

New Vodaphone Mast and
Compound
Slape Hill
Woodleys Estate
Glympton
Oxon



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

June 2004

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New Vodafone mast and compound, Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate, Glympton, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	1
2.1 Aims	1
2.2 Methodology.....	2
3 Results	2
3.1 Description of deposits.....	2
3.2 Finds	2
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains	2
4 Discussion and Conclusions	2
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	3
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References	3
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	3

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Site plan of area of watching brief

SUMMARY

In June 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate, Glympton, Oxon (NGR SP 4229 1973). The work was commissioned by Heyrod Communications Ltd in advance of the construction of new compound and mast for Vodaphone Services. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits, as all the groundworks were within the infill of an old quarry.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate, Glympton, Oxon (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Heyrod Communications Ltd in respect of a planning application for the construction of new compound and mast for Vodaphone Services (Planning Application No. 03/2004/P/TCN).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Hugh Coddington the Deputy County Archaeological Officer for Oxfordshire County Council (OCAS 2004).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on loam overlying Great Oolitic Limestone at 110 m above OD. The site is currently grassland situated on an infilled quarry.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2004) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 Adjacent to the east of the site is Grim's ditch (SAM 21851), which ran on a north/south alignment between Grim's Dyke Farm and Slape Bottom. This section of the ditch consisted of a 0.8 m wide and 1.5 m high earth and stone bank with a 6.5 m wide ditch and berm along its east side. The ditch dates from the Iron Age and is part of a series of discrete linear earthworks between the valleys of the rivers Evenlode, Glyme and Windrush. Approximately 250 m to the south-east of the site is a Bronze Age ring ditch, identified as a cropmark, but which had been removed by mineral extraction.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.

2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The area of the compound was excavated and levelled using a mini excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The base of the mast was then marked out and excavated to a depth of 1 m. This was carried out under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 The excavation of the compound area and mast base cut through a 0.3 m thick layer of re-deposited topsoil of dark brown silty clay loam (1). This overlay a thick layer of mid brown silty clay landfill (2), which contained large amounts of late 20th century builder's and construction waste. The excavation of the mast base cut to a depth of 1.8 m into the landfill material.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief as all the groundworks were within the infill of the old quarry.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.3 m			Re-deposited topsoil	
2	Layer	1.8 m			Landfill material	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2004 *New Vodafone Mast and Compound, Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate, Glympton, Oxfordshire Written Scheme of Investigation*

OCAS 2004 *Land at Woodleys Estate, Glympton Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief*

Wilkinson D (ed.), 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: New Vodafone mast and compound, Slape Hill, Woodleys Estate, Glympton, Oxfordshire

Site code: WOVODA 04

Grid reference: NGR SP 4229 1973

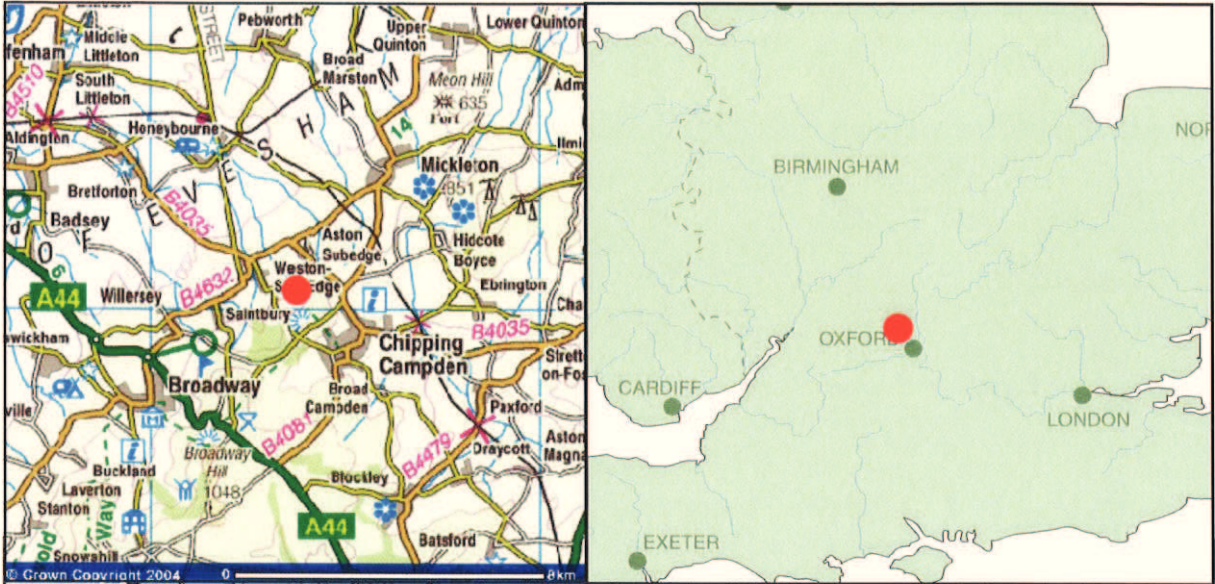
Type of watching brief: Groundworks for new compound and mast for Vodafone Services.

