

Hungerford Park Estate Hungerford Berkshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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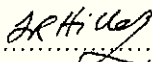
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Prepared by: Alan Ford
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: 14th April 2004

Checked by: Andrew Holmes
Position: SWD Project Manager
Date: 20th April 2004

Approved by: Jon Hiller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 23rd April 2004

Signed.....  PP. NICK SHEPHERD,
HEAD OF FIELDWORK

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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**HUNGERFORD PARK ESTATE
HUNGERFORD, BERKSHIRE**

NGR: SU 353 674

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SUMMARY

Between 5th and 6th April 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a field evaluation on the site of the old Manor House in Hungerford Park, Hungerford, Berkshire (NGR SU 353 674). The evaluation revealed evidence of services and drains associated with the Manor House, part of its' southern wall and fragments of yard and paving associated with the original building. Overlying these structures were the demolished remains of the building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The site is located at Hungerford Park Estate, Berkshire at NGR. SU 353 674 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is being considered for the construction of a new country house within the footprint of the demolished 18th century Manor House. An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Edinmore Properties, in advance of the submission of a planning application.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at approximately 120 m OD, on generally level ground, with a slope to the north dropping towards the Kennet Valley. The geology comprises sandy clay representing the Reading Beds, which overlies Clay with Flints and the Chalk bedrock.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Hungerford Park Estate formed part of the Manor of Hungerford. There is no mention of a manor at Hungerford in the Domesday Survey, but it certainly existed by the beginning of the 12th century and had been separated from Kintbury by the middle of the century when Robert Earl of Leicester gave land in the soke of Hungerford to the Nuns of Fontevrault.
- 1.3.2 The Manor continued to be held by the Earls of Leicester until 1265, when Simon de Montfort gave the Manor to Henry III in exchange for other lands. Henry III gave the Manor to his son Edward but then passed it to his younger son Edmund Crouchback. The Manor continued to be held by the Earls of Lancaster, Leicester and Derby until 1399, when it became part of the Duchy of Lancaster.
- 1.3.3 In 1446 Henry VI granted the lordship, Manor and Park to Walter Hungerford to be held in fealty and a rent of 20 marks. The Manor returned to the Crown on the attainment and execution of Robert 3rd Lord Hungerford in 1464.
- 1.3.4 Edward IV granted the Manor to his wife Elizabeth Woodville but it returned to the Crown on her death and was given in 1483 by Richard III to John Howard Duke of Norfolk. The Manor again passed to the Crown on the death of John Howard at Bosworth Field and subsequent attainment in 1485.

- 1.3.5 Edward VI granted the Manor to his uncle Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset and Lord Protector in 1548-9, but the Manor again returned to the crown on his attainment and execution for his part in the plot involving Lady Jane Grey to prevent Mary Tudor ascending the throne. The Manor remained with the Crown until 1612.
- 1.3.6 The Park is first mentioned in 1296 and appears to have been granted with the Manor. A survey of the Manor mentions it in 1543 and in 1591 it was recorded as containing 300 acres and stocked with 120 deer. The park was available for lease by the middle of the 17th century passing through a series of owners before it was sold by George Shippen Willes, honorary colonel of the Imperial Berkshire Yeomanry to Humphrey J. Walmesley in 1908. (VCH 1924)
- 1.3.7 The demolished manor house is thought to have been built in the 18th century. A pump house for the house still stands approximately 50 m to the west of the site. There is thought to be a Hunting Lodge in the vicinity, in existence by the accession of Elizabeth I. It is thought that it lies under the light woodland between the demolished house and the pump house.
- 1.3.8 A memorial stone with an inscription commemorating Elizabeth Regina (dated 1558) forms part of the pumphouse wall above its east door.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving on the site.
- 2.1.2 To determine the nature and extent of any modern disturbance and intrusion on the site with particular emphasis on the location of any cellars extending outside the walls of the original Manor House.
- 2.1.3 To produce a report on the findings of the evaluation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 Four trenches measuring 5 m in length by 1.6 m wide were excavated adjacent to and parallel to the original Manor footings (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 The trenches were located on the exterior of the original footprint. Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were located adjacent to the original corners of the original Manor.
- 3.1.3 Trench 3 had to be moved due to standing saplings and was located close to the centre of the original south wall. Trench 4 was extended 4 m into the footprint of the former house on a north-south axis at its eastern end.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and directed by an archaeological supervisor. Excavation proceeded to the first significant archaeological horizon.
- 3.2.2 All features and deposits encountered were issued a unique context number and recorded on proforma sheets. A plan and section was drawn of each trench at a scale of 1:20. Colour transparency and black-and-white photographs were taken of each trench. All recording was conducted in accordance with the practices detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).
- 3.2.3 The trenches were planned in relation to the existing terrace wall to the north of the site. Heights were measured from the present ground surface and levels taken relative to the surface of the access road immediately to the north of the site.

