nature of the basement excavation activities, some sections were not able to be inspected as thoroughly as other area due to shoring and other safety supports which had to be implemented prior to the recording of the area. These areas were noted to be surrounding the existing foundation walls and any potential archaeological horizons were therefore likely to have been disturbed in the initial construction phase of work on the 19th century house.

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

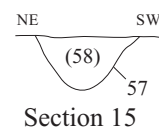
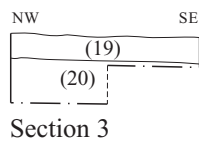
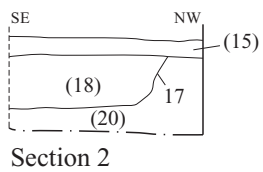
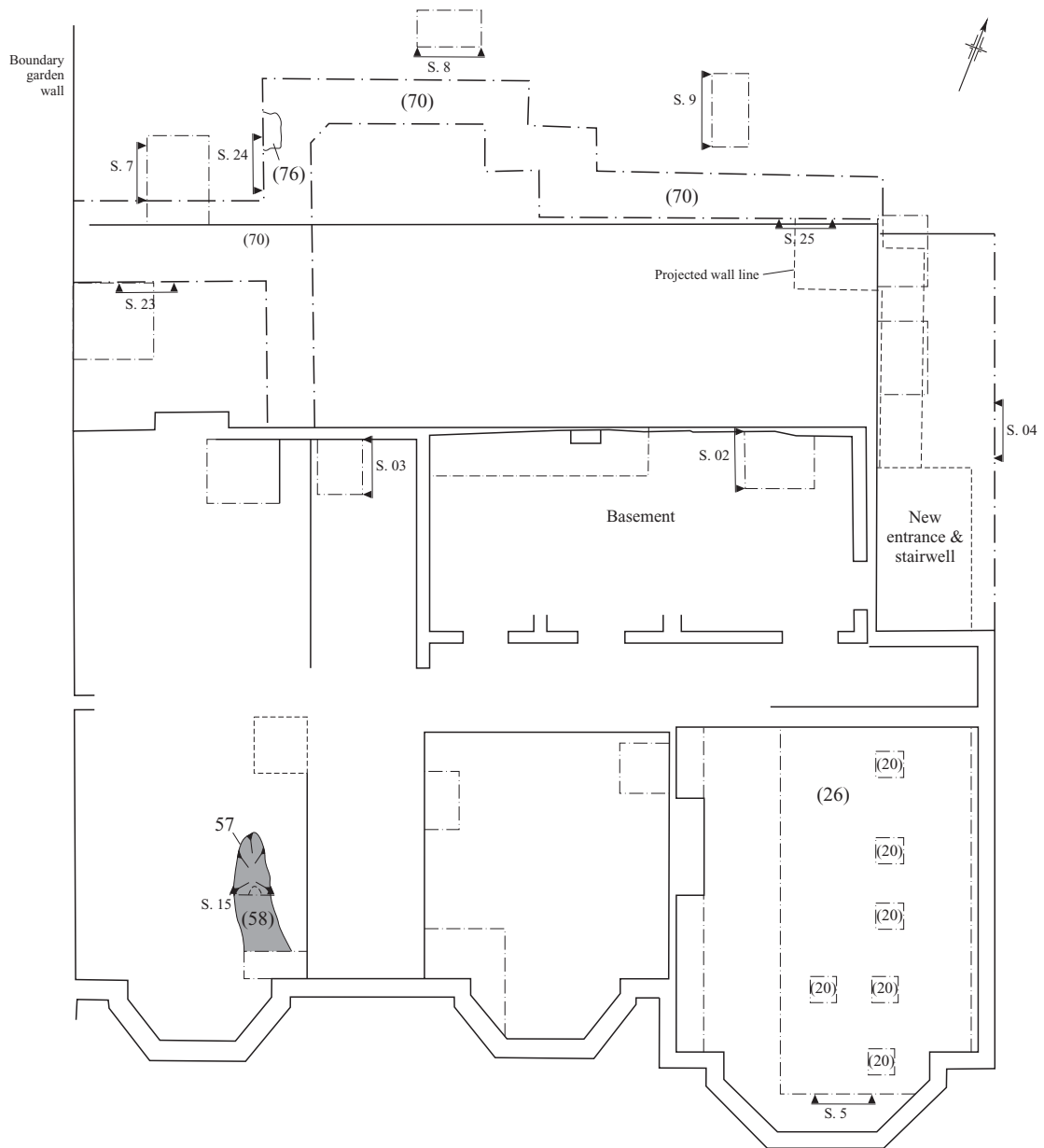
Monitoring and recording took place over the course of 11 visits between May and September 2018. The areas monitored can be summarised into two areas: the interior of the building (including the reduction to the basement floor level), the external areas (including the foundation trenches for the extension and the rear garage foundations).

4.1 Area 1: Building Interior, Ground Floor and Lower Ground Floor

The stratigraphy for Area 1 was largely reduced by previous construction of basements. Across the majority of the basement, made-ground and floor deposits lay above the natural gravels (20) (Fig. 2, Plan 1, Sections 2 and 3). In the north of the building the natural was cut by an excavation cut 17 that was filled by a made ground deposit of mid-reddish brown sand (18). This deposit had frequent brick, tile and slag inclusions and was considered to be a possible levelling deposits and may have been the result of the removal of a soft spot in the ground and backfilling. Deposited above this was a brick floor (15) (Fig. 2, Section 2). In the north-west area of the basement a concrete floor (19) sat above the natural gravel (Fig. 2, Section 3).

The ground reduction which created the original basements to the building was shallower in the south of the building. This allowed for the survival of one archaeological feature, which was identified in the room to the SW corner of the basement (Fig. 2, Plan 1, Section 15; Plate 1). The feature was the terminal end of a ditch orientated NNW, 57. The length of the ditch revealed was not long enough to confidently determine if it was curvilinear or straight. It was >2.2m in length, 0.8m in width. The depth of the ditch was 0.28m near to the terminus extending to 0.42m towards the limit of excavation further south. It contained a single fill (58) which was a firm, mid yellowish brown, sandy clay, with sub-rounded small stones of between 0.02-0.05m in diameter. There were five sherds of Roman pottery recovered from the fill.

Plan 1



Key

■ Archaeological feature

Figure 2: Plan 1 and Sections 2 to 3 and 15

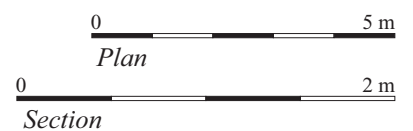




Plate 1. Section 15, Ditch 57

In the east of the building the ground below the ground floor was reduced in order to extend the area of the basement. The lowest layer identified was the natural gravel 20 (Fig. 2, Plan 1). Overlying this was a 0.45m thick deposit of mid-yellowish brown silty clay natural (26) (Fig. 3, Section 5). Above this was a mid-grey brown sandy silt (25) which was 0.35m thick. The deposit contained occasional flecks of charcoal or coal and was identified as a buried soil horizon. Deposited above this was a light yellow brown sandy silt levelling deposit (24) which was 0.18m thick and overlying this was a 0.22m thick deposit of dark greyish black silt with frequent coal fragments (23). Above 23 was a 0.44m thick deposit of mid-yellow brown sandy silt made ground (22). The uppermost layer (21) was a 0.05m thick silt layer that was identified as the accumulation of dust and dirt below the extant floor boards.

4.2 Area 2: Exterior works (Figure 2, Plan 1)

The stratigraphy to the east of the building consisted of made ground and disturbance associated with services. In section 4 the lowest layer identified was natural river gravels (13) which were the same as (20) (Fig. 3, Section 4). Deposited above this was a 0.15m thick deposit of mid-grey sandy gravel (12) which was identified as a B-horizon subsoil deposit. Above the subsoil was a 0.05m thick, light brownish white deposit identified as an eluviated (E-horizon) soil deposit (11). Overlying this was a 0.28m thick deposit of mid-brown silty clay (10). The deposit was identified as a buried topsoil deposit and was cut by 14, the cut to a service. The cut was filled by a 0.27m thick deposit of blackish brown silty loam (09) which contained pottery fragments, other ceramic material, glass and animal bone. Above this deposit was (08) a deposit of dark brownish black silty loam that was 0.3m thick and contained 19th and 20th century pottery and other ceramic material, glass, metalwork and animal

bone. Deposit (08) was cut by a cut for a service (05). The service cut contained a 0.4m thick fill of mid-brownish yellow silty clay (06) which contained fragments of slate and clay tobacco pipe. Overlying (06) was a 0.17m thick made-ground deposit of mid-greyish brown, silty clay (02) from which two fragments of pottery were recovered. Lying above (02) was a disturbed topsoil deposit with frequent fragments of concrete (01).

Towards the north of the building excavations revealed further made ground and disturbed deposits. The natural sand and gravel in the area to the north-west of the building was overlain by a very thin deposit of gravel (68). This in turn was overlain by the buried soil horizon (10) and made ground (08). The uppermost deposit (02) was 0.75m thick in this part of the site (Fig. 3, Section 25).

Elsewhere at the near rear north side of the house a number of different deposits were identified. The gravel deposit (68) was noted in some sections as being deposited above the natural sand and gravel but was not observed across the whole area (Fig. 3, Sections, 7 to 9 and 23 to 25). Deposited above (68) was (67) which was between 0.3m and 0.7m thick. Deposit (67) was a mid-orange brown sand which was identified as a loess deposit (Fig. 3, Sections 23 and 24). The deposit may have been the same deposit as (33) which was identified as a subsoil deposit (Fig. 3, Section 7). Above (33) was (32) which was the concrete setting for an exterior brick floor (31). This was overlain by a 0.2m thick deposit of blackish grey sandy loam topsoil (30) (Fig. 3, Section 7). Deposited above (67) was mid-brown grey sandy silt loam identified as garden soil which was between 0.56m and 0.72m deep (66). Above this was deposit (78) which was recorded as a 0.36m thick layer of mid-yellow grey sandy silt and gravel and identified as a levelling layer of made ground (Fig. 3, Sections 23 and 24).

