

All Saints Parish Office
Norreys Avenue
Wokingham
Berkshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

April 2003

**Client Name: Daniel Lelliott Krauze
Chartered Architects**

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1711

Planning Ref N^o: F/2001/4923

NGR: SU 815 688

Client Name: Daniel Lelliott Krauze Chartered Architects

Client Ref No: -

Document Title: All Saints Parish Office, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham,
Berkshire

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SU 815 688
Planning Reference: F/ 2001/ 4923

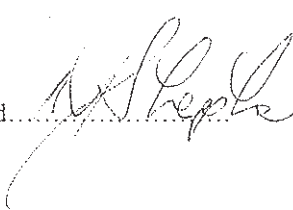
OA Job Number: 1711
Site Code: WOALL 03
Invoice Code: WOALL EV
Receiving Museum: Museum of Reading
Museum Accession No:

Prepared by: Bryan Matthews
Position: Supervisor
Date: 19th March 2003

Checked by: Dan Poore
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 24th March 2003

Approved by: Nick Shepherd
Position: Head of Fieldwork
Date: 25th March 2003

Document File Location \\server1\projects\Wokingham All Saints\Eval report.doc
Graphics File Location server10\oaupubs1 R toZ\WOALLEV
Illustrated by Amy Charlotte Tucker

Signed... 

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 Archaeology

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2003

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 Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

All Saints Parish Office, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, Berkshire***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 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 Evaluation Aims	2
2.1 General aims.....	2
3 Evaluation Methodology	2
3.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	2
3.3 Finds	2
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	3
3.5 Presentation of results	3
4 Results: General.....	3
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	3
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	3
5 Results: Descriptions.....	3
5.1 Description of deposits.....	3
5.2 Finds	4
6 Discussion and Interpretation	4
6.1 Overall interpretation	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References	5
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	5

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Fig. 3 Sample sections

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OA) carried out a field evaluation at All Saints Parish Office, Wokingham, Berkshire on behalf of Daniel Lelliott Krauze chartered architects. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In March 2003 OA carried out a field evaluation at All Saints Parish Office, Wokingham, on behalf of Daniel Lelliott Krauze chartered architects in respect of a planning application for a parish office/ community hall on the site of the former Parish Office (Planning ref: F/2001/4923). A Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2003) was produced by OA in response to a brief set by Babcic (Babcic 2003) on behalf of the local planning authority, Wokingham District Council

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located at All Saints Church Parish Office, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham at National Grid Reference SU 8152 6884 (Fig. 1) and comprises an area of approximately 520 m². The geology is Flood Plain Gravel overlying Lower Bagshot Beds which overlies London Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 268).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is reproduced from the WSI.
- 1.3.2 The site lies within the medieval core of Wokingham. Thought to be a marketing centre for central and east Berkshire, the medieval town is believed to have developed originally from a Saxon settlement, Wokingham meaning 'homestead of the Wocce', a Saxon place-name.
- 1.3.3 The earliest recorded settlement is documented to the 12th century and probably centred around the chapel which is mentioned in 1146 AD, and which later became the Parish Church of All Saints. This church contains Norman work but is predominantly 14th century in date with a 15th century tower. It is immediately to the west of this church that the Parish Office lies.
- 1.3.4 The original plan of the town consists of two parallel streets; Rose and Peach Streets, with associated burgage plots. A large triangular market place was formed to the west of these streets entered from Broad Street and Denmark Street, both of which also contained burgage plots. It is on the eastern edge of this medieval centre that the development site is located. By the 18th and 19th century, the pressure to expand the town saw not only an extension towards Reading but the amalgamation of tenements in Broad Street to allow for larger houses with formal gardens.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 General aims

- 2.1.1 To determine or confirm the general nature of the remains present.
- 2.1.2 To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- 2.1.3 To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.
- 2.1.4 To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.
- 2.1.5 To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- 2.1.6 To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- 2.1.7 To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches each measuring approximately 16 m long x 1.8 m wide (Fig 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.1.2 Context recording was in accordance with established OA practice (OA Field Manual, 1992).
- 3.1.3 Site procedures were as defined in Section 7.3 of the Brief (Babtie 2003), Standard OA Appendix 2 (OA 2003) and the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1993).
- 3.1.4 The fieldwork took place over two days (17th - 18th March 2003) and was inspected by Mr. Kevin Beachus of Babtie, acting on behalf of Wokingham District Council.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and finds retrieved from contexts as appropriate. The trenches were planned and two sample sections drawn from each trench. Trenches and sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film.