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 No finds were deemed suitable for retaining from the evaluation.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 No features or deposits suitable for sampling for palaeo-environmental evidence were observed during the evaluation.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 A general description of the soils and ground conditions is given. This is followed by descriptions of the individual trenches, with a brief discussion of the results. Details of individual contexts are given in Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 No standing structures of the old Manor were visible on the site though the unevenness of the ground suggested the presence of buried elements of the original building, notably in the area of the former northern portico. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.12 m to 0.3 m within the trenches and was heavily disturbed by roots in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. The natural sandy clay of the Reading Beds was noted in Trenches 2, 3 and 4.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 All four trenches demonstrated the presence of features and demolition material related to the 18th century Manor House. No archaeological remains dating to an earlier period were encountered.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.1 The trench measured 5 m long by 1.6 m wide and was excavated to a maximum of 0.6 m below ground level.
- 5.1.2 Two brick Soakaways (105 and 106) occupied the eastern and western ends of the trench immediately underneath the topsoil (100). A sondage was excavated in the centre of the trench to a depth of 0.6 m at which point machining was halted due to the presence of two cast iron pipes (109 and 110) running approximately north-east to south-west.
- 5.1.3 A portion of concrete paving (107) was noted immediately under the topsoil in the northern edge of the trench, below this was a fragment of limestone walling (104) on a north-south alignment that appears to have been truncated by the placement of the cast iron pipes.
- 5.1.4 A fragment of a brick and concrete kerb (111) was also noted immediately under the topsoil (100) at the west end of the trench against the southern edge.

Trench 2 (Fig 4)

- 5.1.5 This trench measured 5 m long by 1.6 m deep and was a maximum depth of 1.6 m. Natural comprising the red/brown sandy clay (208) of the Reading Beds was encountered at 1.5 m below the present ground surface.
- 5.1.6 The natural was impacted by a portion of brick walling (205) 0.4 m wide extending into the trench on a north south alignment from the north for a distance of 1 m. The top of the wall was at 0.9 m below the present ground surface. The wall (205) appeared to abut a chalk feature (204) that ran on an east-west axis. This feature was also 0.4 m wide, although only its extreme western end was visible within the trench.
- 5.1.7 A red/brown sandy clay with gravel and brick fragments (203) was observed overlying 204 and was cut by a curvilinear chalk filled service gully (202). This feature measured 0.4 m in width and curved across the eastern end of the trench. Overlying 202 was a friable layer of red/brown gravel and sand (201) containing brick rubble and modern bottle glass, measuring up to 0.3 m in thickness. Two cast iron pipes, 0.2 m in diameter, resting on a concrete plinth cut 201 on a north-south alignment. These were broken at their southern end within the trench and the alignment of these pipes suggested that they led to a drain inspection cover observed 3 m to the north of the trench.
- 5.1.8 A pit (206) was encountered in the western half of the trench. This was filled by loose flint nodules, brick rubble and a steel mesh (207) over 1.4 m deep, extending for a distance of 1.6 m within the trench. Due to its unstable deposits, this pit was not fully excavated depth.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 5.1.9 Trench 3 measured 6.7 m long by 1.6 m wide and was a maximum depth of 0.6 m. The natural red/brown sandy clay (304) was encountered at the base of the trench at its west end.
- 5.1.10 A substantial brick wall (301) measuring 0.9 m wide and extending over 2 m across the trench was observed cutting the natural. The wall was orientated north-east/south-west and curved slightly on a more westerly course against the southern edge of the trench. The wall survived to a height of 0.5 m above the natural. Wall 301 was sealed by a friable grey humic rich deposit (303) containing brick and limestone rubble. Fragments of window glass and brass curtain rails were also noted within this deposit. A fragment of worn brick surface (302) was observed abutting 301 on its east side at the east end of the trench. All features and deposits were then sealed by a modern topsoil (300).

Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

- 5.1.11 Trench 4 was excavated as an 'L' shape with the east-west section 6.1 m long and the north-south section extended a further 4 m in length. The natural (417) was noted 0.8 m below the present ground surface at the west end of the trench.
- 5.1.12 At the west end of the trench the natural was cut by an east-west aligned cast iron pipe (414) and two north-south aligned ceramic pipes (415 and 416). Pipe 414 appeared to lead to a square brick soakaway (408) that was partially exposed at the centre of the trench and lay 0.8 m below the present ground surface.
- 5.1.13 A layer of dark grey brown sandy clay with brick and tile rubble (404) overlay pipes 414, 415 and 416 and brick structure 408 to a depth of 0.24 m. Layer 404 was overlain by 0.25 m of demolition rubble (402), comprising brick and limestone fragments.
- 5.1.14 A brick and concrete structure (409) was observed at the west end of the trench. This cut the topsoil (401) to a depth of 0.3 m to the base of the trench.
- 5.1.15 At the east end of the trench, layer 404 was overlain by a thin demolition deposit of broken black tiles and slate (403), which was sealed by rubble 402. Deposit 402 also sealed a brick drain channel (400/405) and associated paving (406/407). These features may have been associated with the kitchen area of the original manor house.
- 5.1.16 The brick drain (400) was seen to extend for 3.4 m roughly north-south within the trench. This drain had a shallow paving stone capped channel along its southern end. Two further paving stones (406 and 407) flanked 400, as did 405. All these structural elements were overlain by demolition rubble (410) consisting of brick and concrete rubble, which extended over the fills of pit 413 at the north end of the north-south arm of the trench.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The spatial distribution of trenches around the former footprint of the manor house gave a good representation of the archaeological potential outside of the former footprint of the 18th century manor house.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 Evidence for the demolition of the original manor house was present in all four trenches comprising deposits 101, 201, 303, 402 and 410. Rubble fill 108 in Trench 1 probably represents the infilling of a construction cut for soakaway 105.
- 6.2.2 A possible exterior feature of the former manor was noted in Trench 3, where a substantial brick wall (301) was seen extending from the external wall of the former manor on a diagonal alignment. The position and width of the wall suggests this may have been part of a former bay or apse of the house.
- 6.2.3 Of note was a fragment of dry-stone wall (104) in Trench 1, which may represent a garden or terrace wall located to the north of the house. This wall was clearly not of a size to be load bearing as there was no evidence of any bonding material having been used in its construction.
- 6.2.4 The evaluation demonstrated that activity associated with the original manor house and its subsequent demolition was present in all four trenches. There was no evidence of cellars and no evidence of earlier remains pre-dating the manor house was found.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
Trench 1						
100	Layer	-	0 - 0.12	Topsoil	-	C20th
101	Layer	-	0.12 - 0.30	Rubble	-	C18th-C19th
102	Layer	-	0.30 - 0.50	Buried Soil	-	C20th
103	Layer	-	0.50+	Subsoil	-	C20th
104	Structure	0.4	0.50 - 0.60	Wall	-	Poss. C18th
105	Structure	1.2 x 0.9	0.12 - 0.57	Soakaway	-	Poss. C19th
106	Structure	1.4 x 1.0	0.10 +	Soakaway	-	Poss. C19th
107	Structure	0.6	0.12 - 0.22	Paving	-	Poss. C19th
108	Layer	1.0 x 0.6	0.12 +	Rubble	-	C20th
109	Structure	1.4 x 0.2	0.60 +	Fe. Pipe	-	Poss. C19th
110	Structure	0.8 x 0.15	0.60 +	Fe Pipe	-	Poss. C19th
111	Structure	0.4 x 0.2	0.12 +	Kerbing	-	C20th
Trench 2						
200	Layer	-	0 - 0.30	Topsoil	-	C20th
201	Layer	-	0.30 - 0.60	Rubble	Bottle Glass	C20th
202	Structure	2.2 x 0.4	0.60 +	Service	-	C19th-C20th
203	Layer	-	0.60 - 0.90	Made Ground	-	C19th-C20th
204	Structure	0.5	0.90 +	Footing	-	C19th-C20th
205	Structure	1.0 x 0.5	0.90 - 1.40	Wall	-	C19th-C20th
206	Cut	1.6 x 0.6	0.30 - 1.60	Pit	-	C18th-C19th
207	Deposit	-	0.30 - 1.60	Fill of 206	Steel Mesh	C18th-C19th
208	Natural	-	1.50 +	Sandy Clay	-	-
Trench 3						
300	Layer	-	0 - 0.20	Topsoil	-	C20th
301	Structure	2.6 x 0.9	0.20 - 0.70	Wall	-	Poss. C19th-C20th
302	Structure	0.5 x 0.2	0.20 +	Paving	-	C19th-C20th
303	Layer	-	0.20 - 0.60	Rubble	Curtain Rail, Window Glass	C20th
304	Natural	-	0.60 +	Sandy Clay	-	-
Trench 4						
400	Structure	3.4 x 0.25	0.80 +	Drain	-	Poss. C19th
401	Layer	-	0 - 0.50	Topsoil	-	C20th
402	Layer	-	0.50 - 0.70	Rubble	Drain Brackets	C20th
403	Layer	-	0.70 - 0.80	Rubble	-	C20th
404	Layer	-	0.80 - 1.0	Buried Soil	-	C18th-C19th
405	Structure	0.4 x 0.4	0.80 +	Soakaway	-	C18th-C19th
406	Structure	1.0 x 0.3	0.80 +	Paving	-	C18th-C19th
407	Structure	2.0 x 0.2	0.80 +	Paving	-	C18th-C19th
408	Structure	0.4 x 0.2	0.80 - 1.20	Soakaway	-	C18th-C19th
409	Structure	0.5 x 0.2	0.30 - 0.70	Soakaway	-	C19th-C20th
410	Layer	-	0.80 +	Rubble	-	C18th-C19th
411	Structure	0.3 x 0.2	0.90 +	Wall	-	C18th-C19th
412	Structure	0.3 x 0.2	0.90 +	Wall	-	C18th-C19th
413	Cut	2.0 +	0.80 +	Pit	-	C18th-C19th
414	Structure	4.8 x 0.15	1.20 +	Fe Pipe	-	Poss. C19th
415	Structure	0.2	1.20 +	Drain	-	C19th-C20th
416	Structure	0.2	0.80	Drain	-	C19th
417	Natural	-	1.20	Sandy Clay	-	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OAU, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (D. Wilkinson, Ed.)

