

**No 12 Trinity Road  
Headington Quarry, Oxford**

**NGR SP 5558 0695**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**Planning Application 98/410/NFH**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

Planning Application 98/410/NFH

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Date: April 2001

Checked by: *JRHiller*

Date: *20/4/2001*

Approved by: *R. Williams*  
*ASSISTANT DIRECTOR*

Date: *24/4/2001*

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
April 2001

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*Summary*

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a Watching Brief at No12 Trinity Road, Headington Quarry, in late summer/autumn 2000, during the construction work associated with the redevelopment of the above property. Excavations were undertaken by the developer to extend the area of a basement.*

*The site of No. 12 lies within an area of extensive stone quarrying dating at least to the medieval period. During the limited observations made during the site construction programme, it was clear that the site overlay extensive and deep quarry stone and sand deposits that were undated. No finds were located during the course of the works and therefore the quarry deposits were not dated.*

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a Watching Brief at No12 Trinity Road, Headington Quarry, in late summer/autumn 2000, during construction work associated with the redevelopment of the above property. Permission had been granted by Oxford City Council for the change of use from a 2-bed dwelling to two 3-bedroom dwellings with 2 garages. The construction works comprised an extension to the rear of the property, and excavations to enlarge the basement. A condition requiring the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning permission, in line with PPG16 and Policy EN43 of the Oxford Local Plan.
- 1.2 The Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service, on behalf of Oxford City Council, prepared a *Brief* for the project. OAU prepared a Method Statement (OAU March 2000) detailing how OAU would implement the requirements of the *Brief*.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The site is located on one of the principal streets of Headington Quarry at the east of the city of Oxford. The development site is c 0.3 ha in area and backs onto the largest of the local quarries. The underlying geology is Wheatley Limestone.

- 2.2 Headington Quarry is situated between the line of the Alchester-Dorchester Roman road (to the east) and a number of known Roman pottery kiln sites are known c 1 km to the south-west. Documentary evidence indicates that the area was quarried during the medieval period, possibly as early as the 13th century, and into the 14th century (W J Arkell, *Oxford Stone*, 1946, 43-53). It is thought that the quarry respected the alignment of roads such as Trinity Road (Arkell, *ibid.*), but this is not certain. The British Geological Survey Sheet 237 indicates that the area in general has been extensively worked for stone.

### **3 Aims**

- 3.1 The aims of the project were outlined in Section 2 of *The Brief* for the project, with a caveat that should significant archaeological remains be discovered, then OAU would signal to all parties that an archaeological find has been made, for which the resources allocated were not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 3.2 A report completed and copies forwarded to the client and the City Archaeologist.
- 3.3 The site archive deposited with a suitable museum in agreement with the City Archaeologist and the City Council.

### **4 Strategy**

- 4.1 The Watching Brief comprise tasks set out in section 3.3 of *The Brief*.
- 4.2 Site recording and sampling levels for archaeological features were defined in Appendix 7 of OAU's Method Statement for the investigation.

### **5 Results**

- 5.1 All excavation was undertaken by the contractors, with an OAU archaeologist in attendance as required during the early stages of the excavation.
- 5.2 At the time of the groundwork it was noticeable that the garden exhibited a pronounced dip, suggestive of previous landfill/quarry activity here. Initial observations to depth of the excavations revealed deep deposits of stone and sand. No finds were recovered from these, and they are therefore undated.
- 5.3 No further observations were made during the construction programme, after the initial confirmation of the depth of the stone infill.

### **6 Conclusion**

- 6.1 The site here clearly overlies an extensive and deep quarry, the original date of which was not resolved by this investigation.

6.2 No prehistoric, Roman or medieval remains were encountered in the course of the watching brief, and no finds recovered.

