

**Brandon Gate Homes**

**Number 6, The Green, Fringford, Oxfordshire**

*NGR SP 6045 2888*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Planning Ref. No. 98/00345/F**

**Oxford Archaeological Unit**

**December 1999**

Brandon Gate Homes

Number 6, The Green, Fringford, Oxfordshire

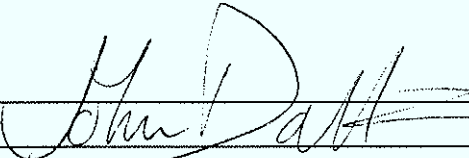
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

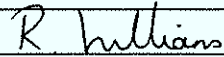
Planning Ref. No. 98/00345/F

Prepared by: K. Brown

Date: 27/11/99

Checked by: 

Date: 9/12/99

Approved by:  HEAD OF FIELDWORK

Date: 9/12/1999

Oxford Archaeological Unit

December 1999

## **Summary**

*In November and December 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at No. 6, The Green, Fringford, Oxfordshire. One possible robber trench was seen; no finds were retrieved.*

### **1 Introduction**

The development proposal (planning application no. 98/00345/F) comprised the construction of a new single dwelling with associated services and garaging at No. 6, The Green Fringford. An archaeological watching brief was required in accordance with the planning consent, granted under the Town and Country Planning Act, and in line with PPG 16.

The watching brief was commissioned by Brandon Gate Homes. It was undertaken to a brief set by and a WSI agreed with the Deputy County Archaeological Officer.

### **2 Background**

This watching brief is further to an archaeological evaluation of the site undertaken by the OAU in 1998, and this report should be read in conjunction with the evaluation report (OAU 1998).

### **3 Aims**

The aims of the watching brief were to identify any archaeological remains exposed on site during the course of the works and to record these to established OAU standards (Wilkinson 1992), in order to secure their preservation by record.

### **4 Methodology**

The watching brief was undertaken by means of separate inspection visits; all excavation was undertaken by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

Within the constraints imposed by health and safety considerations the deposits and features exposed were cleaned, inspected and recorded in plan, section and by colour slide and monochrome print photography. Written records were also made on proforma sheets. Soil description utilises standard charts for the approximation of inclusion types in soil deposits.

### **5 Results**

The intrusive groundworks monitored by an archaeological supervisor comprised the excavation of foundation trenches and service runs.

The excavated wall foundation trenches measured 0.50 – 0.60 m wide, to a depth of 1.40 m. Natural blue-grey clay was observed at the base of the trenches, overlain by a sticky light brown clay with yellow sand patches, followed by disturbed backfill.

Given the depth of the trenches it was not possible to examine the sections in detail, and the sticky clay made cleaning the sections difficult. No archaeology was confirmed within this trench: although a faint trace of stones, possibly a wall, was witnessed in the west section this could not be identified with certainty.

The garage footings ranged in depth from 0.85 m to 1.55 m. As before, a light brown clay was observed, overlain by clay loam topsoil. The exception to this was the humic sub- and topsoil fills of a service trench for a modern plastic pipe. No archaeology was seen in these footings.

## **6 Finds**

No finds were retrieved during the course of the watching brief.

## **7 Environmental results**

Due to the absence of any significant archaeology, no environmental soil samples were taken.

## **8 Discussion**

Although considerable archaeological deposits have been encountered in close proximity to the site under investigation, particularly during the previous evaluation undertaken by the OAU no further archaeology was revealed during this watching brief.

## **References.**

OAU 1998 *The Green, Fringford, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report.*