VCH, 1924 *The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A History of Berkshire*
vol. (William Page, Ed)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hungerford Park Estate, Hungerford, Berkshire

Site code: HUPE 04

Grid reference: SU 353 674

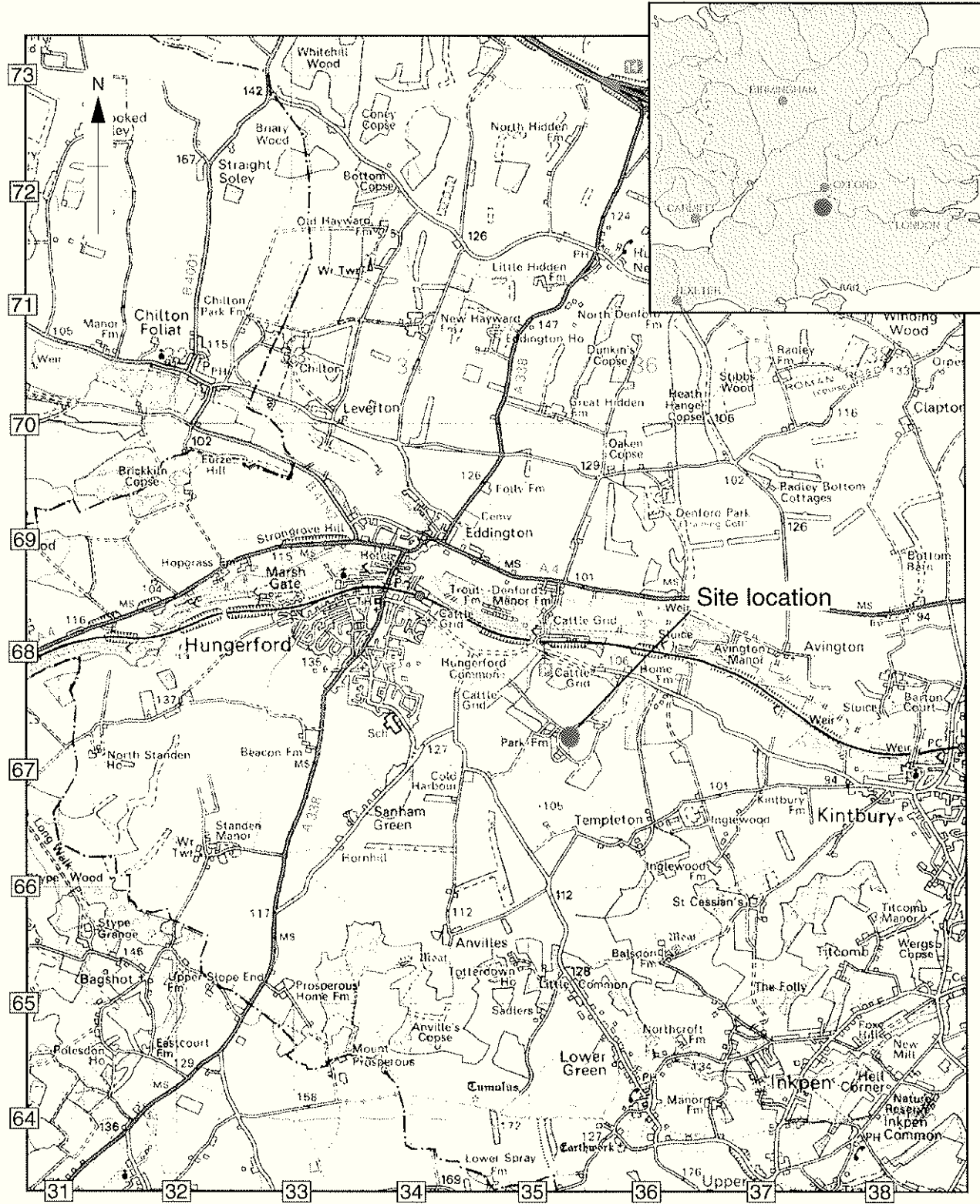
Type of evaluation: Four machine excavated trenches measuring 5 m x 1.6 m