The garden soil deposit (66) may have been the same as (34) which was described as a greyish brown sandy loam with moderate brick fragments. This deposit was between 1.15m and 1.35m thick and was identified as made ground, however, it is likely that the deposit was a less thick deposit of made ground over garden soil which was not clear to differentiate. This deposit was located towards the north and the northeast of the house and was observed as deposited above the natural gravels (Fig. 2, Plan 1; Fig. 3, Sections 8, 9, 23, and 24).

A pit was identified cutting deposit (34) towards the north-east of the house (Fig. 3, Section 9). The pit, 35, was greater than 1.2m wide by 1.3m deep with steep sides and a flattish base. The lowest fill of the pit was a 0.6m thick deposit of black silt with frequent coal inclusions (37). The upper fill was a 0.7m thick deposit of mid-brown grey sandy loam (36). The pit was identified in the section of a test pit but was not further identified in plan.

Towards the west was a further pit 71 which was greater than 1.7m deep with very steep edges (Fig. 3, Section 24). The pit was 0.67m wide by greater than 0.3m. The lowest fill was a 1.3m of mid-grey silty clay with a fragment of brick near the base (76). Deposited above this was a 0.14m deposit of mid-yellow sand (75) and above this a 0.14m fill of silty sandy loam with frequent rubble fragments (74). Above (74) was a 0.05m deposit of yellow sand (73) and above this a 0.18m thick deposit of brownish grey sandy silt loam with frequent rubble inclusions (72). Overlying this deposit was (77) which was a 0.12m thick deposit with frequent rubble and modern material and was the result of recent ground clearance on the site.

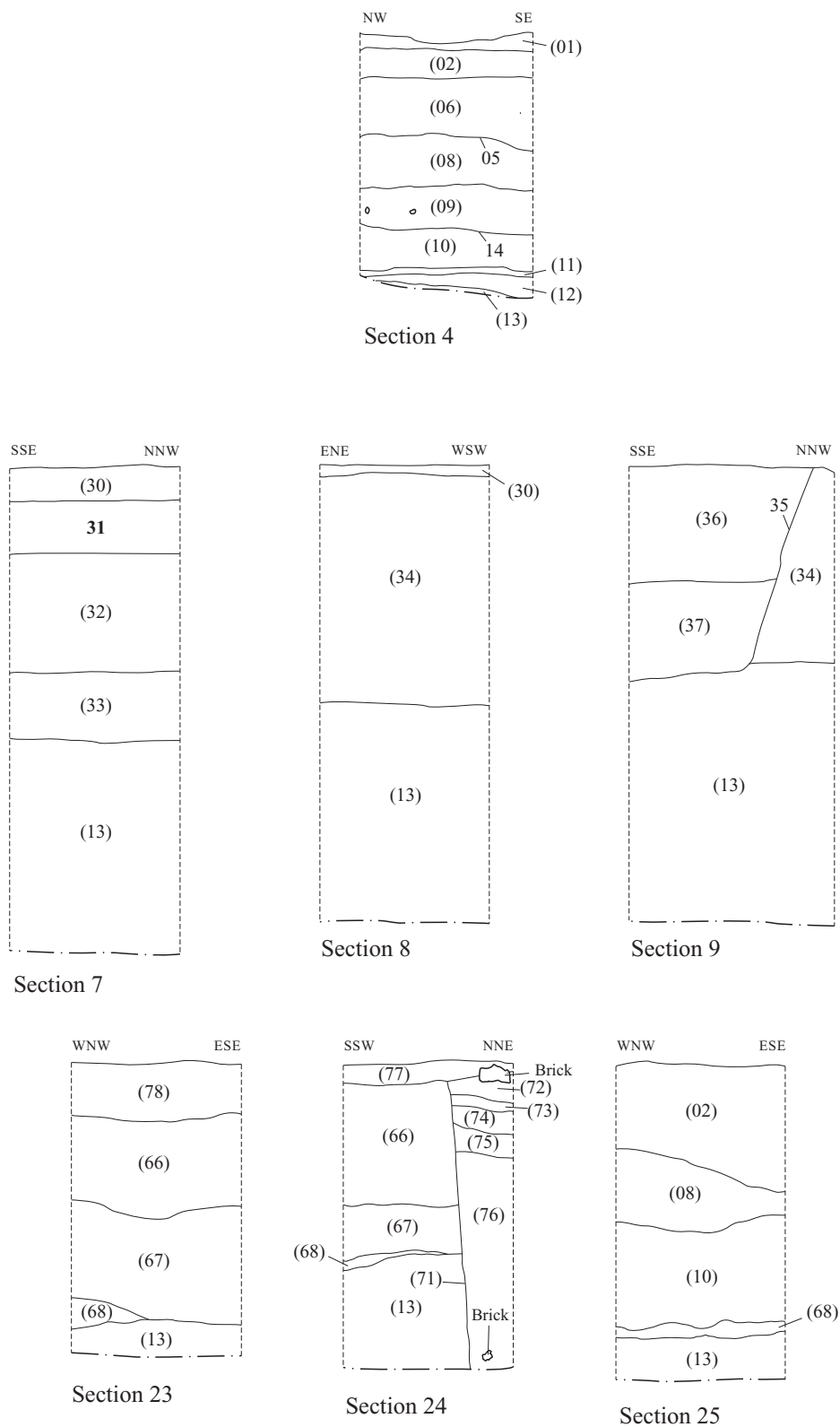


Figure 3: Sections 4 and 5, 7 to 9 and 23 to 25



Towards the centre of the site the excavations revealed a natural sand deposit (70) at 1.65m below the current ground level. Deposited above this was a deposit of fine yellow and orange sand and gravel natural (69) which was 0.4m thick and this was overlain by a thin deposit of mid-grey sand and gravel natural (68) which was 0.04m thick. Above this natural gravel was a 0.28m thick, mid-orange brown loess deposit (67). Deposited above the loess deposit was a 0.7m thick deposit of mid-brown grey garden soil (66) and above this was a 0.27m thick deposit of dark brown grey topsoil (65) (Fig. 4, Plan 2, Section 22; Plate 2). No archaeological features were recorded in this part of the site

4.3 Area 3: Rear Garage Foundations

The stratigraphy in the area for the new garage foundations at the far north of the garden was truncated slightly by previous garage foundations, but showed less disturbance than some areas that had been monitored. Across the entire area excavated for the garage foundation trench was a layer of firm, natural mid-reddish yellow clayey sand (a different terrace deposit from that seen further south) (56) (Fig. 5, Plan 3, Section 13). Deposited above this was a 0.52m thick deposit of mid-greyish brown garden soil which contained fragments of white earthenware and red earthenware pottery (55). The cut for a modern service, 54, was identified in the south-west corner of the foundation trench cutting through the garden soil. Deposited above this was a further deposit of topsoil which was 0.21m thick (52). Cutting the topsoil was a foundation cut 51 that was part of the construction of a concrete surface which had been previously used for car parking. This was filled with a deposit hardcore (50) which was 0.41m thick and which was topped by the concrete slab (48). Deposited against the edge the concrete slab was a deposit of turf and moss (49).



Plate 2. Section 22

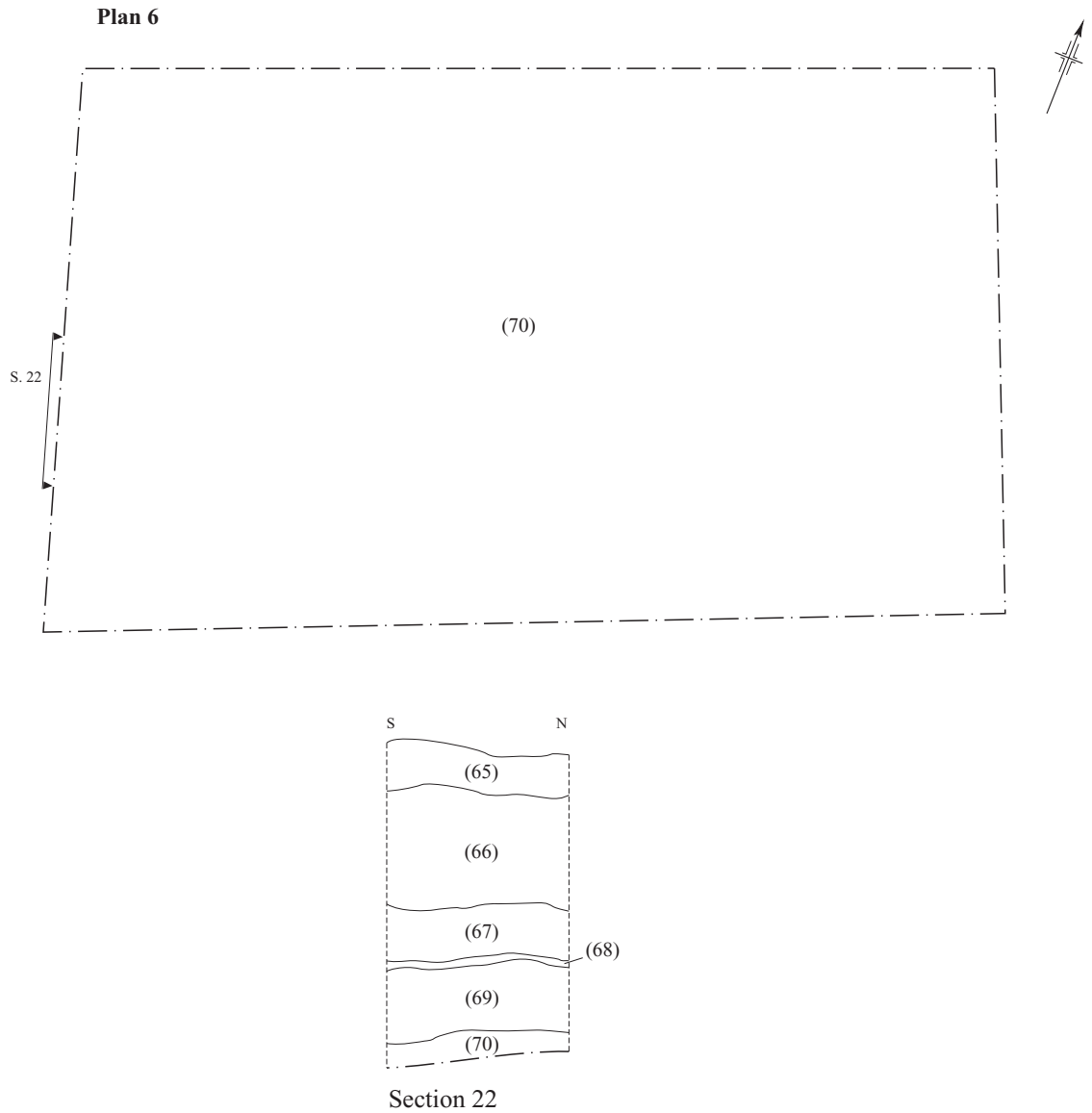
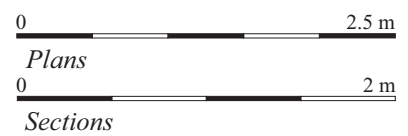


Figure 5: Plan 6 and Section 22



Plan 3

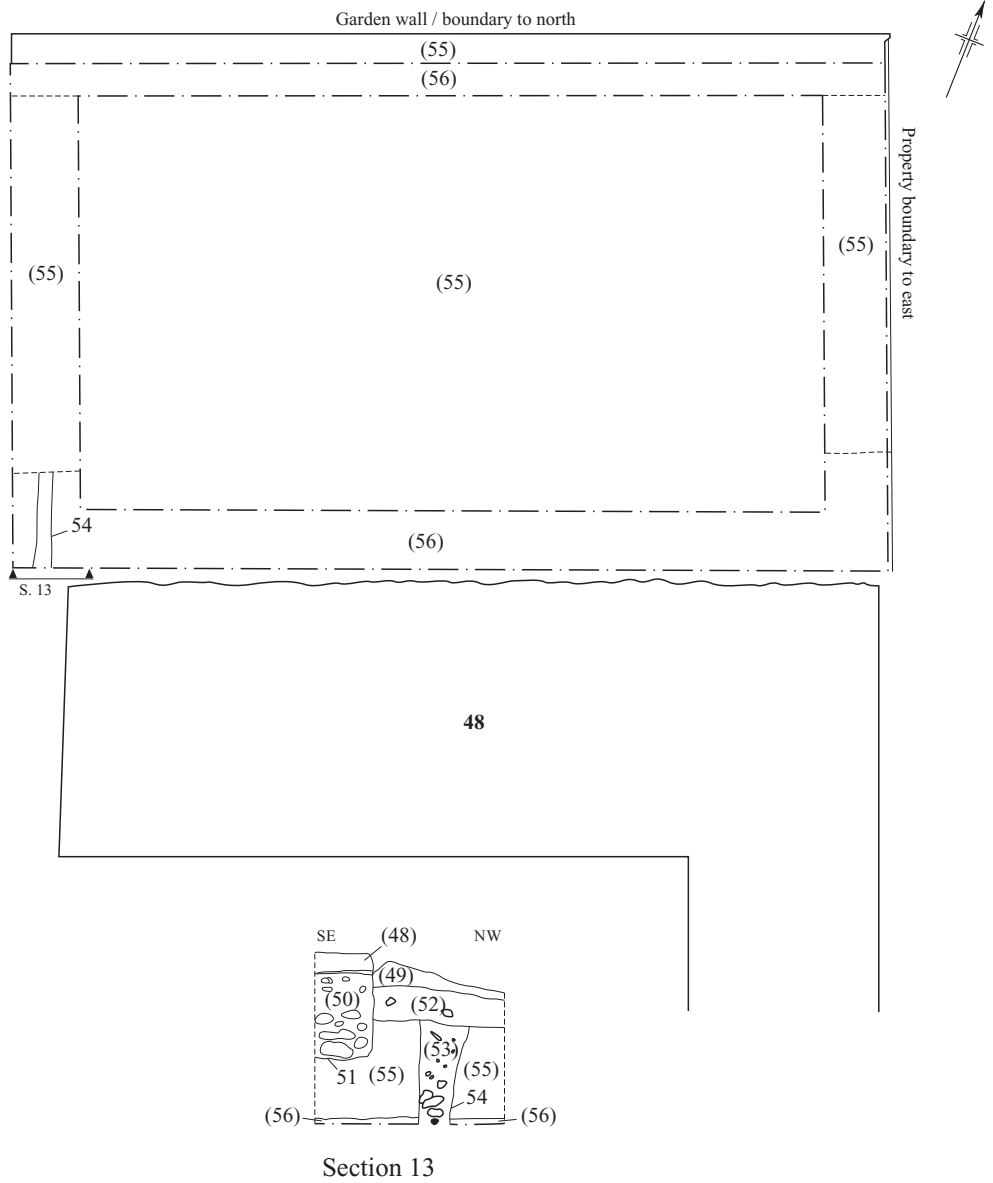


Figure 5: Plan 3 and Section13

5 FINDS

5.1 Roman Pottery by Jane Timby

A small group of five sherds of pottery weighing 28 g was recovered from the fill (58) of a single ditch 57. Four of the sherds date to the early Roman period and one is uncertain. For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess the likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight. The resulting data is catalogued below.

