

# Manor Farm Hardwick Road Priors Marston Warwickshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

oxfordarchaeology  
  
southsouthsouth  
May 2011

**Client: Johnston Cave Associates**

Issue No: 1  
OA Job No: 4710  
NGR: SP 488 570





Client Name: Johnston Cave Associates

Document Title: Manor Farm, Hardwick Road, Priors Marston, Warwickshire

Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Issue/Version Number: 1

Grid Reference: NGR: SP 488 570

Planning Reference: 09/01627/FUL

Invoice Code: PRMAFBWB

OA Job Number: 4710

Site Code: PRMAFB10

Receiving Museum: Warwickshire County Museum Service

Museum Accession No.: tbc

Event No.:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Mike Sims Project Supervisor	Dan Poore Head of Fieldwork	Dan Poore Head of Fieldwork	

Document File Location: Smallworks on Server1/PROJECTS/Warwickshire WA\ 11693 Manor Farm, Priors Marston\2011 watching Brief\WB Report.odt

Graphics File Location: Server 10:/oapubs1\_BtoQ\*PRMAFB11\*PRMAFBWB\*Manor Farm, Priors Marston\*jc\*03.05.11

Illustrated by: Julia Collins

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2011

Janus House  
 Osney Mead  
 Oxford OX2 0ES  
 t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net  
 f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net  
 Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627





## **Manor Farm, Hardwick Road, Priors Marston, Warwickshire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

*Written by Mike Sims*

*and illustrated by Julia Collins*

### **Table of Contents**

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1 Location and scope of work.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Methodology.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Description of deposits.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Discussion and conclusions.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Bibliography and references.....</b>	<b>3</b>

## Summary

*In March 2011 OA conducted an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical excavation of the farmyard at Manor Farm, Hardwick Road, Priors Marston, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 488 570). The watching brief showed that the western half of the farmyard had been truncated during the yard's construction below the level of any potential archaeology, while the eastern half showed evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century disturbance. No significant archaeology was observed.*

## 1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 The village of Priors Marston is located approximately 8 km south-east of the town of Southam (NGR: SP 488 570) (Fig. 1). Manor Farm is situated on the southern edge of the village. The farmyard is bounded to the south, west and east by farm buildings and to the north by a walled garden. The yard is sited at the bottom of a gentle slope rising to the north-west at a level of approximately 138 m above OD. The underlying geology is Lower Lias Clays (Geological Survey of England and Wales, sheet no. 201).
- 1.1.2 The work was commissioned by Johnston Cave Associates in respect of a planning application for a barn conversion (Planning Application No. 09/01627/FUL)
- 1.1.3 Due to the possibility of disturbance to below ground archaeological deposits a condition requiring that an Archaeological Watching Brief be maintained during the period of intrusive ground works was attached to the permission.
- 1.1.4 A project brief was set by Anna Stocks, the Warwickshire County Planning Archaeologist detailing the requirements of Warwickshire Museum Field Services (WMFS, 2010) and OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2010a). The barn conversion was covered in a separate report (OA, 2010b).
- 1.1.5 This phase of work was a continuation of that watching brief.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of site visits during those works which had the potential to disturb or destroy archaeological deposits. These works included the reduction in level of part of the yard and the excavation of a service trench. The excavated areas were closely examined for any features and the spoil was examined in order to collect dating evidence.
- 2.1.2 A plan of the extent of any excavations was maintained (Fig. 2) at a scale of 1:200. All excavated features were photographed using digital photography and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the OA Field Manual (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS

- 3.1.1 Within the western and southern portions of the yard a layer of yellow-brown clay with grey clay mottling (30) was exposed at a depth of 0.25 m below the current yard surface. Excavations to connect with an existing drain within the north-western corner of the yard showed this deposit to be in excess of 0.25 m deep.



- 3.1.2 Overlying this layer was a layer of grey-brown silty clay (31). This layer contained a large percentage of subangular stones and formed the farmyard surface. Fragments of brick and a fragment of glazed earthenware were recovered from this layer both suggesting a 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 3.1.3 As the ground reduction proceeded towards the eastern side of the farmyard it rose in relation to the underlying slope with the reduced level not impacting on layer 31. In the north-eastern corner of the yard an area of surviving cobbling (32) was observed butting up to the tackroom. No other features or deposits were observed.