Date and duration of project: 5th-6th April 2004

Area of site: 512 m²

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed services and demolition deposits associated with the former 18th century Manor House. A possible former terrace garden wall and a bay or apse wall relating to the house were also noted.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location

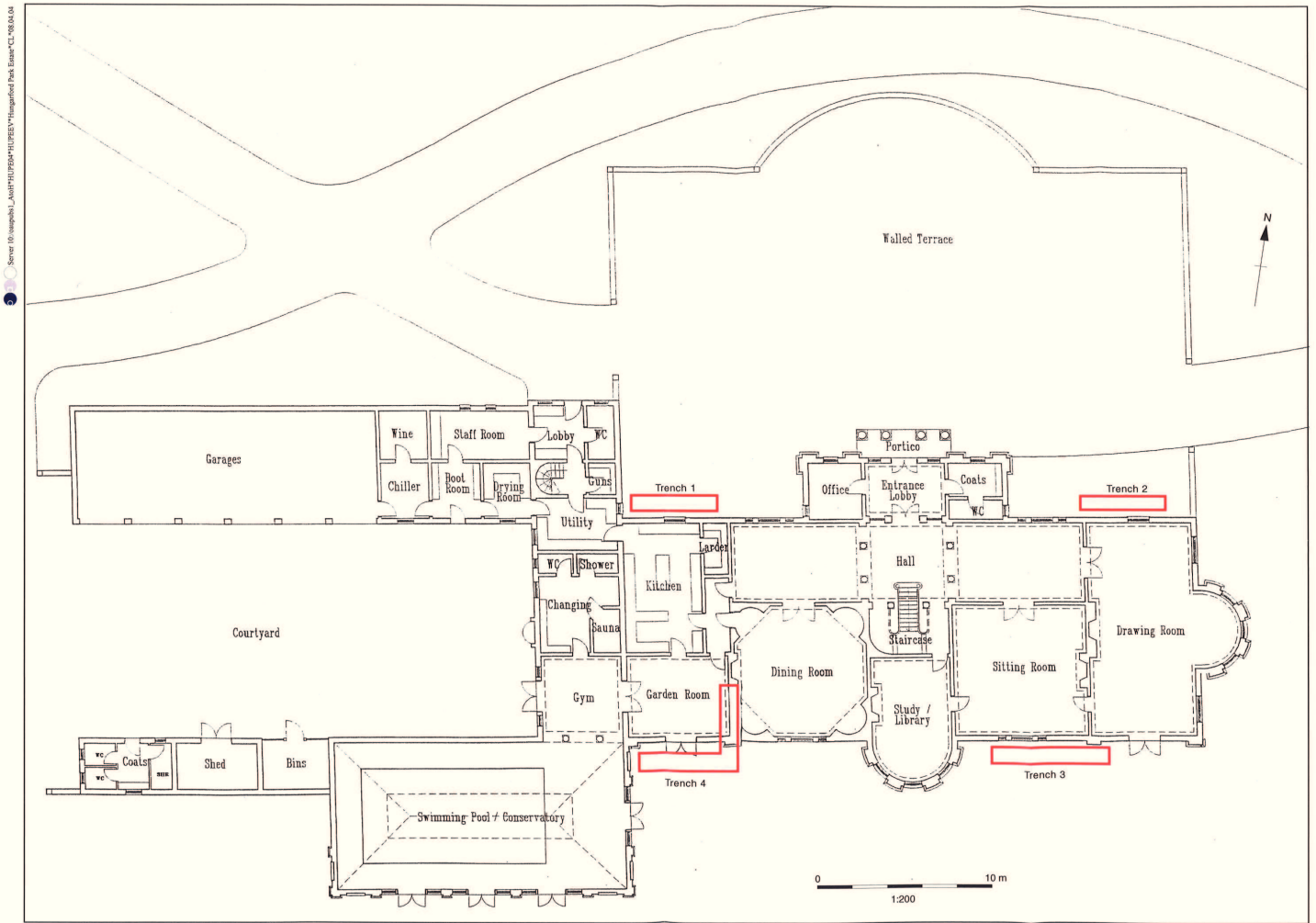