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 The site was covered by extensive made-ground deposits and the earliest deposits encountered dated from the 19th - 20th century. The site was therefore deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling.

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 and finds, 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 The site is situated on London Clay. A small area of probable subsoil was identified within the south of Trench 1 and buried topsoil and subsoil was found beneath make-up levels within the east of Trench 2. These layers were overlain by extensive made-ground deposits. Weather conditions were good and the ground was dry.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 No archaeological deposits were found.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned approximately NW – SE within the south of the site (Fig.2), and was 16 m long by 1.8 m wide.
- 5.1.2 London clay was found at a depth of between 0.8 m and 0.92 m beneath the present ground level (65.94 m OD). Within the southern end of the trench a 0.46 m thick deposit of yellowish brown silty clay, 102, overlay the clay. This is probably the remnant of a subsoil horizon. It was cleaned and sectioned (Fig. 3) and found to contain 19th-20th century brick and tile.
- 5.1.3 The rest of the trench was overlain by modern made-ground deposits and brick rubble. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2

- 5.1.4 Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE across the northern half of the site (Fig. 2). This trench was moved 3 m to the south of its original location to avoid scanned services. The trench measured 14.5 m long by 1.8 m wide.

- 5.1.5 The underlying London Clay was found at a depth of 1 m beneath the present ground level (65.72 m OD.). No archaeological features were identified.
- 5.1.6 Within the eastern end of the trench a thin yellow brown subsoil, 203, and a buried topsoil, 202, overlay the clay (Fig. 3). The topsoil is probably former garden soil and contained fragments of 20th century tile and brick. Modern brick debris and make-up levels for a former car parking area overlay both the underlying clay and the buried topsoil.

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 Buried topsoil 203, within Trench 2 and probable subsoil 102, within Trench 1 produced fragments tile and brick. These were identified by Leigh Alan of Oxford Archaeology as being 19th-20th century in date. No earlier finds or archaeological deposits were found.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.1.1 The underlying London clay horizon was readily identified and any possible features beneath disturbed ground were investigated. A buried topsoil and probable subsoil were identified but no other features or earlier archaeological contexts were found. Conditions were good and the results were consistent.
- 6.1.2 No archaeological features were found. A small area of former topsoil was identified and this is probably from former gardens. Extensive brick rubble and made-ground deposits overlie the site, but there was no evidence of features or deposits that date to earlier than the 19th century.

Significance

- 6.1.3 No archaeological features were found and therefore the site is thought to be of little archaeological significance.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
100	Layer	Demolition	0.3				Modern
101	Layer	Made ground	0.45				Modern
102	Layer	Subsoil	0.46	1.6	3	CBM	19th-20th
103	Layer	London clay					
Trench 2							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
200	Layer	Car park surface	0.05				Modern
201	Layer	Building debris	0.37				Modern
202	Layer	Made ground	0.2				Modern
203	Layer	Buried top-soil	0.38			CBM	19th-20th
204	Layer	Subsoil	0.28				
205	Layer	London clay					

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Babtie 2003 All Saints Church Parish Office, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham - Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation
- OA 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D.Wilkinson, first edition, 1992)
- OA 2003 All Saints Parish Office, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham - Archaeological Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: All Saints Parish Office, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham

Site code: WOALL '03

Grid reference: SU 8152 6884

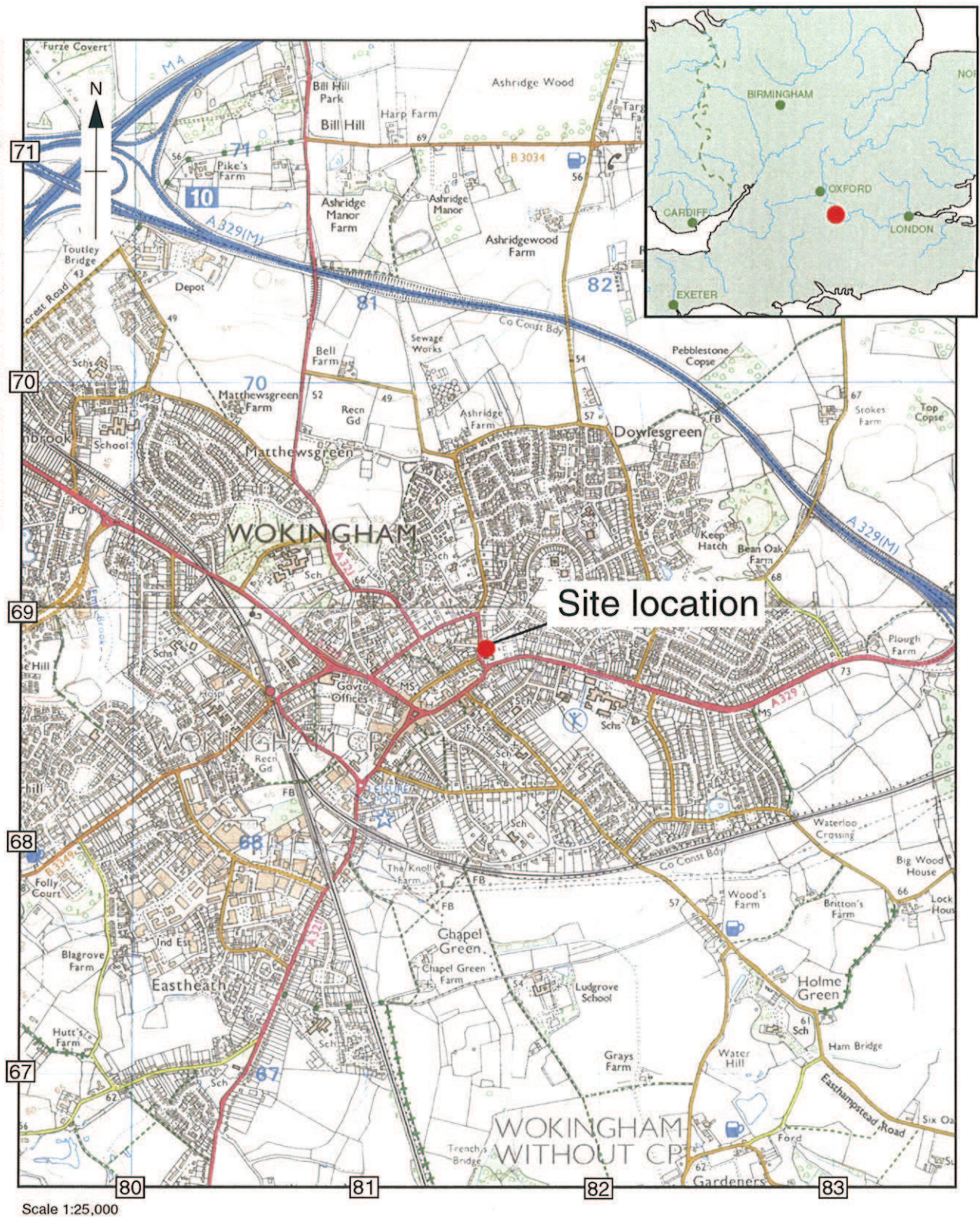
Type of evaluation: Two trenches.

Date and duration of project: Two days, 17th - 18th March 2003

Area of site: 520 Square meters

Summary of results: 19th - 20th century subsoil or garden soil sealed by modern dumps and made ground. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

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



Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1998. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