#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

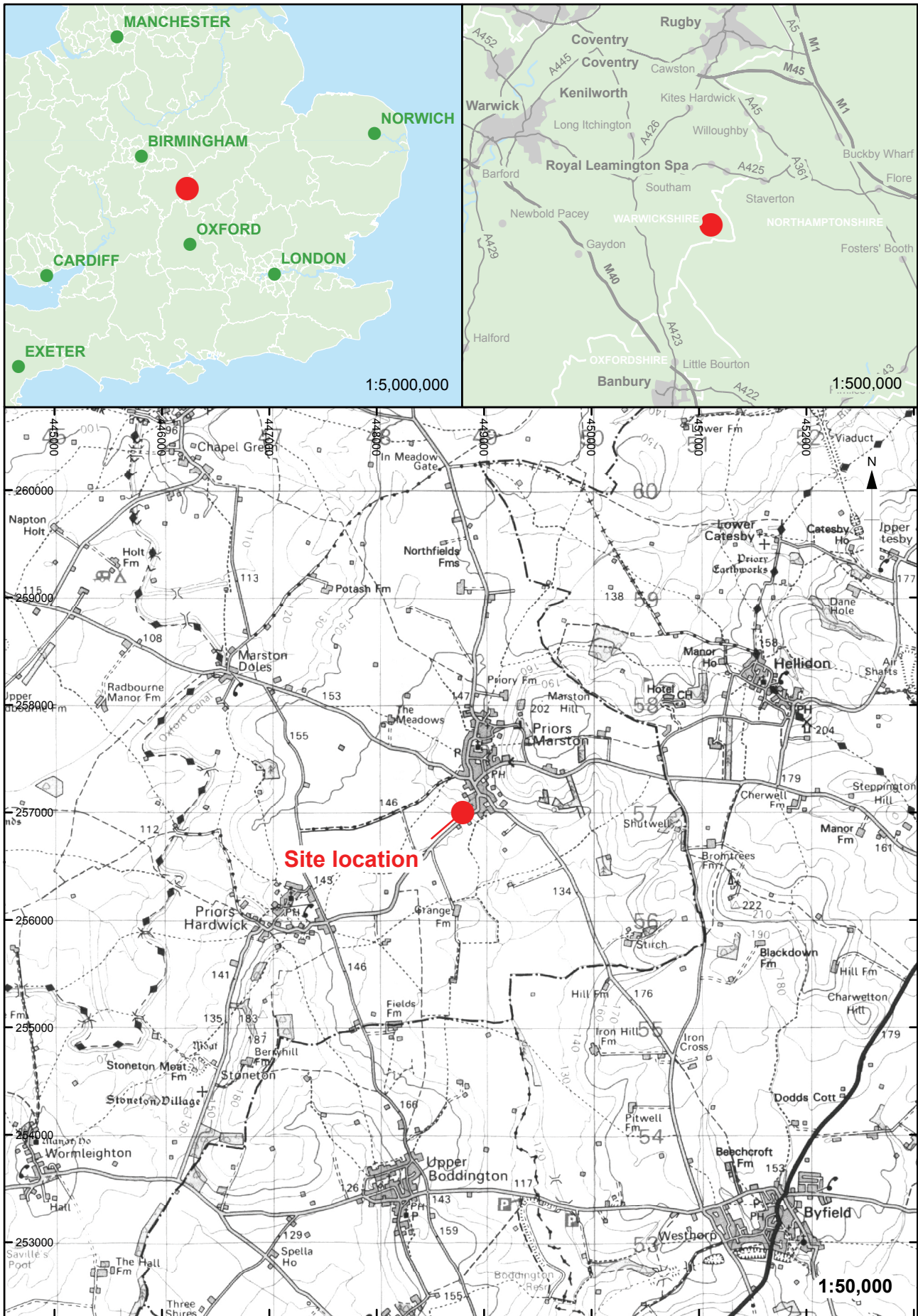
- 4.1.1 The watching brief showed that the western and southern quadrants of the yard had been terraced, probably during the farm's original construction in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, exposing the underlying natural clay (30).
- 4.1.2 It is probable that the yard had been originally cobbled as indicated by the surviving area of cobbles (32). Later 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the yard by increasingly heavier machinery has probably displaced the cobbles with the later deposit of stone fragments and clay 31 being laid to replace it. No archaeological deposits or features predating the farm's construction and working life were observed.