Figure 2: Hungerford Park Estate: Trench location plan

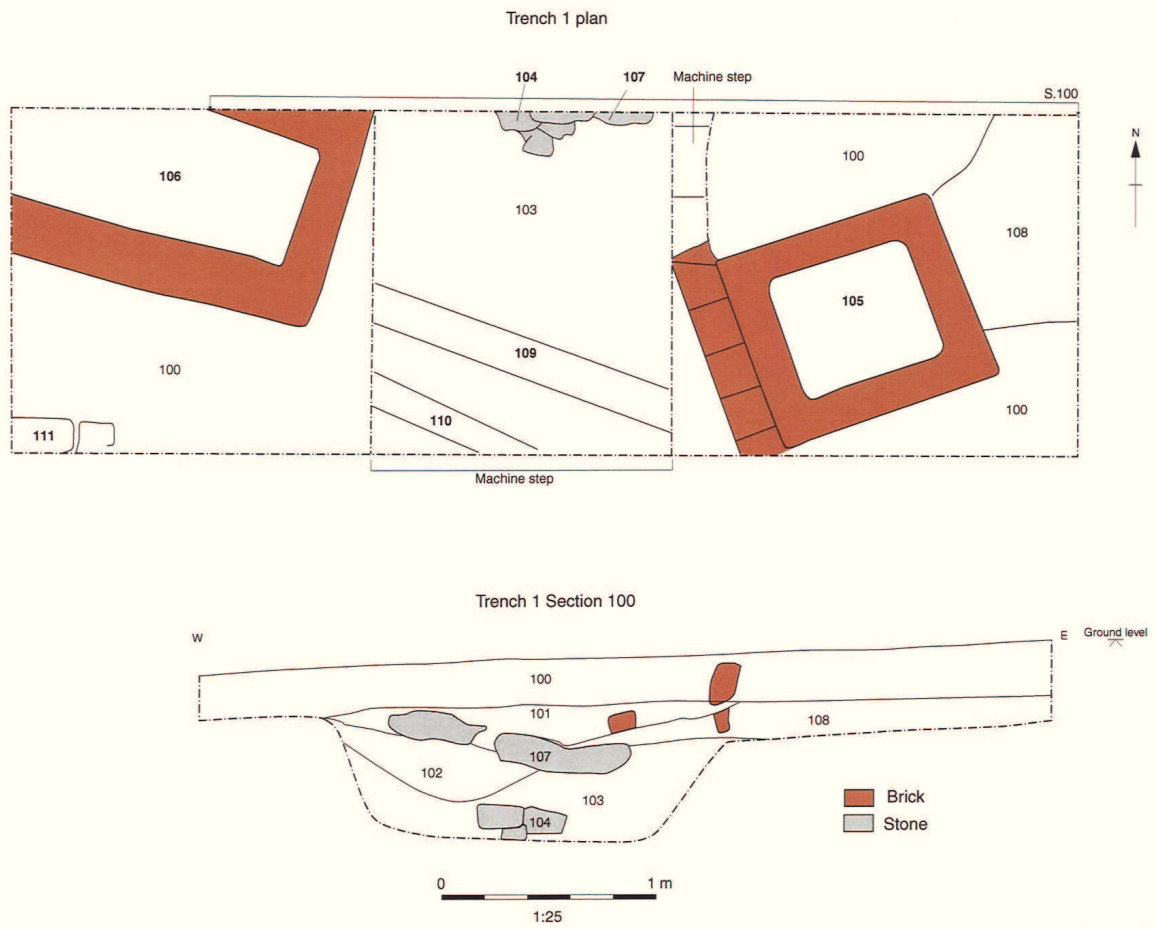


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and section

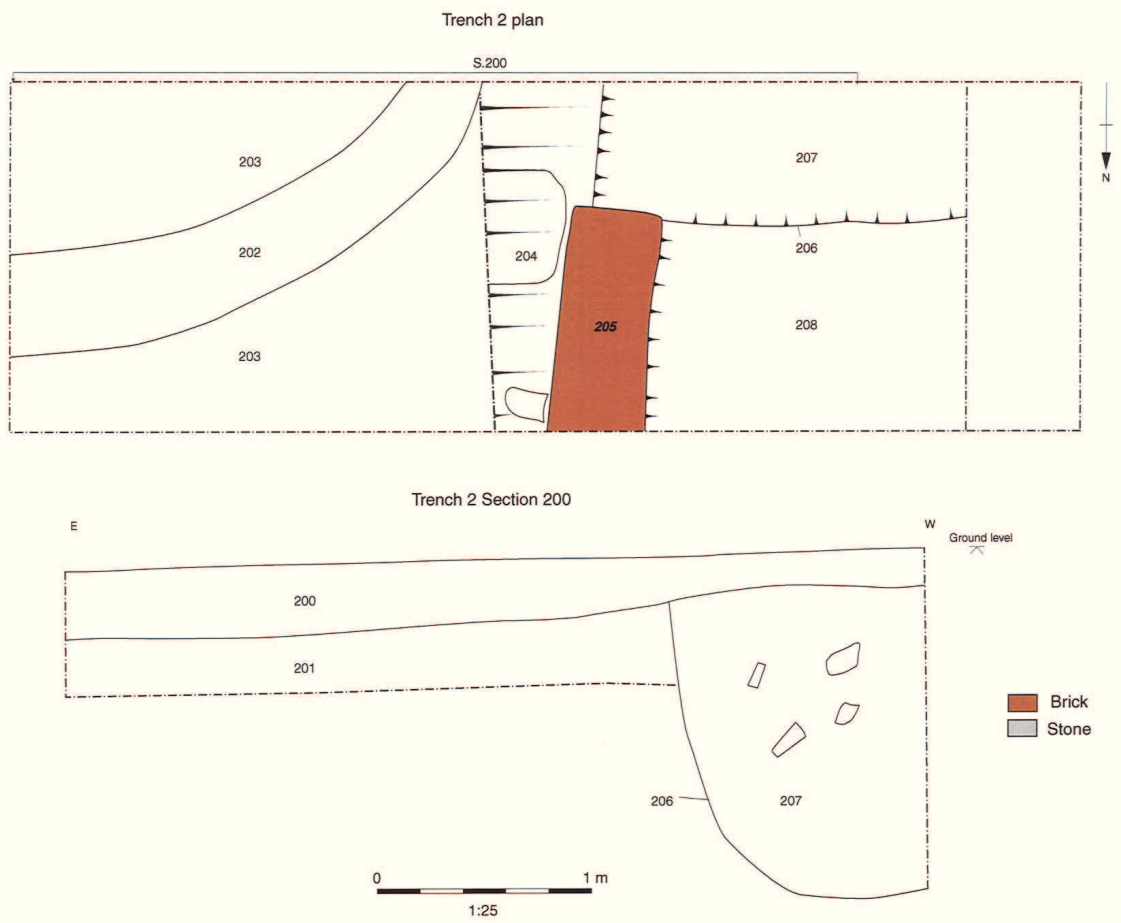
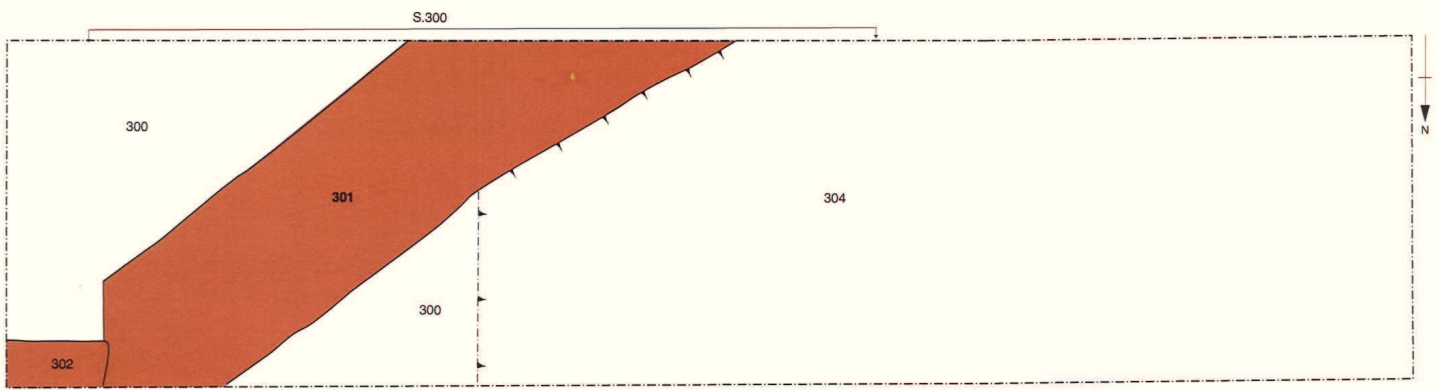


