

Notley Farm Chearsley Road Long Crendon Buckinghamshire



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology

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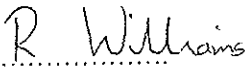
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NGR SP 4713 2093

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SUMMARY

Between September 2001 and September 2002, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Notley Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire. The work was commissioned by the property owner in advance of the construction of a kitchen extension. The watching brief monitored the excavation of strip foundation trenches which revealed made ground directly overlying limestone brash. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council for an extension to a dwelling at Notley Farm, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire (planning application number 00/02592/APP).
- 1.1.2 In accordance with PPG16 and local plan policy, an archaeological watching brief was carried out in response to a brief set by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at c 80 m OD, to the north of Thame and west of Haddenham (SP 4713 2093). The underlying geology is Purbeck Formation marl and clay overlying Portland Formation sands and limestones
- 1.2.2 Notley Farm is situated 1 mile north of Thame and half a mile west of Haddenham on an east facing hill slope.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 200m to the east of Notley Farm lies the remains of Notley Abbey (SAM no 29409). This ecclesiastical house was founded by the Earl of Buckingham and his wife somewhere between 1154 and 1164 (Pantin, 1941). Although this building does not have the historical fame of St. Frideswide's it was none the less one of the largest and richest Augustinian monasteries in the Oxford region.
- 1.3.2 Excavations in 1937 recorded the state of the abbey complex remains visible above ground and below the topsoil. The abbey comprised in its earliest phase the central crossing, the transepts and the eastern limb of the church. Approximately a century later (c. 1200-1250) the cloister, the chapter house and the dormitories were added to the eastern part of the church. The next three centuries saw various rebuilds and extensions to the main body of the church culminating in the early 17th century with the completion of the abbots house. The whole complex was enclosed in a ditched precinct boundary. Unfortunately excavation revealed extensive robbing of most of the masonry and foundations of the abbey (Pantin, 1941). Very little other than earthworks and a barn remain above ground today.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present), which the works would remove or damage within the development area.
- 2.1.2 To signal to all parties, in the event that significant archaeological remains are discovered 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, and to suitably investigate the remains.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of strip foundation trenches for the new development.
- 2.2.2 A site plan was compiled at a scale of 1:100. A general photographic record of the work was made, and recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992) for watching briefs.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The trenches were excavated to a depth of approximately 1 m below ground level. A 0.3 m thick deposit of hardcore lay directly over the natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the groundwork.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered in the course of the site works; modern finds were not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No samples were taken.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 Other than a modern service trench, no features or deposits were observed during the watching brief. If any archaeological remains did exist they have been truncated prior to the deposition of the hardcore observed within the foundation trenches (although there was no evidence of significant truncation of the natural geology).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.3 m	within strip foundation trenches		hardcore	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

Pantin WA, *OXONIENSIA vol VI*, Ashmolean Museum 1941

British Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 237

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Notley Farm, Chearsley Road, Long Crendon