#### 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- OA 2010a Manor Farm, Hardwick Road, Priors Marston, Warwickshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
- OA 2010b Manor Farm, Hardwick Road, Priors Marston, Warwickshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
- OAU, 1992 Field Manual (ed. D Wilkinson)
- WMFS 2010 Manor Farm, Hardwick Road, Priors Marston: Brief for Archaeological Work







Reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (c) Crown Copyright. 1996 All rights reserved. License No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

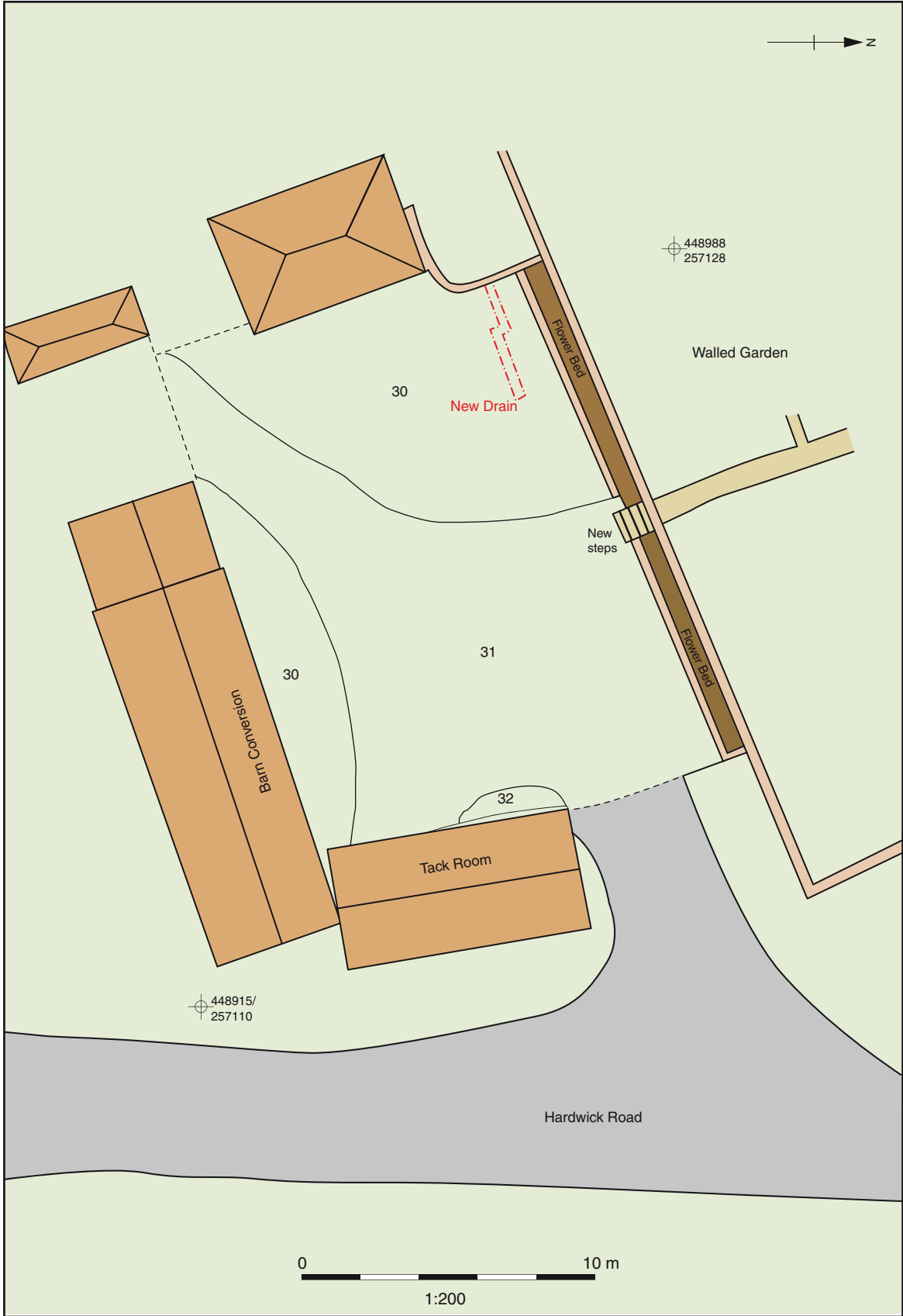


Figure 2: Site plan



#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA Grand Ouest**

7 Rue des Monderaines  
ZI - Ouest  
14650 Carpiquet  
France

t: +33 (0) 249 88 01 01  
f: +33 (0) 249 88 01 02  
e: info@oago.fr  
w: <http://oago.fr>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Maugeio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: oamed@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



*The Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, No: 285627  
Head Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800*