



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
UNIVERSITY PARKS, SOUTH PARK ROAD, OXFORD
FOR ERECTION OF SWIFT TOWER

NGR SP 51711 07458

JANUARY 2019

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OASIS No: johnmoor-339880
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SUMMARY

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the University Parks in Oxfordshire, on the 16.01.2019. (NGR SP 51711 07458) The purpose was for the installation of a new swift tower. University Parks has a high potential for both Prehistoric and Roman remains; however, during the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or remains were discovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located towards the north-east corner of Oxford University Parks, South Parks Road, Oxford (NGR SP 51711 07458) (see plan below). The site is situated on the junction of the Second (Summertown-Radley) and First (Flood Plain) Terrace Deposits. The site lies at approximately 60m aOD.

1.2 Planning Background

Oxford City Council granted planning permission for the erection of a swift tower in the University Parks (18/02112/FUL). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached:

4 No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority. All works shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

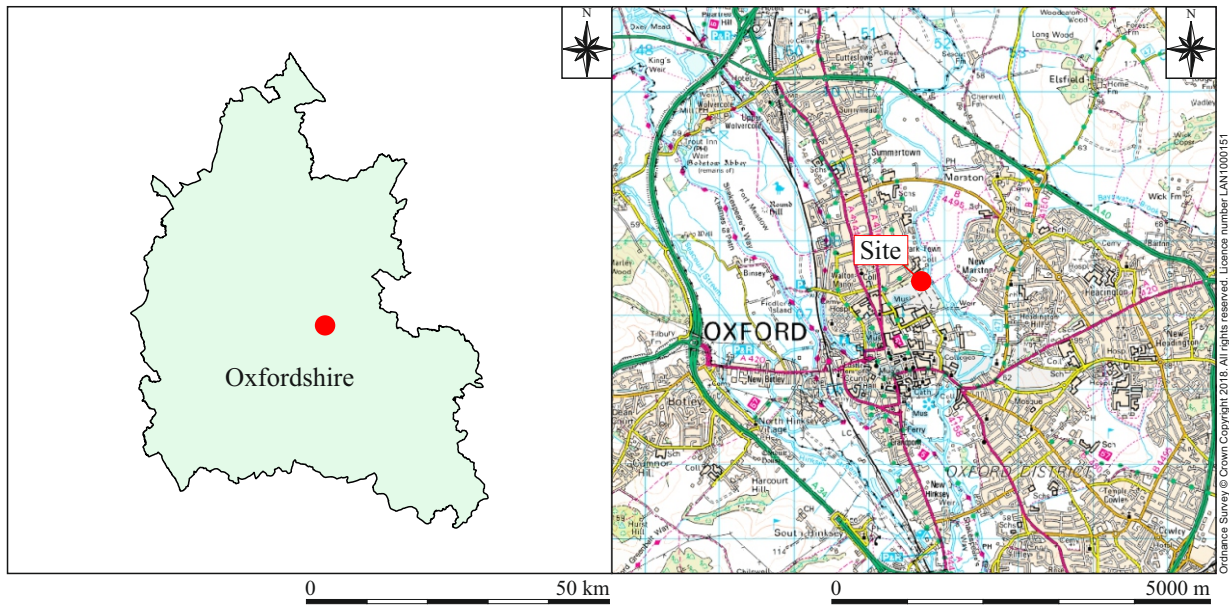
Reason: Because the development may have a damaging effect on known or suspected elements of the historic environment of the people of Oxford and their visitors, including prehistoric and Roman remains (Local Plan Policy HE2).

Scope of recording-

The archaeological investigation should consist of a watching brief and should be undertaken by a professionally qualified archaeologist working to a brief issued by ourselves.

1.3 Archaeological Background

There is a Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age linear barrow cemetery of likely national significance running across University Parks. The cemetery has been partially excavated at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter and is known to extend into University Parks from aerial photographic and geophysical Survey evidence. Elsewhere in the park Bronze Age funerary monuments and later Iron Age and Roman field systems and enclosures have been encountered as negative features cut into the gravel geology at a depth of 500mm.