Site code: LCNF01

Grid reference: SP 4713 2093

Type of watching brief: Foundations for kitchen extension

Date and duration of project: Sept 2001 - Sept 2002

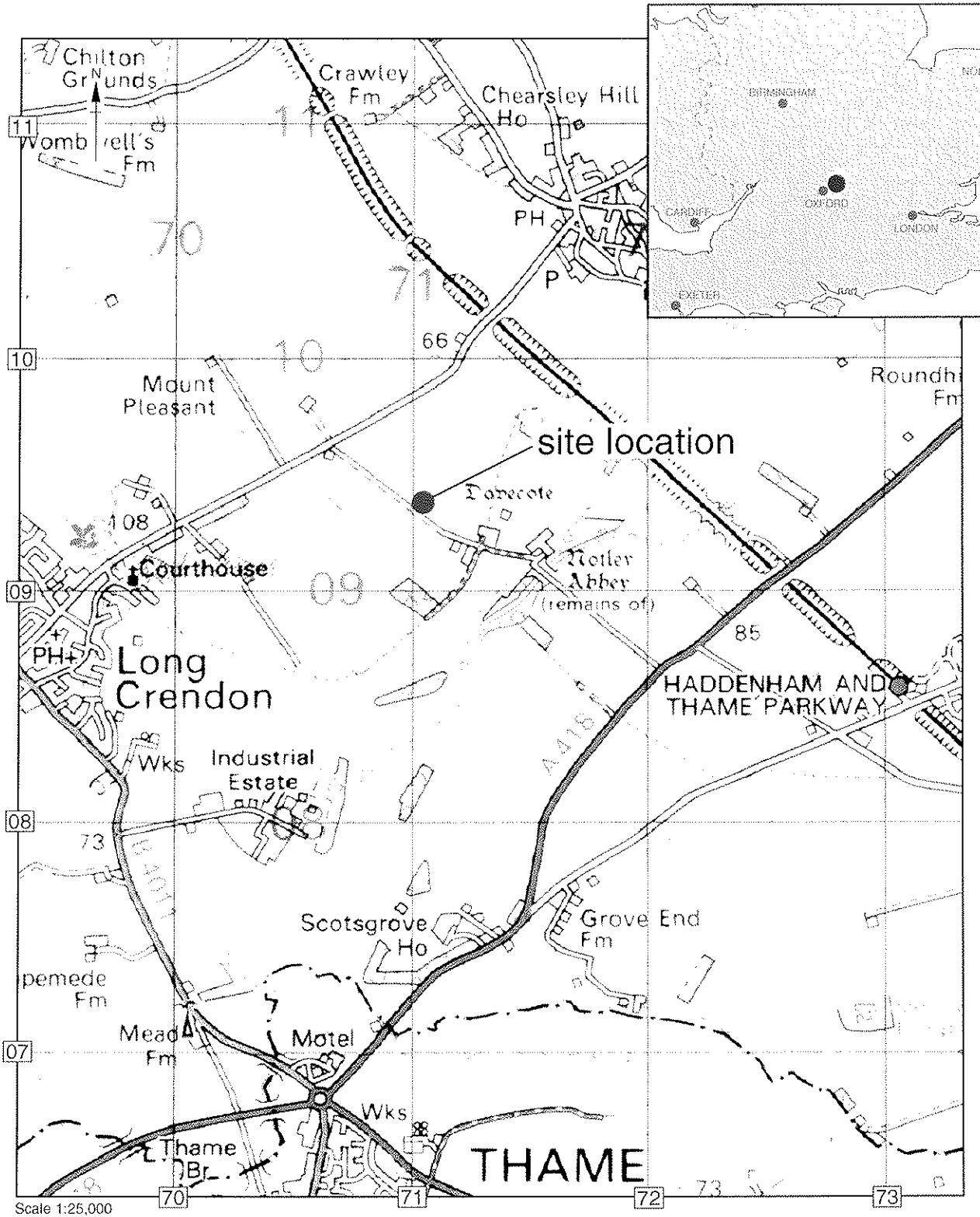
Area of site: 64m²

Summary of results: No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

Museum Accession No: AYBCM2001.82