Date and duration of project: One day on the 16/6/2004.

Area of site: 5 m x 7 m

Summary of results: No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief as all the groundworks were within the infill of the old quarry.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2004.68



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Figure 1: Site location

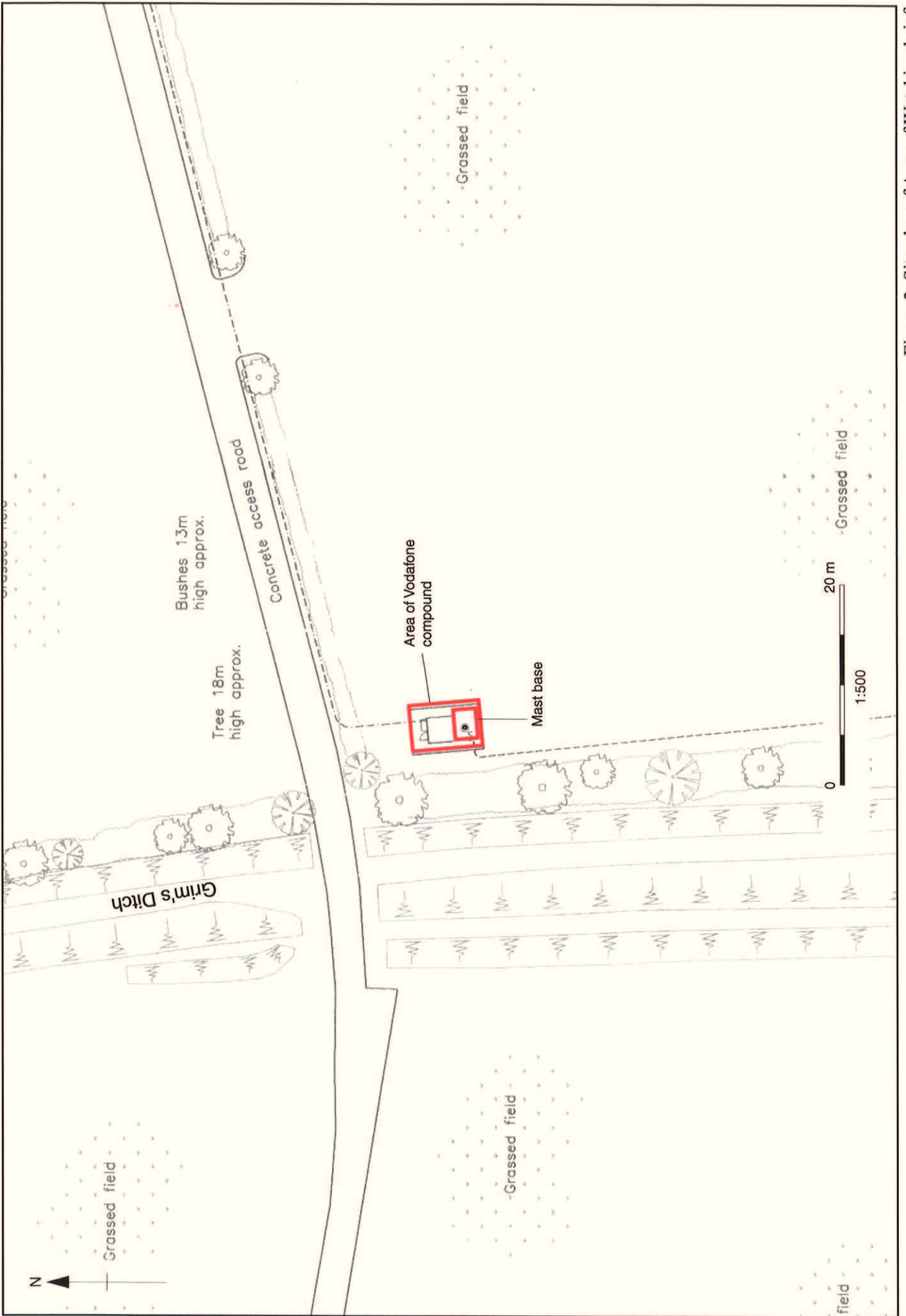


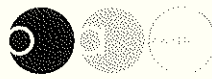
Figure 2: Site plan of Area of Watching brief



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