Key ■ Test pit

Figure 1: Site location

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 the groundworks, paying particular regard to the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains.
- Where applicable the report on the work will refer to the city, county and regional period based resource assessments and research agendas available on the web:

Regional

<http://oxfordarchaeology.com/aboutus/our-archive/news-archive/301-solent-thames-research-framework-for-the-historic-environment>

City

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/OxfordArchaeologicalPlan.htm>

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

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

3.2 Methodology

The ground works area consisted of a singular trench measuring 2m by 2m. This area was excavated by a 360° excavator, using a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation reached a depth of 1.20m, whereby clear natural geology was established.

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 prehistoric and Roman remains.

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

4 RESULTS (Figure 2 and Plate 1)

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.

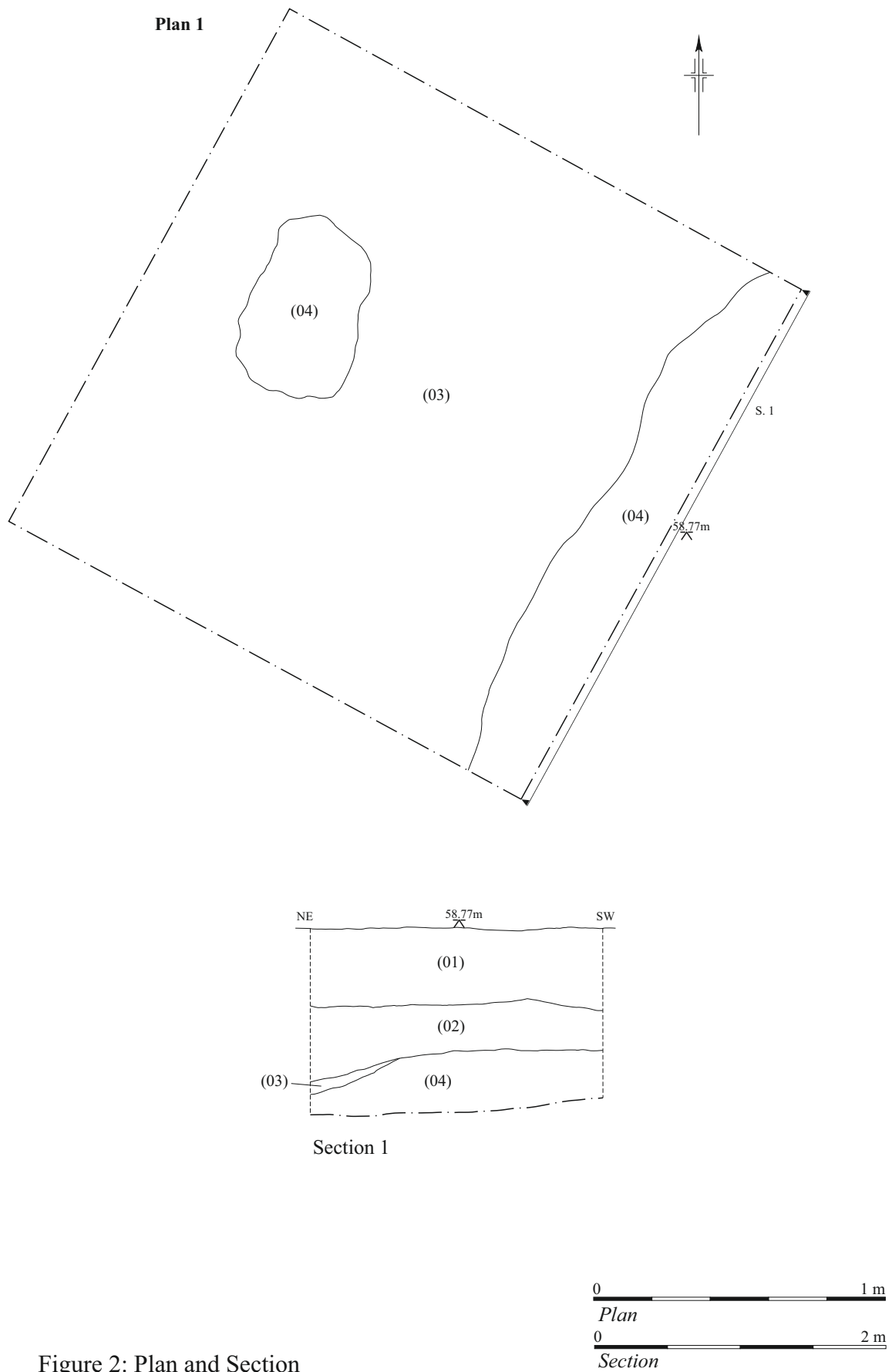


Figure 2: Plan and Section

A single 2m x 2m footing trench was excavated down to the natural horizon (Figure 2; Plate 1). The earliest deposit recorded was (04) comprising a compact, blueish-grey clay. It contained infrequent inclusions of small chalk and sandstone fragments. This deposit was identified as natural clay layer.

Overlying deposit (04) was deposit (03), a layer of natural gravels, which was comprised of firm, orangey-brown, sandy-clay gravels. This deposit measured roughly 0.1m – 0.4m in depth, undulating throughout the trench.

Stratified above (03) was a subsoil layer (02). This deposit was a friable to firm, mid reddish-brown, silty-clay, which exhibited some evidence of rooting. The depth of this deposit was 0.62m.

The latest deposit was topsoil (01); a layer of loose, mid-dark brown, sandy-silt loam material. Infrequent rooting was observed throughout this deposit, and it measured 0.57m in thickness.



Plate 1. Excavated Area and Section 1. Looking south-east

4.2 Reliability of Results

The reliability of the results is considered to be good, as archaeological observation took place in relatively clear conditions during the course of the fieldwork.

5 FINDS

No archaeological material was identified during the course of the archaeological investigation.

6 DISCUSSION