Source: Ordnance Survey. All drawings: LCNFWB/Noisy Farm/RMS/25/06/02



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Figure 1: Site location

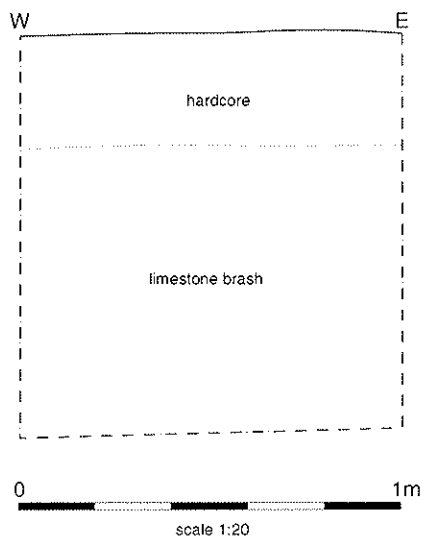
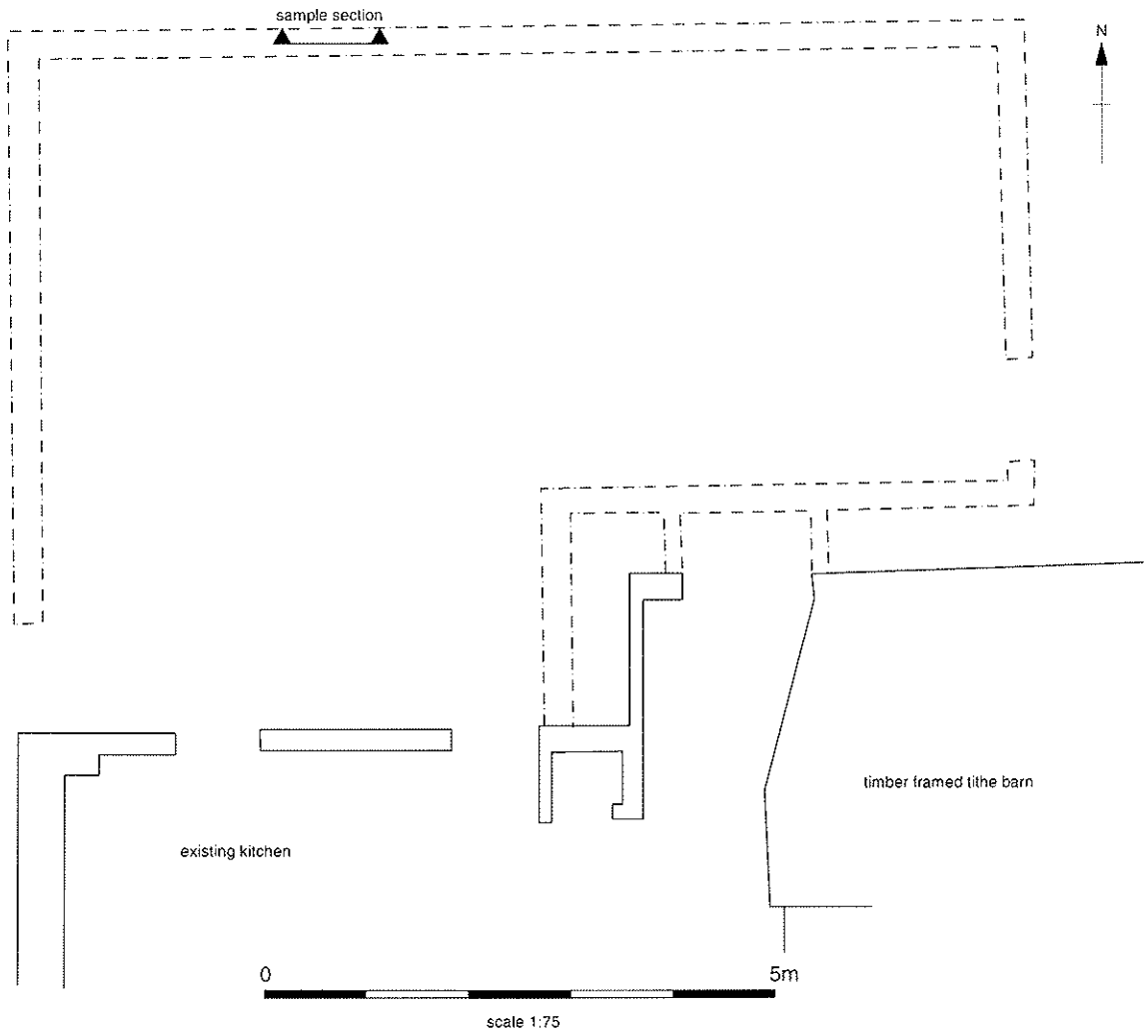


Figure 2 : Site Plan and Section.



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