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

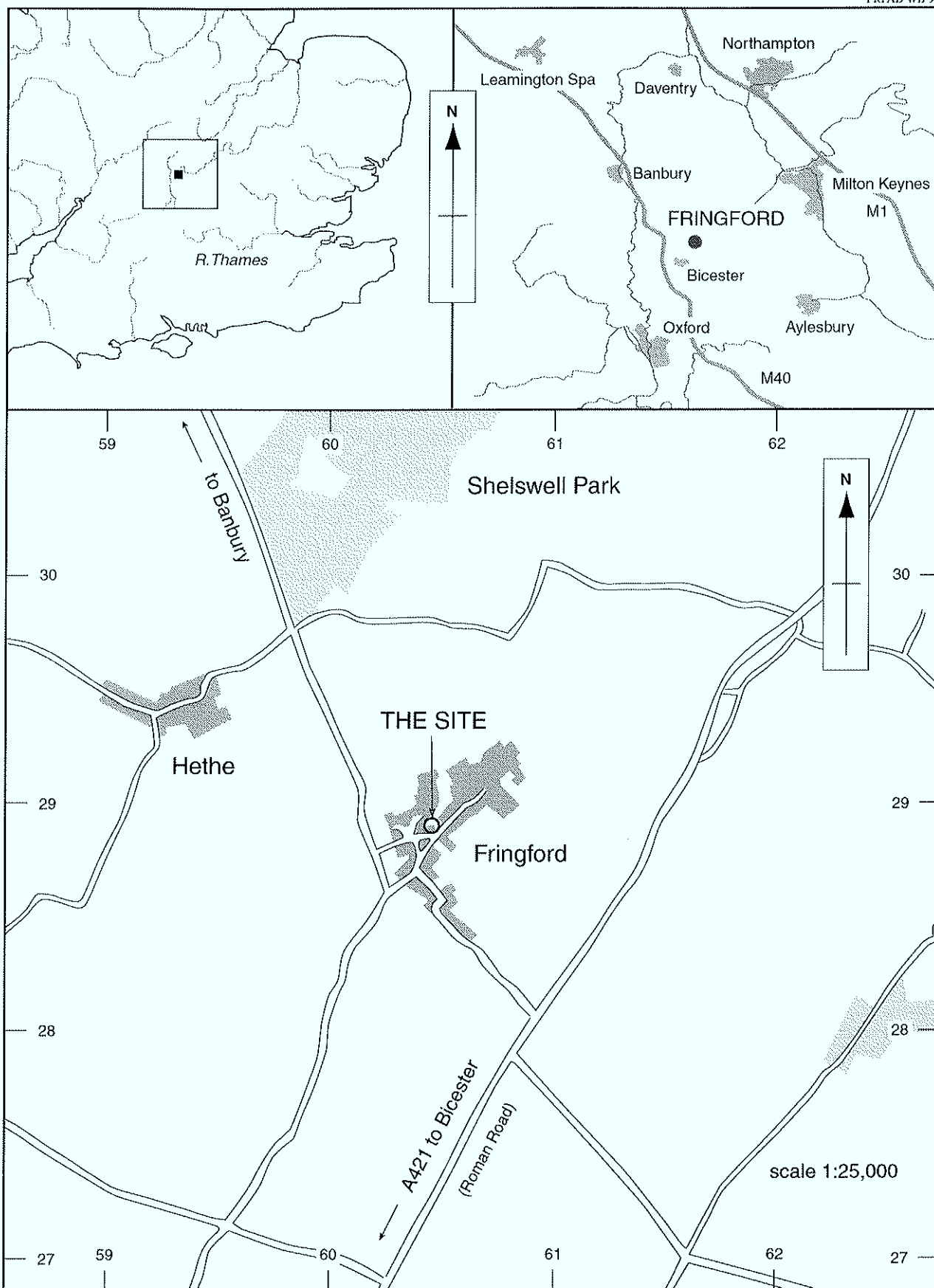


Figure 1: site location

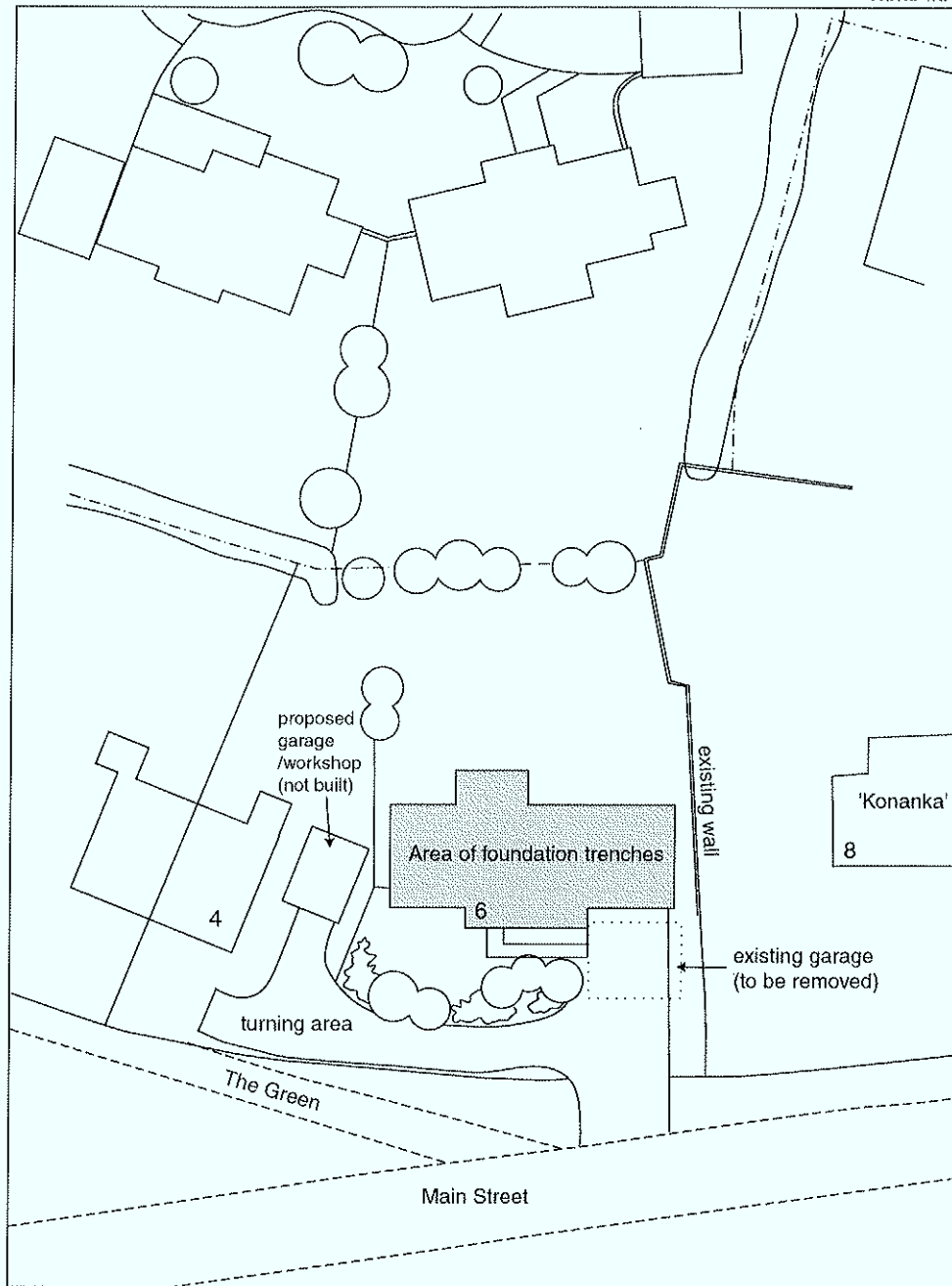


Figure 2 : site plan



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