The watching brief aimed to identify the existence of Prehistoric and Roman remains; however, no archaeological features or remains were uncovered during the course of the project.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museum Resource Centre.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

JMHS, 2019, 18/02112/FUL – *Erection of Swift Tower, University Parks, South Park Road, Oxford. Archaeological Watching Brief. Written Scheme of Investigation.* Unpublished.

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-339880

Project details

Project name	University Parks, Oxford
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at the University Parks in Oxfordshire, on the 16.01.2019. (NGR SP 51711 07458) The purpose was for the installation of a new swift tower. University Parks has a high potential for both Prehistoric and Roman remains, however, during the course of the watching brief, no archaeological features or remains were discovered.
Project dates	Start: 16-01-2019 End: 16-01-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4057 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	OXUP19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE OXFORD OXFORD University Parks
Postcode	OX1 3RF
Study area	2 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 51711 07458 51.762960396364 -1.250624488443 51 45 46 N 001 15 02 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.04m Max: 1.28m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
----------------------	------------------------------

Project brief originator	Oxford City Council
Project design originator	JMHS
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Christopher Whitehead
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	University of Oxford

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	John Moore Heritage Services
Digital Archive ID	JMHS 4057
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief at University Parks, South Park Road, Oxford.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Whitehead, C' 'Moore, J'
Other bibliographic details	JMHS Report Number 4057
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Grid Squares <i>/</i>	Area/Trench <i>/</i>	Context Type <i>Deposit</i>	Site Code <i>OXUP19</i>	Context <i>(01)</i>
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Add. Sheets <i>/</i>	Plan Nos. <i>GPS</i>	Section Nos. <i>1</i>	Matrix Location
----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------

Photographs Slide *888-889* B&W *F1 #2*

DEPOSIT

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Thickness	6 Extent
7 Comments	
8 Method and Conditions	

Description

- 1.) *loose*
- 2.) *mid-dark brown.*
- 3.) *Sandy-silt loam*
- 4.) *Inferior recting.*
- 5.) *0.57m.*
- 6.) *2m x 2m*
- 7.) */*
- 8.) *Machine excavated, hand cleaned.*

CUT

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Dimensions/Depth	
4 Break of slope-top	5 Sides
6 Break of slope-base	7 Base
8 Orientation	
9 Inclination of axis	
10 Truncation	11 Fill Nos.
12 Sketch profile	
13 Other comments	

Stratigraphic matrix

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
This context is		<i>(01)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(02)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Initials & Date

CM
16/1/19

Checked by & Date

Interpretation: Internal **External** Structural Other (specify)

Discussion *(layer of Topsoil, overlying layer (02), subsoil. University park field material.)*

Context same as: **Finds**

Levels on plan sheet *1*

none pot bone glass metal CBM wood leather burntmat.

Other finds (specify)

Environmental Samples Nos. Finds sample (BM) Nos.

Small finds Nos. Finds sieving: on-site off-site metal detecting: in situ on-site off-site

Checked Interpretation

Provisional Period Group Initials & Date

Grid Squares /	Area/Trench /	Context Type Deposit	Site Code OXUP19	Context (04)
-------------------	------------------	-------------------------	---------------------	-----------------

Add. Sheets /	Plan Nos. 1 + GPs	Section Nos. 1	Matrix Location
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Photographs Slide 888 - 889 B&W FI #2

DEPOSIT

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Thickness	6 Extent
7 Comments	
8 Method and Conditions	

Description

- 1.) Deposit
- 2.) blue-ish-grey clay
- 3.) Clay
- 4.) Infrequent Chalk pieces (small); Infrequent, orange Sandstone flecks
- 5.) 0.45m >
- 6.) 2m > wide x 0.30m > L
- 7.) /
- 8.) Machine excavated, hand cleared.

CUT

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Dimensions/Depth	
4 Break of slope-top	5 Sides
6 Break of slope-base	7 Base
8 Orientation	
9 Inclination of axis	
10 Truncation	11 Fill Nos.
12 Sketch profile	
13 Other comments	

Stratigraphic matrix

		(03)		
This context is		(04)		
		/		

Initials & Date
CW
16/1/19

Checked by & Date

Interpretation: Internal External Structural Other (specify)

Discussion Deposit of Natural Clay. Most visible in top sec, S.1, and visible in plan also. Underlying (03), the natural gravel. No finds associated. Oxfordshire 'blue' clay

Context same as: _____ Finds

Levels on plan	<input type="checkbox"/> sheet 1	none	pot	bone	glass	metal	CBM	wood	leather	burntmat.
Highest	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lowest	1	Other finds (specify)								