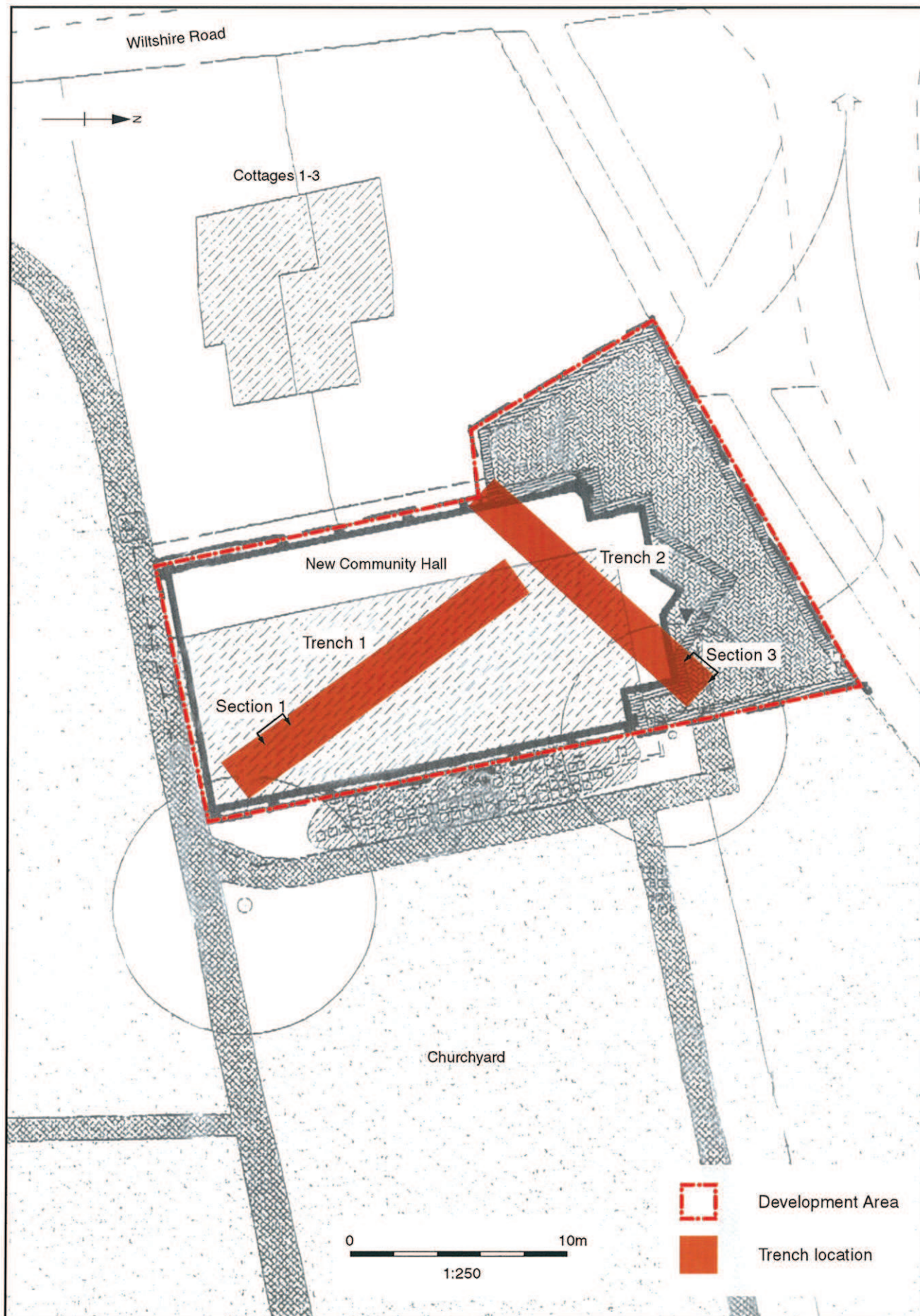
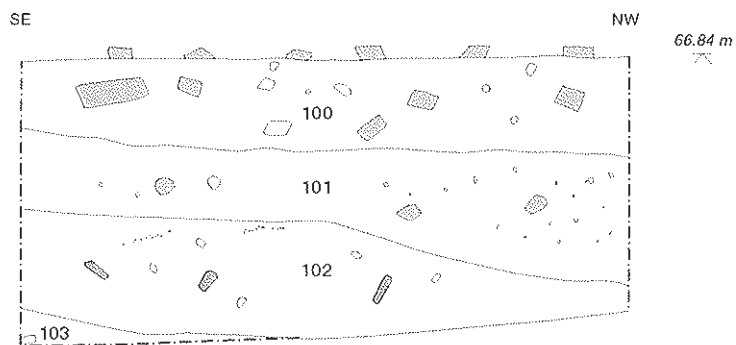
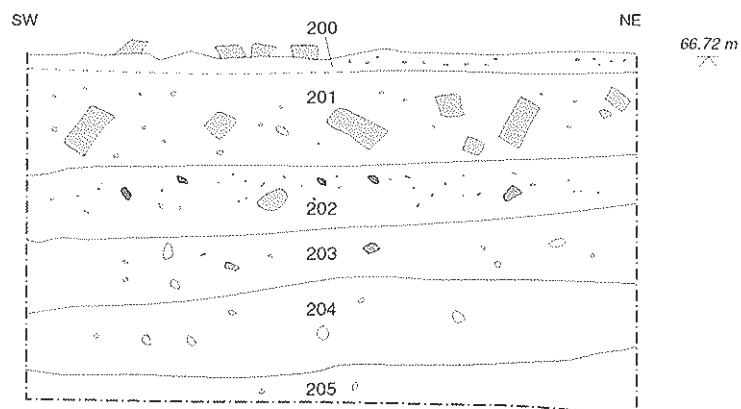


Figure 2: Trench location plan

Trench 1 Section 1



Trench 2 Section 3



0 1m

1:25

- tile
- charcoal
- brick

Figure 3: Sample 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

Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES