

OLNEY  
(BUCKS)

OLGWW 03

New Garages  
West Wing  
Lavendon Grange  
Olney  
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**



**Oxford Archaeology**

September 2004

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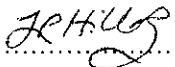
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## New Garages, West Wing, Lavendon Grange, Olney, Buckinghamshire

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

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Cover Plate: View of house from the proposed site of the garage.

## SUMMARY

*In June 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Lavendon Grange, Olney, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 9025 5365). The work was commissioned by Kempston Property Holdings Ltd in advance of the construction of a new garage and workshop. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits relating to the known medieval abbey. A number of features relating to the 19th and 20th century development of the grange were revealed including rubbish pits and service trenches.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In June 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Lavendon Grange, Olney, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Kempston Property Holdings Ltd in respect of a planning application for the construction of new garage and workshop.

1.1.2 An archaeological brief was discussed with Brian Giggins, Archaeologist for the Planning Dept of Milton Keynes Council so no formal Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the west of the village of Lavendon at c 70 m OD; the underlying geology is Oxford clay / Boulder clay.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared from an earlier watching brief report (OAU 2001) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 The development site is located in an area of potential archaeological significance as it is on or near the site of Lavendon Abbey, which was founded in 1154-58 by John de Bidun, then sheriff of Buckinghamshire. The foundation of Premonstratensian Abbeys in England were predominantly supported by the minor nobility, and Lavendon Abbey was the only Premonstratensian Abbey in Buckinghamshire.

1.3.3 The Abbey was dissolved in 1536 and today very little survives to indicate either its exact location or size and layout. The Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire states that 'some fragments of the moat surrounding the site exist to the west of the village, and foundations have been discovered to the west of them' (VCH, Bucks, IV, p.379). An English Heritage Inspectors report of 1992 (ref. AA 62990/1) states that the 'exact position of the abbey buildings, including the church, is uncertain', and that only fishponds and traces of a field system remain. The present site of the Grange is thought likely to be situated on the Abbey buildings. The Grange itself was originally built c1625, probably with re-used stone from the Abbey (RCHM(E) 1913

- Historical Monuments of Buckinghamshire), and consisted of what is now the West Wing and the Brewhouse. The Grange was subsequently extensively modified and added to, with the South Wing being built late in the 18th/early 19th century, and the East Wing itself being built in 1911.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The site (Fig. 2) was first stripped of topsoil and then levelled using a CAT back hoe loader with a ditching bucket. The foundations were then marked out and excavated with a 0.5 m wide tooth bucket. These were excavated to a depth of 2 m due to the deep roots of the surrounding trees.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The excavation cut into the natural red brown clay (8). This was overlain by a 0.25 - 0.4 m thick light yellowish brown silty clay loam (3) ground make up. This was sealed under a 0.2 m thick layer of grey clay (2), which had been cut by two features. The first was a sub-circular rubbish pit with very steep sloping sides and concave base. It measured 1.23 m x 0.78 m x 0.62 m and was filled by a dark brown silty clay (5). The second was a large sub-circular pit with steep sloping sides and concave base, which measured 2.6 m x 1.7 m x 0.44 m and was filled by a dark brown silty clay (7). These were all sealed below a 0.2 m thick dark grey brown silty clay loam (1) topsoil (Fig. 3).

### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 A number of finds were recovered from the two pits and consisted of the following:

Context 5      8 x Fragments of 19th century brick  
                  2 x Fragments of tile  
                  1 x Fragments of glass

Context 7      3 x Fragments of land drain  
                  1 x Fragment of glass  
                  2 x Fragments of tile

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The results from the watching brief did not reveal any archaeological features in the area of the new garage pre-dating building works in the 19th and 20th century. Although the site is within the precinct of the abbey, it had been untouched by ground works and could be part of the gardens. The site had been raised with landscaping material from ground works from the later construction phases of the grange. These had been cut by two 20th century garden rubbish pits and two modern service trenches.

## 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	0.2 m			Topsoil	
2	Layer	0.2 m			Ground Make up	
3	Layer	0.2 -4 m			Ground Make up	
4	Cut	0.62 m	0.78 m	1.23 m	Rubbish pit	
5	Fill				Fill of pit	
6	Cut	0.44 m	1.7 m	2.3 m	Rubbish pit	
7	Fill				Fill of pit	
8	Natural				Blouder Clay	

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OAU 2001 *East Wing, Lavendon Grange, Olney, Buckinghamshire* Archaeological Watching Brief Report

D Wilkinson Ed, 1992; *OAU Fieldwork Manual*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** New Garages, West wing, Lavendon Grange, Olney, Buckinghamshire

**Site code:** OLGWW 03

**Grid reference:** NGR SP 9025 5365

**Type of watching brief:** Ground works for the construction of new garage and workshop.

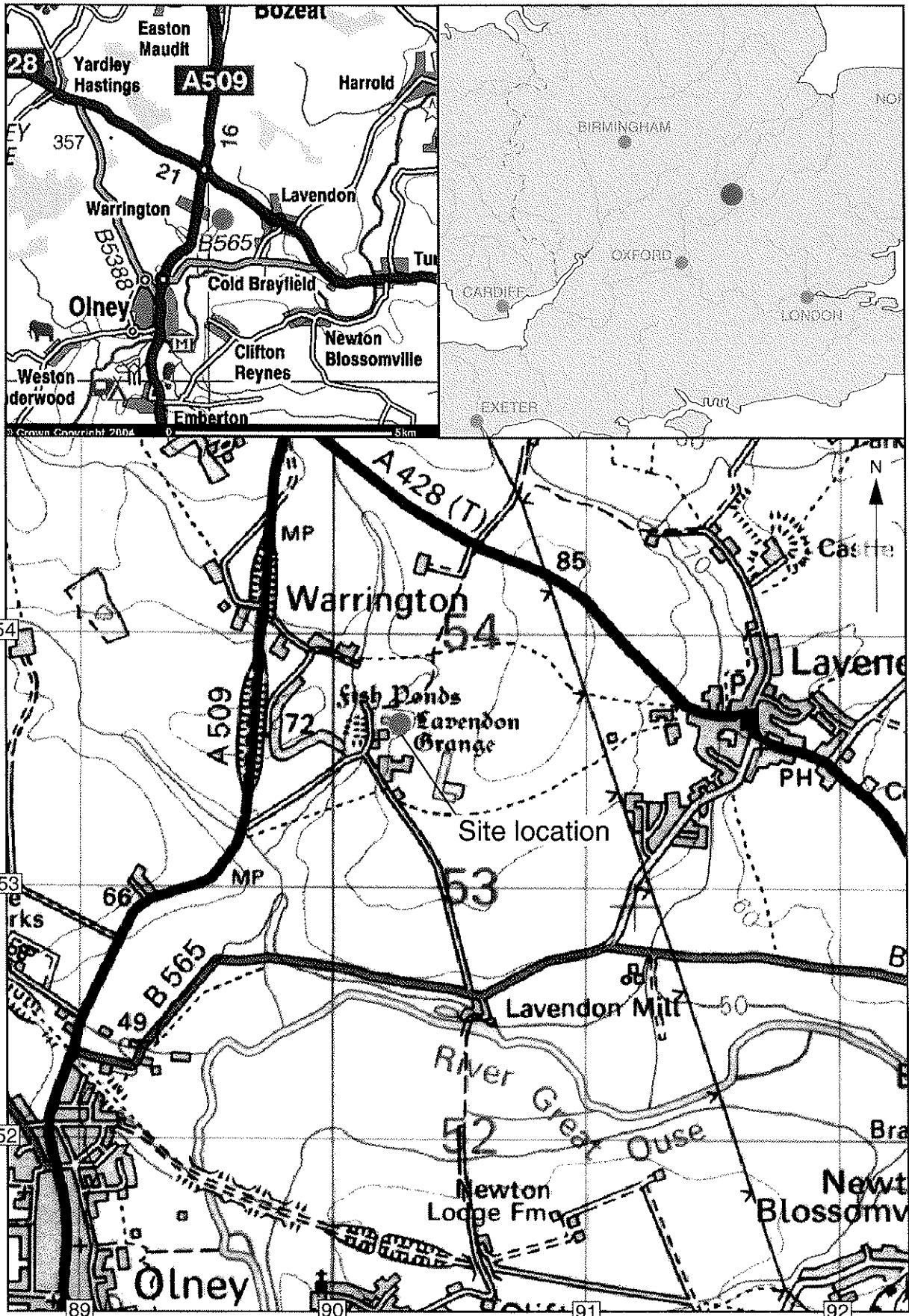
**Date and duration of project:** Two site visits from the 10/6/03 to 11/6/03.

**Area of site:** 15 m x 10 m

**Summary of results:** The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits relating to the medieval abbey. A number of rubbish pits and services relating to the 19th and 20th century development of the grange.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum, Technical Centre, Tring Rd, Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5PJ in due course, under the following accession number: ABYCM: 2003.121

Server 16/oaupubs\_1/oa0/OLGW03\*OLGW03\*New Garages, West Wing, Lavendon Grange\*MD\*04,10.04



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location





Figure 2: Site location

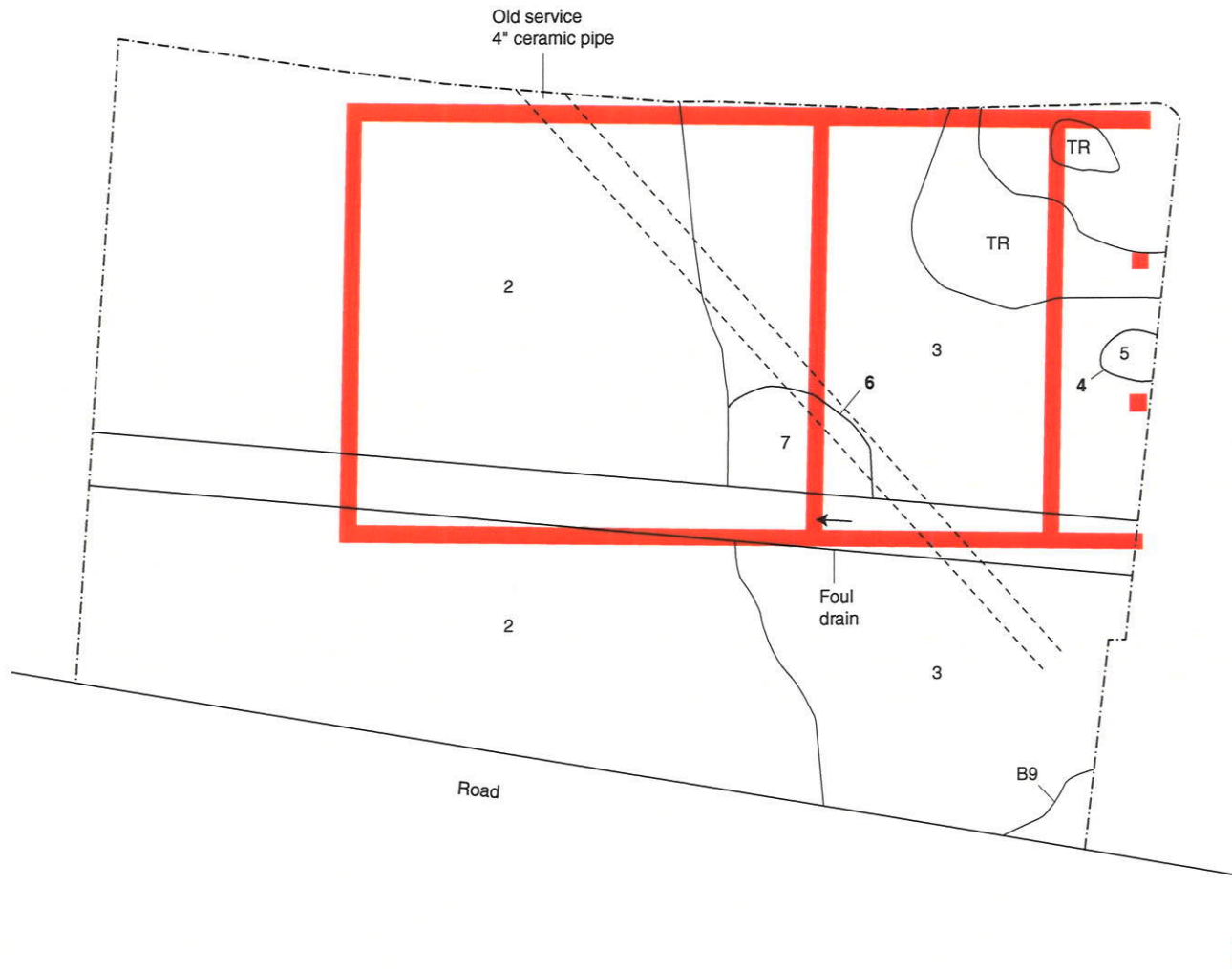






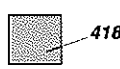








Figure 3: Site plan of foundations and features

	Section line and number
	Section through feature not illustrated with section drawing
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
	Fill line and number
	Cut line and number
	Structure number
	Unclear boundary
	Stones
	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
	Levels
	Grid point
	Continuation line (trench edge continues)



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