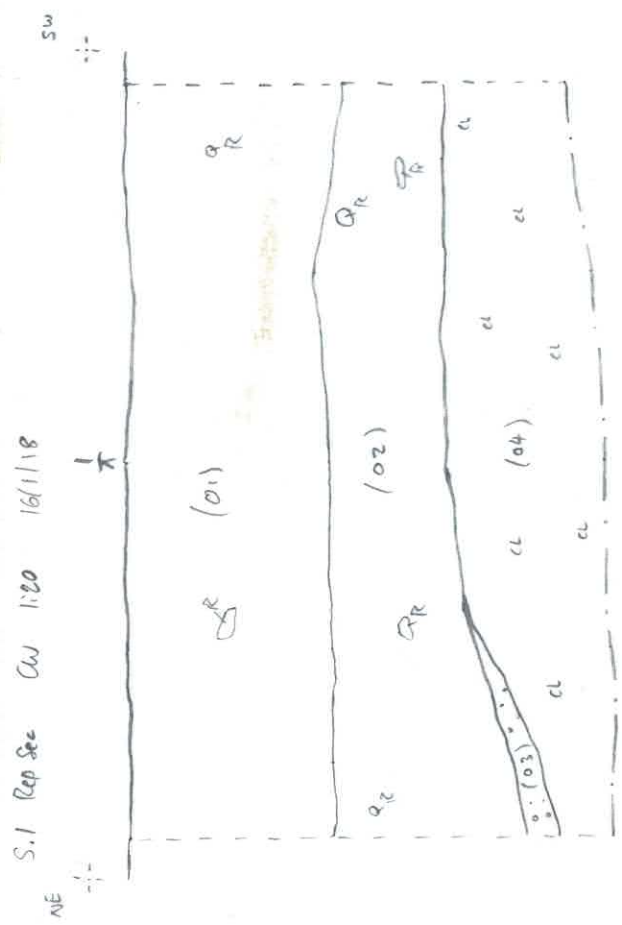
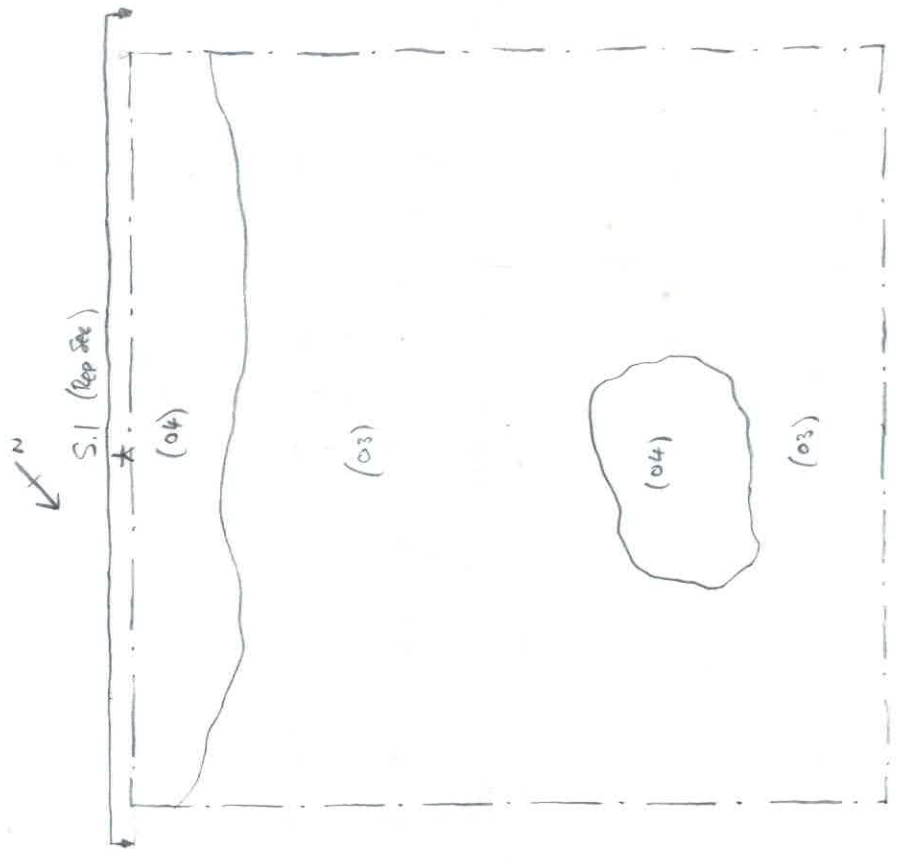
Environmental Samples Nos. / Finds sample (BM) Nos. /

Small finds Nos. Finds sieving: on-site off-site metal detecting: in situ on-site off-site

Checked Interpretation

Provisional Period Group Initials & Date

P.1 CW 1:20 16/1/19.



Key - cl = Chalk
 - aR = gravel
 - DR = Roadway.
 Level
 1/x =

SITE NAME: University Paris SITE CODE: Oxup 19

Black and white/colour: Film No: 1

Date	Neg No.	View	Scale(s)	Context/Comment
16/01/19	0	/	/	
↓	1	/	/	ID SHOT START.
↓	2	SE	1x1m.	S.I Rep Sec.
16/01/19	3	/	/	ID SHOT END.
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