**Reference:**

W J Arkell, 1946, *Oxford Stone*, 43-53

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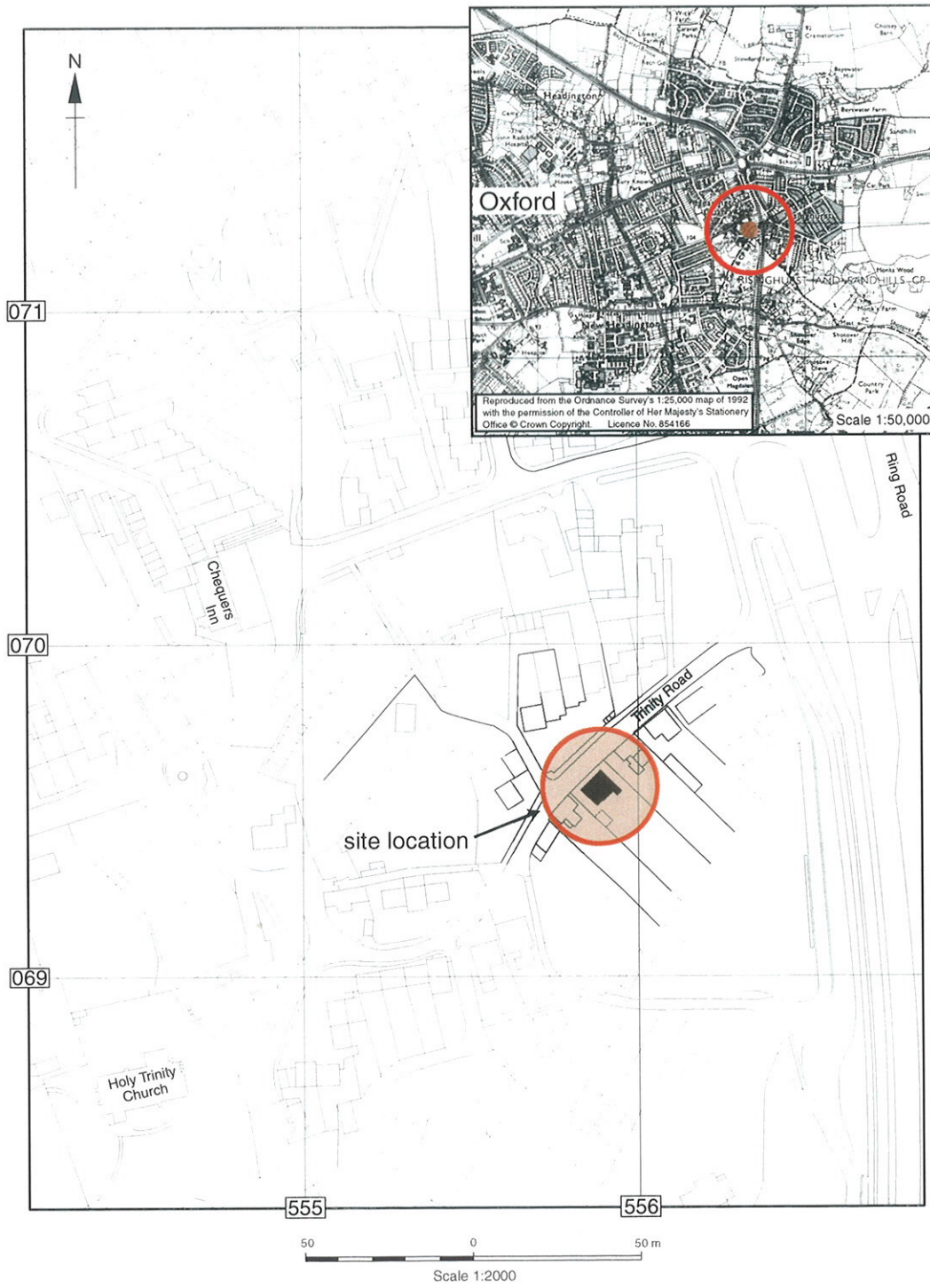
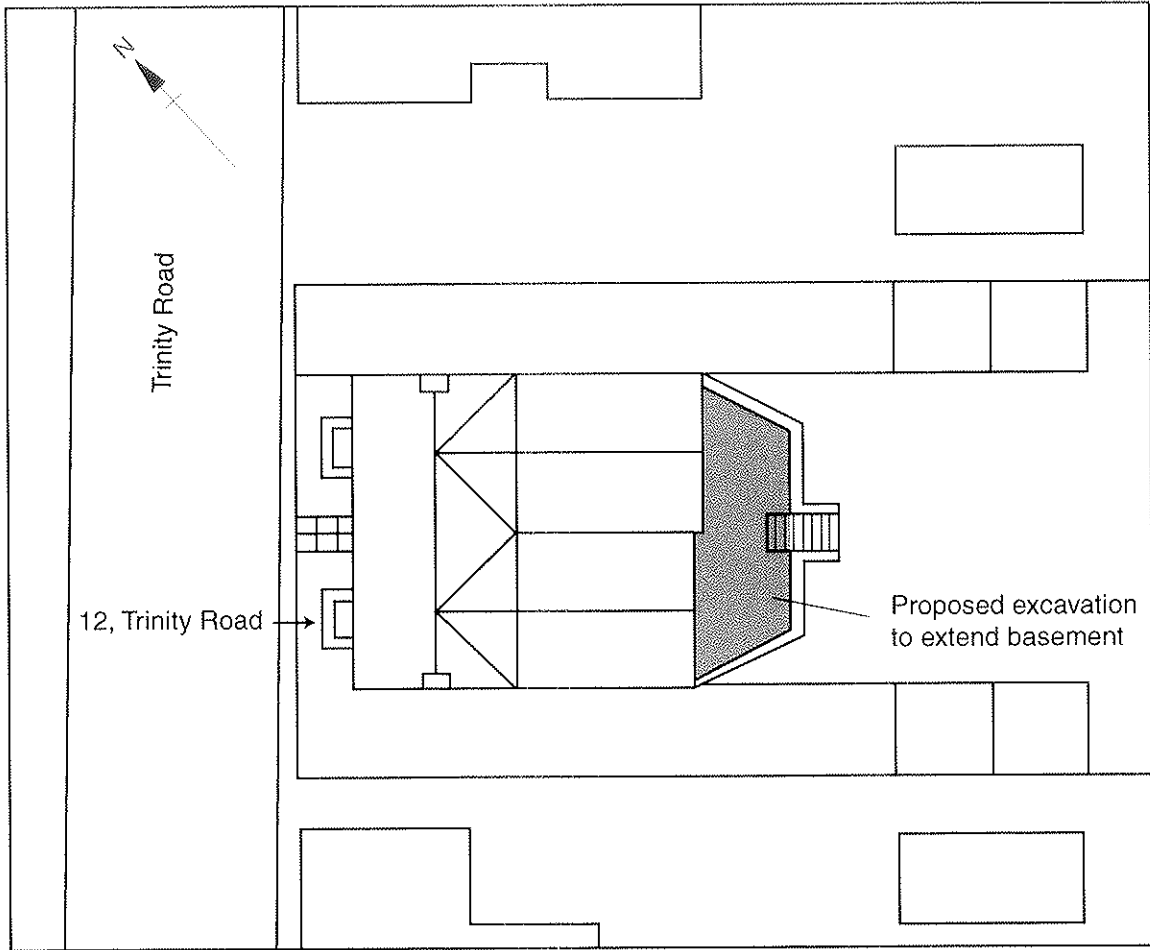


Figure 1: Site location



Scale 1:200

Figure 2: Site plan



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