The group comprised three bodysherds and two small rims, both quite fragmentary, but probably from bowls. Typologically these would be typical of the later 1st-early 2nd century. A well-made grey, sandy ware, bodysherd with surface sooting may be Roman or medieval in date.

No further work is recommended.

Table 1. Roman pottery from fill (58)

Type/Fabric	Count	Wt(g)	Date	Element	Comments
Fine grey Oxfordshire ware	1	3	early 2nd c.	rim	flat rim bowl or dish
Type O42 (Young 1977)	1	3	late 1st-early 2nd c.	rim	fine oxidised bowl
Unknown	1	1	Roman	bodysherd	sherd
Grey ware	1	12	Roman	bodysherd	very small fine oxidised
Grey sandy ware	1	9	?Roman/?medieval	bodysherd	Date uncertain but appears more characteristic of medieval ware - sooted on the exterior and interior surfaces

5.2 Post-medieval Pottery by Stephanie N. Duensing

The pottery assemblage comprised 60 sherds with a total weight of 2159g, all of a Post Medieval date or later. It was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA 2018), as follows:

PMR: Red earthenware, 1580–1800. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such pottery was first made in the late 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 3 sherds, 52g.

PMR SLIP: Slipped red ware, 1800–1900. Fine sandy red earthenware, with a thin reddish brown slip rather than a glaze. 2 sherds, 192g.

ENGS BRST: English stoneware, 1700–1900. This category includes a group of stoneware fabrics, of nineteenth-century date, which could not be assigned to specific British potteries. 2 bottles, 753g.

LUST: Lusterware, 1805–1900. 2 sherds, 41g.

PEAR EARTH: Pearlware with 'earth' colours, 1790–1820. These are underglaze polychrome-painted decoration, type includes the classic 'mocha ware' or 'dendro ware.' 2 sherds, 36g.

REFW: Refined white earthenware, 1805–1900. 15 sherds, 515g.

REFW PNTD: Refined white ware with underglaze painted, 1805–1900. 1 sherd, 16g.

TPW: Refined white ware with underglaze transfer-printed, 1780–1900. 23 sherds, 349g.

TPW3: Refined white ware with underglaze brown or black transfer-printed, 1810–1900. 2 sherds, 34g.

TPW4: Refined white ware with underglaze colour transfer-printed, 1825–1900. 1 sherd, 11g.

YELL: Yellow ware, 1820–1900. 2 sherds, 106g.

YELL SLIP: Yellow ware with slip decoration, 1820–1900. 3 sherds, 31g.

Table 2. Post-medieval Pottery occurrence by number and weight per context by fabric type

WARE	Context	02	08	09	55	Total
TPW	No	1	14	7	1	23
	Wt (g)	5	230	107	7	349
TPW3	No	0	0	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	0	34	0	34
TPW4	No	0	1	0	0	1
	Wt (g)	0	11	0	0	11
PEAR EARTH	No	0	1	1	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	7	29	0	36
REFW	No	0	6	7	2	15
	Wt (g)	0	160	278	77	515
REFW PNTD	No	0	1	0	0	1
	Wt (g)	0	16	0	0	16
YELL	No	0	0	2	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	0	106	0	106
YELL SLIP	No	1	2	0	0	3
	Wt (g)	15	16	0	0	31
ENGS BRST	No	0	1	1	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	321	432	0	753
LUST	No	0	2	0	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	41	0	0	41
PMR	No	0	1	2	0	3
	Wt (g)	0	8	44	0	52
PMR SLIP	No	0	2	0	0	2
	Wt (g)	0	192	0	0	192
	Context Date	AD 1830-1930	AD 1830-1930	AD 1830-1930	AD 1830-1930	

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range

of fabric types is fairly typical of similar sites in the immediate location which were built up heavily in the mid to late Victorian period. The assemblage was industrial in date, specifically 19th century. Overall the range of pottery types present indicates that there was a great deal of domestic waste being generated at the site throughout the early 19th to early 20th centuries. The wares reflect that of a middling social status.

5.3 Faunal Remains

Animal Bone

Ten animal bone fragments, weighing 44.1g in total, were collected during the excavation. The state of preservation of the material is generally fair, although extremely fragmentary; the two bird (possibly chicken) caracoids recovered from context (08) being only complete examples.

6 of the remains, representing 60% of the assemblage, were identified on the basis of the observation of Genus-specific characteristics; the remaining 4 items were recognised as belonging to small mammals of undetermined species. Due to the variable sizes and robustness of animal bones taphonomic factors may favour preservation of certain species, resulting in the under-representation of other, smaller animals (Kasumally 2002).

