

21 Wasperton Road
Wasperton
Warwick
Warwickshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



June 2009

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**21 Wasperton Road, Wasperton,
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NGR SP 2649 5889

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Summary..... | 2 |
| 1 Introduction | 2 |
| 1.1 Location and scope of work | 2 |
| 1.2 Geology and topography | 2 |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background..... | 2 |
| 1.4 Acknowledgements | 3 |
| 2 Project Aims and Methodology..... | 3 |
| 2.2 Aims | 3 |
| 2.3 Strategy and methodology..... | 3 |
| 3 Results | 3 |
| 3.1 Description of deposits..... | 3 |
| 3.2 Finds..... | 3 |
| 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains | 3 |
| 4 Discussion And Conclusions..... | 4 |
| Appendix 1 Bibliography and references..... | 5 |
| Appendix 2 Summary of Site Details..... | 5 |

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 Site location plan

SUMMARY

In April 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 21 Wasperton Road, Wasperton, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 2649 5889). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Humphries in advance of the demolition of an existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling. The watching brief revealed modern quarry pits filled with recent post-medieval rubbish, but no other significant archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On the 3rd and 4th of April 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 21 Wasperton Road, Wasperton, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 2649 5889) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Humphries in respect of a planning application for the demolition of an existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling (Planning Application No. W/06/1504).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire Museum Services (WMS 2007).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2007).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Wasperton lies five miles south of Warwick on the east bank of the River Avon. The site is centred at NGR: SP 2649 5889 and is within the parish of Wasperton. The underlying geology is River Terrace Deposits (BGS sheet 184).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. A large number of archaeological features are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs to the north and east of the development area.
- 1.3.2 Previous archaeological fieldwork across some of these cropmarks has established that they are part of a large, multi-period complex in use throughout the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Archaeological deposits associated with these features may extend across the site.
- 1.3.3 The proposed site also lies within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Wasperton (Warwickshire SAM number 9137).

- 1.3.4 Between 1980 and 1985 extensive excavations in advance of gravel extraction revealed a cemetery which contained both Roman and Anglo-Saxon graves. In all 182 burials and 25 cremations were uncovered.

1.4 **Acknowledgements**

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs Humpries for their help, and to Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist of the Warwickshire Museum Service for her advice.

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 preserve by record any archaeological remains that the building works would remove or damage within the areas of the site being excavated.
- 2.1.3 To assess and, if appropriate, undertake a programme of sampling for environmental and/or other scientific analysis, with special attention given to any waterlogged deposits encountered.
- 2.1.4 If necessary, to make available the results of the investigation through a report and submission of a report to publication standard in a local journal.

2.2 **Strategy and methodology**

- 2.2.1 As outlined in the WSI (OA 2007), a continuous watching brief was maintained during all phases of groundworks (including initial site clearance, excavation of foundation trenches, and any subsequent excavations for service works).

3 **RESULTS**

3.1 **Description of deposits**

- 3.1.1 The underlying geology (the Gravel) was reached at a depth of between 0.5 m to 0.7 to the east and from 0.7 m to 1 m depth to the west.
- 3.1.2 Overlying the natural was a layer of subsoil that varied from 0.3 m to 0.75 m and was sealed by a topsoil layer that was between 0.2 m to 0.5 m in depth.
- 3.1.3 To the south-west of the development several features were identified within the foundation trench sections and were interpreted as quarry pits. The quarry pits truncated the subsoil and were sealed by topsoil. These quarry pits had been

backfilled by a mixture of subsoil and gravel and also contained modern brick and metal machine parts.

3.2 **Finds**

3.2.1 No finds were collected during the course of the watching brief. But post-medieval - modern finds, including metal machine parts and ceramic building material were recorded.

3.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

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

4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

4.1.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were located during the demolition work or excavation of any of the foundation and service trenches in phases 1, 2 and 3 of the groundwork programme during the watching brief.

4.1.2 There was no evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval activity was observed in any of the groundwork trenches during the watching brief.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

BGS 1963 *Sheet 184. Solid and Drift Geology*

OA 2000 OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling (first edition, July 2000)

OA 1992 Field Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

OA 2007 21 Wasperton Road, Wasperton, Warwick, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Investigation (Watching brief and excavation/recording action)

WMS 2006 21 Wasperton Road, Wasperton, Warwick, CV35 8EB: Brief for Archaeological Fieldwork

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: 21 Wasperton Road, Wasperton, Warwick, Warwickshire

Site code: WASP 07

Grid reference: SP 2649 58894

Type of watching brief: machine excavation of foundation trenches

Date and duration of project: 3rd and 4th April 2007

Area of site: c600m²

Summary of results: Evidence for recent quarrying and modern dumping was encountered. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief.

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

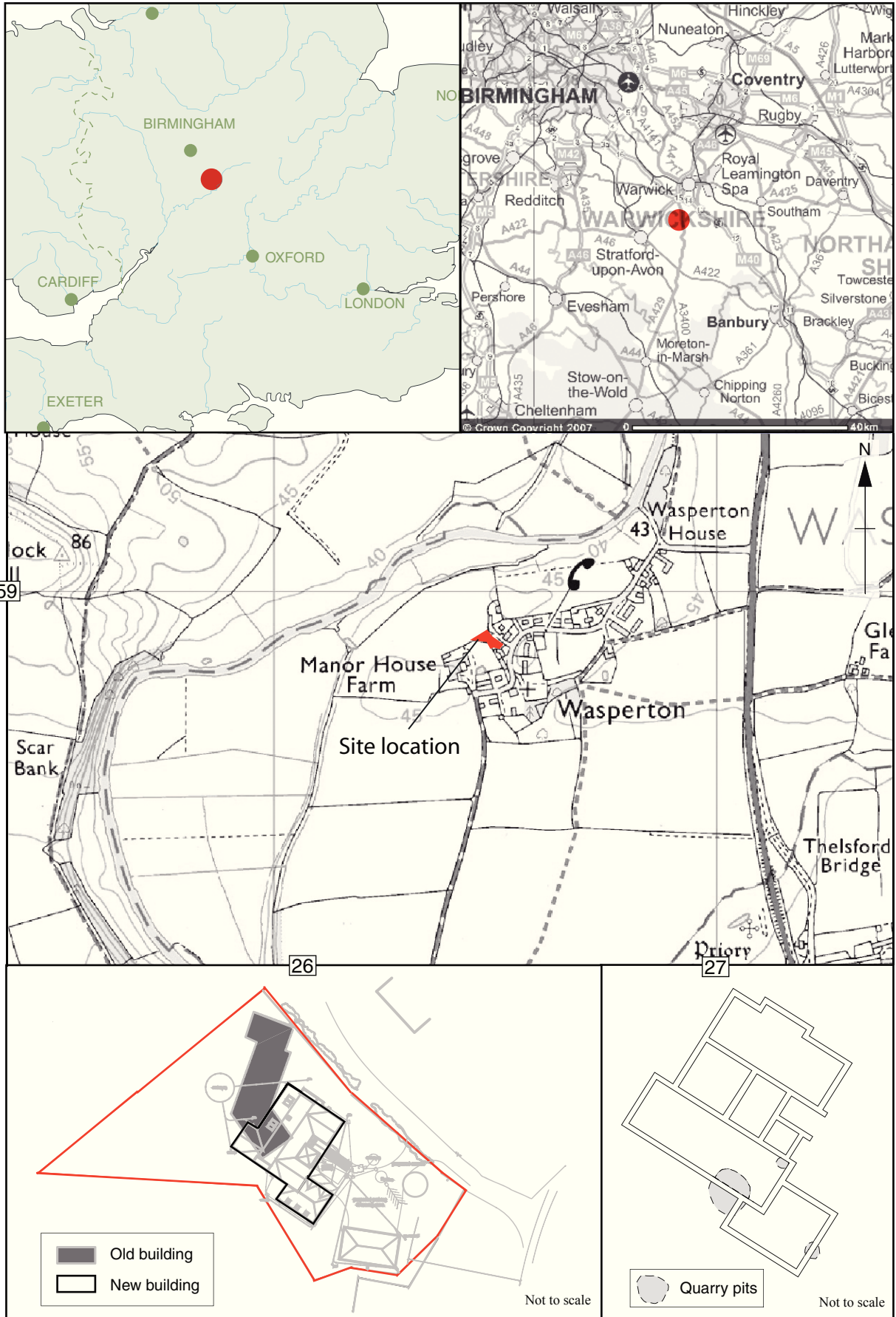


Figure 1: Site location and plan