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and section

Trench 3 plan



Trench 3 Section 300

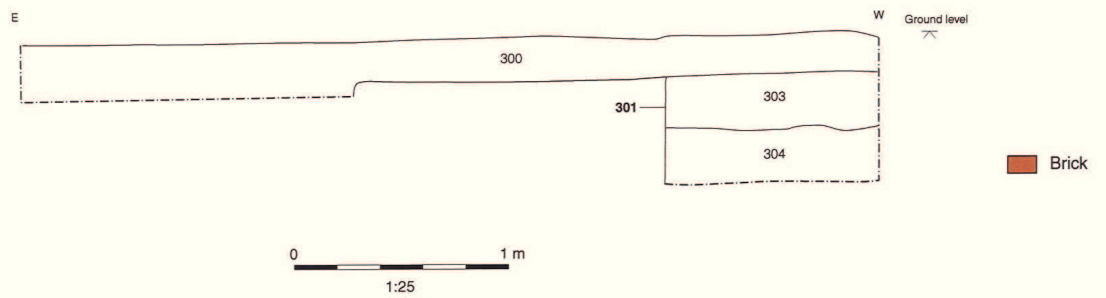


Figure 5: Trench 3, plan and section

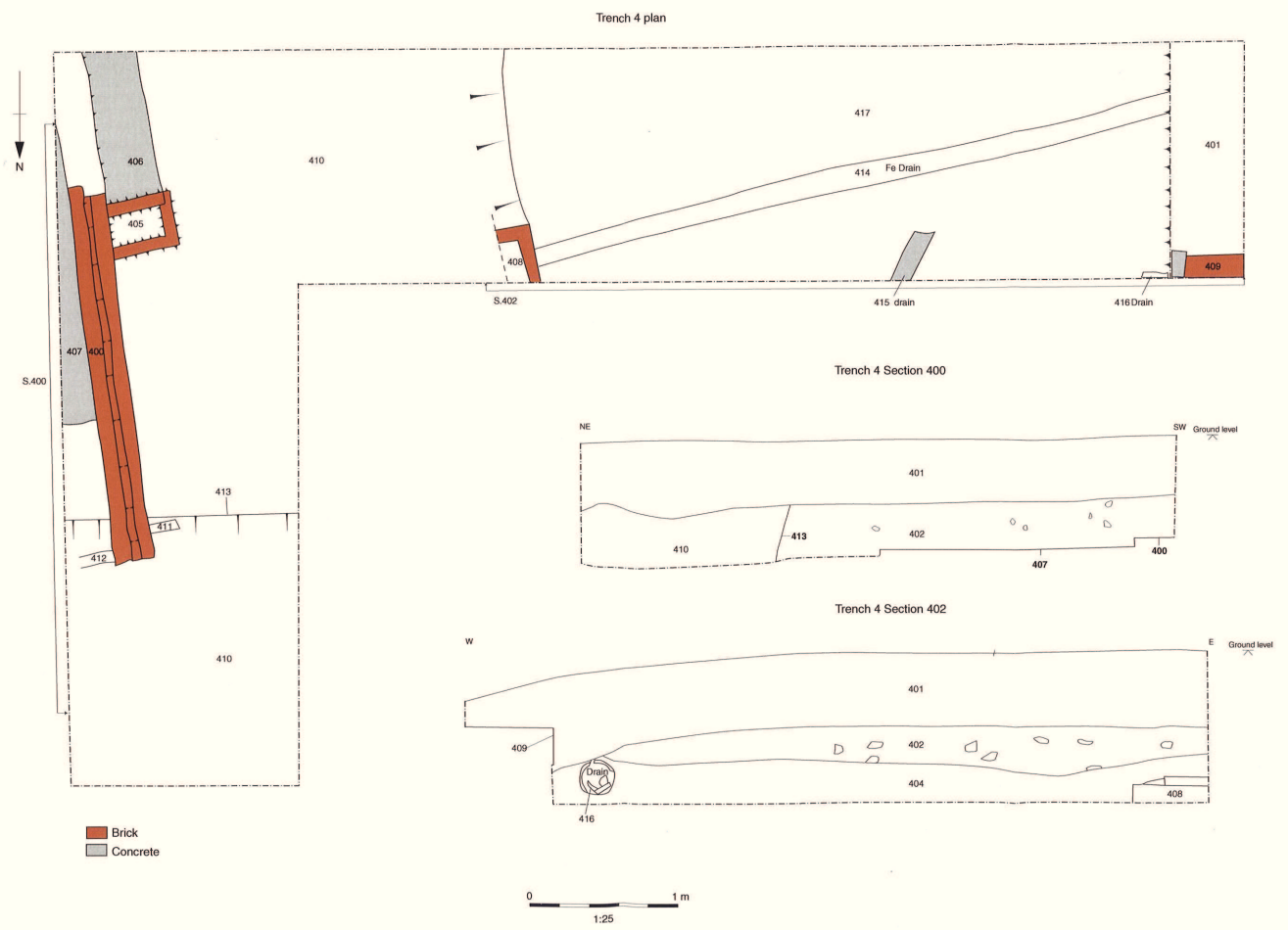


Figure 6: Trench 4, plan and sections



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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