Possible butchering evidence, restricted to chop marks, was recorded on 2 of the bone fragments, representing 20% of the assemblage.

Table 3: Animal bone occurrence by context and type

Context	Identification	Type	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
08	Undetermined bird	Coracoid	2	1.9	Complete
		Pelvis	1	1.2	
		Proximal scapula	1	0.6	
	Small mammal	Rib	3	6.9	
		Long bone cortex	1	13.2	?Chop marks
09	Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	1	14.8	Chop marks
		Vertebrae	1	5.5	

It is not recommended to retain the unmarked, undiagnostic bone fragments due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

Oyster Shell

A total of 17 marine shells, of a combined weight of 185.7g, was collected from two deposits.

The entirety of the assemblage was positively identified as British Native Oyster or European Flat Oyster. The items are in a fair state of preservation, although fragmentary; however, the vast majority of the examples (14, or 82% of the assemblage) retained sufficient diagnostic features to be identified as right (10 items), or left (4 items) valves (Winder 2011).

Table 4: Oyster shell occurrence by context and type

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)
08	Right valve	7	75.6
	Left valve	1	30.8

	Undetermined	2	9.7
09	Right valve	3	41.4
	Left valve	3	27.7
	Undetermined	1	0.5

It is not recommended to retain the oyster shell fragments due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

5.4 Building Materials

Slate

A very small assemblage of four fragments of slate, weighing 306.6g in total, was recovered from three individual deposits. The items, although extremely fragmentary, were in a fair state of preservation.

The recovered objects, although incomplete and lacking diagnostic features, are likely to be fragments of tiles, commonly used as roofing material from the 19th century.

Slate roof tile fragments are not recommended for retention due to their extremely limited potential for further analysis.

Table 5: Slate occurrence by context and type

Context	No.	Wt (g)	Dimensions (mm) (LxW)	Comments
06	2	124.5	190x88	One corner preserved
08	1	3	59x13	
09	1	179.1	160x138	

Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 22.7g and measuring 62x27mm, was found in construction layer (08). The item was positively identified as a fragment of field drainage pipe, and dated to the 19th century, period in which clayware field drains became common (http://www.collectionsgateway.org.uk/collections/8/field_drainage_tiles.pdf, accessed 25/09/2018).

The drain pipe fragment was not retained due to its extremely limited potential for further analysis.

5.5 Metalwork

Iron

A single iron object, weighing 13.2g, was found in deposit (08). The item, measuring 49mm in length, was tentatively identified as an iron fastener.

The extremely poor state of preservation, with extensive oxidation, prevented from any other observation. The object remains undated.

It is not recommended to retain the iron nail due to its extremely unstable state of preservation and its very limited potential for further analysis.

Slag

Two fragments of slag, of a combined weight of 19.5g, were found in construction deposit (08). The material showed the light, honeycombed structure typically associated with fuel ash slag (Crew 1995). The presence of slag indicates smelting and/or smithing activities may have occurred on site or in the immediate vicinity.

The slag fragments are not recommended for retention.

5.6 Miscellaneous

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A collection of 10 clay tobacco pipe fragments, weighing 27.4g in total, was recovered from three different deposits. The material was extremely fragmentary, but in a good state of preservation.

Table 6: Clay tobacco pipe occurrence by context and type

Context	Type	No.	Wt (g)	Comments	Date Range
06	Stem	2	4.6		Post-Medieval
08	Stem	2	2.3		
	Stem with heel/spur	1	3.9	Heel/spur type unidentified	
	Stem	1	5.6	Marked: NORWOOD; decorated	1850s
	Stem	1	2.2	Marked: (...)LINS? LONDON BURNS	?19 th C
09	Stem	3	8.8		Post-Medieval

One of the stem fragments from deposit (08) was decorated with foliage along the seam line and pairs of curved lines; it also preserved the incised maker's mark NORWOOD; an identical example is known from St Ebbe's (Oswald 1985; Fig 55:26d B VII F5), and dated to the second half of the 19th century.

A second, undecorated fragment from the same deposit preserved maker's marks on both sides of the stem: (...)LINS? LONDON and BURNS. Although no reference for the maker was found, the example was tentatively dated to the 19th century as incised full names and addresses on stems became common in London only in that period (Atkinson 1969).

The remaining portion (8 items, or 10% of the assemblage) was composed of plain, unmarked, undiagnostic stem fragments, a regular occurrence in clay tobacco pipe assemblages. Plain stem fragments have very little dating value, and can only generally be assigned to the Post-Medieval period.

It is not recommended to retain the plain, unmarked and undiagnostic clay tobacco pipe stem fragment due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

Glass

A collection of 46 glass items, of a combined weight of 1556g, was recovered from two deposits. The items were extremely fragmentary and generally in a poor state of preservation, showing extensive degradation and iridescence.

The largest part (39 examples, or 85%) of the assemblage was positively identified as post-medieval bottle fragments; the remaining 7 items (15% of the group) being fragments of post-medieval to modern window glass.

35 of the fragments originated from wine bottles, mostly dated to the 19th century, while the two embossed fragments found in deposit (08) were tentatively identified as mineral water bottles. The single fragment of finer, thinner glass was probably part of a vessel.

It is not recommended to retain the window and bottle glass fragments due to their unstable conditions and very limited potential for further analysis.

Table 7: Glass occurrence by context and type

Context	Type	Colour	No	Wt(g)	Comments	Date Range
08	Window	Clear	6	47	Float glass	Modern
	?Wine bottle body	Olive green	13	255	Bubbles	Post-Medieval
		Olive green	4	62	Iridescence	
	?Wine bottle heel	Olive green	1	67	Orange-peel	
	Bottle heel	Olive green	1	126	Bubbles, orange-peel	
		Clear	1	99	Bubbles, iridescence	
	Bottle body	Clear	2	22	Iridescence	
		Aqua	1	13	Bubbles, orange-peel	
	Vessel body	Clear	1	4	Iridescence	
	Mineral water bottle body	Aqua	1	36	Bubbles (...)OK (...)ATER	?19 th C
		Olive green	1	12	(...)SHILLIN(...)	
	Bottle shoulder and neck	?Clear	1	68	Mould seams along sides and neck. Iridescence	?L19 th C
	Wine bottle neck with finish	Olive green	3	297	Bulging neck, applied double collar finish	
Brandy/wine bottle neck with finish	Olive green	1	63	Tapered collar with ring	L19 th -E20 th C	
	Aqua	1	59			
09	Window	Clear	1	17	Float glass	Modern
	?Wine bottle	Olive	1	15	Bubbles,	Post-

	body	green			orange-peel	Medieval
		Olive green	1	11	Bubbles, iridescence	
	Wine bottle neck with finish	Olive green	2	156	Bulging neck, applied double collar finish	?L19 th C
	?Wine bottle finish	Olive green	1	42	Applied double collar finish	L19 th C
	Push-up base	Olive green	1	68	Iridescence	Post-Medieval

Charcoal

Two fragments of charcoal, weighing 0.2g combined, were collected from deposit (58), the fill of ditch 57. The hand-recovered fragments were preserved to a maximum length of 11mm, and appear to have originated from a small branch.

Coke

A small quantity of coke was also found during the excavation. 19th century construction layer (08) contained 21.8g of the material, while deposit (09) had 15.4g. Derived from coal, coke is a fuel with high carbon content, commonly used in Britain during the post-medieval period.

Flint

Three small fragments of flint, weighing 8.6g combined, were also recovered from deposit (58). No evidence of knapping was observed.

The unworked flint fragments are not recommended for retention.

6 DISCUSSION

The majority of the areas monitored on the site showed disturbance and made ground or deposits that are typical of a suburban garden. Two pits identified near to the north side of the house were considered to be modern and other than the identified natural geological deposits and soil formations, no deposits were identified externally to the building that could be dated to before the Victorian era.

Some areas within the house showed evidence for ground reduction that had reduced the height of the underlying natural deposits and it is likely that any archaeology in these areas of the building would have been wholly removed during the construction of the house. However, the survival of earlier activity was demonstrated towards the south-west of the house where the original building excavations had been shallower. The identified feature, a ditch terminus, contained mostly Roman pottery and might be considered to date to that period although there was some uncertainty over one sherd of pottery that may be medieval in date.

The ditch terminus adds little contextual information to the area, but is useful in helping to establish level of archaeological horizons in the nearby area and could be used in conjunction with other data from surrounding sites and may help to build a more detailed picture of Roman use in the 1st – 2nd century AD.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire County Museums Service with accession number OXCMS:2017.84.

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APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	12 Norham Gardens, Oxford, Oxfordshire. OXNG 17	
Short description	<i>John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at 12 Norham Gardens, Oxford, Oxfordshire. During the excavation of the basements, a truncated ditch terminus was recorded and tested. Five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the feature which was roughly 2m in total length. External works on the site revealed only 19th and 20th century material, which was likely to be from the construction phase of the house and the continuing use of the extant structure and gardens from the mid to late 19th century onwards. There was disturbance from modern services along the eastern side of the house, extending nearly the full depth of the excavation.</i>	
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2018 End: 04-09-2018	
Project type	Recording project	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Not known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	12 Norham Gardens, Oxford, Oxfordshire. OXNG 17	
Study area	595 Square metres	
Site co-ordinates	SP 51315 07440	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	John Moore Heritage Services	
Project Brief originator	Oxford City Council	
Project Design (WSI)	John Moore Heritage Services	
Project Manager	John Moore	
Project Supervisor	Stephanie Duensing	
MONUMENT TYPE	DITCH Roman	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire County Museums Service	Animal Bones, ceramics, glass, metal
Paper	Oxfordshire County Museums Service	The project brief Written scheme of investigation The project report The primary site record
Digital	Oxfordshire County Museums Service	The project brief Written scheme of investigation

		The project report Synthesised site record Digital Photographs
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