

# Wallingford RFC Wallingford



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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OAS Watching Brief Report

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|-------|--|---|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1     | Laura Piper<br>Fieldwork<br>Supervisor | Alan Hardy<br>Senior Project<br>Manager | Dan Poore<br>Head of Fieldwork |           |

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Janus House  
 Osney Mead  
 Oxford OX2 0ES  
 t: +44 (0) 1865 263800  
 f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net  
 w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

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**New Flood Lighting, Wallingford RFC, Hithercroft Rd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

*Written by Laura Piper and Daniel Dodds*

*and illustrated by Amy Hemingway*

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### **Summary**

*On the 24th and 25th November 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wallingford RFC, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (NGR: SU 5933 8938). The work was commissioned by RLF Birmingham acting on behalf of Wallingford RFC in advance of the construction of six floodlights. No archaeology was identified.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On the 24th and 25th November 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wallingford RFC, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Rasin of RLF Birmingham in respect of a planning application for the construction of six new floodlights (Planning Reference: P08/W0711).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services. This laid down the minimum requirements of the watching brief.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the western side of Wallingford, north-west of the Hithercroft Industrial Estate at NGR: SU 5933 8938. The site is currently in use as a sports pitch and lies at approximately 45 m above OD.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is 1st (Flood Plain) Gravel Terrace Deposits.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2008) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site is located in an area of archaeological potential immediately adjacent to a prehistoric or Roman settlement (PRN 15383) (SU 5900 8950). These features consist of a large trackway oriented NW-SE and a series of small field systems and enclosures. These features are visible on aerial photographs and show the features running under the A4130, and it is likely that these continue into the application area.



## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present) that the contractor's works may remove or damage within the area of site being investigated.
- 2.1.2 To signal, before the destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard. All groundworks will be halted until the remains have been suitably investigated and dealt with by the attending archaeologist.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Six floodlight foundation pits measuring 1.2 m x 1.2 m x 1.2 m (Fig. 2) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator.
- 2.2.2 A continuous watching brief was maintained during the period of excavation, and details of all the stratigraphy encountered within the pits was recorded and sample sections drawn at a scale of 1:20.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 A series of four deposits were identified in each foundation pit (Fig. 3). The earliest deposit, which was identified between 0.9 and 1.2 m below current ground level comprised an orange sandy gravel (4). This was overlain by a 0.2 m thick grey sandy gravel (3), which was in turn overlain by an orangey brown, silty clay subsoil (2) and a silty loam topsoil (1).

#### 3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.





#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence for archaeological deposits, the sandy gravels identified are consistent within the underlying geology of flood plain gravel terraces.
- 4.1.2 Although field systems and enclosures have been identified through aerial photography, none were observed during the course of the watching brief. However given the limited size of the foundation pits it is still possible that these features exist between pits.



## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Context Inventory |       |           |           |              |       |      |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|------|
| context no        | type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment      | finds | date |
| 1                 | Layer | -         | 0.30      | Topsoil      | -     | -    |
| 2                 | Layer | -         | 0.40      | Subsoil      | -     | -    |
| 3                 | Layer | -         | 0.20      | Gravel Layer | -     | -    |
| 4                 | Layer | -         | 0.30      | Gravel Layer | -     | -    |



## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects.

Hey, G. and Lacey, M. 2001, Evaluation of Archaeological Decision-making Processes and Sampling Strategies.

Oxford Archaeology, 1992, Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

Oxford Archaeology, 2000, OA Environmental Sampling Guidelines and Instruction, Manual.

Oxford Archaeology, 2008, WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Wallingford RFC, Wallingford, Oxfordshire



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** OAS Watching Brief Report

**Site code:** WAFLOD08

**Grid reference:** NGR: SU 5933 8938

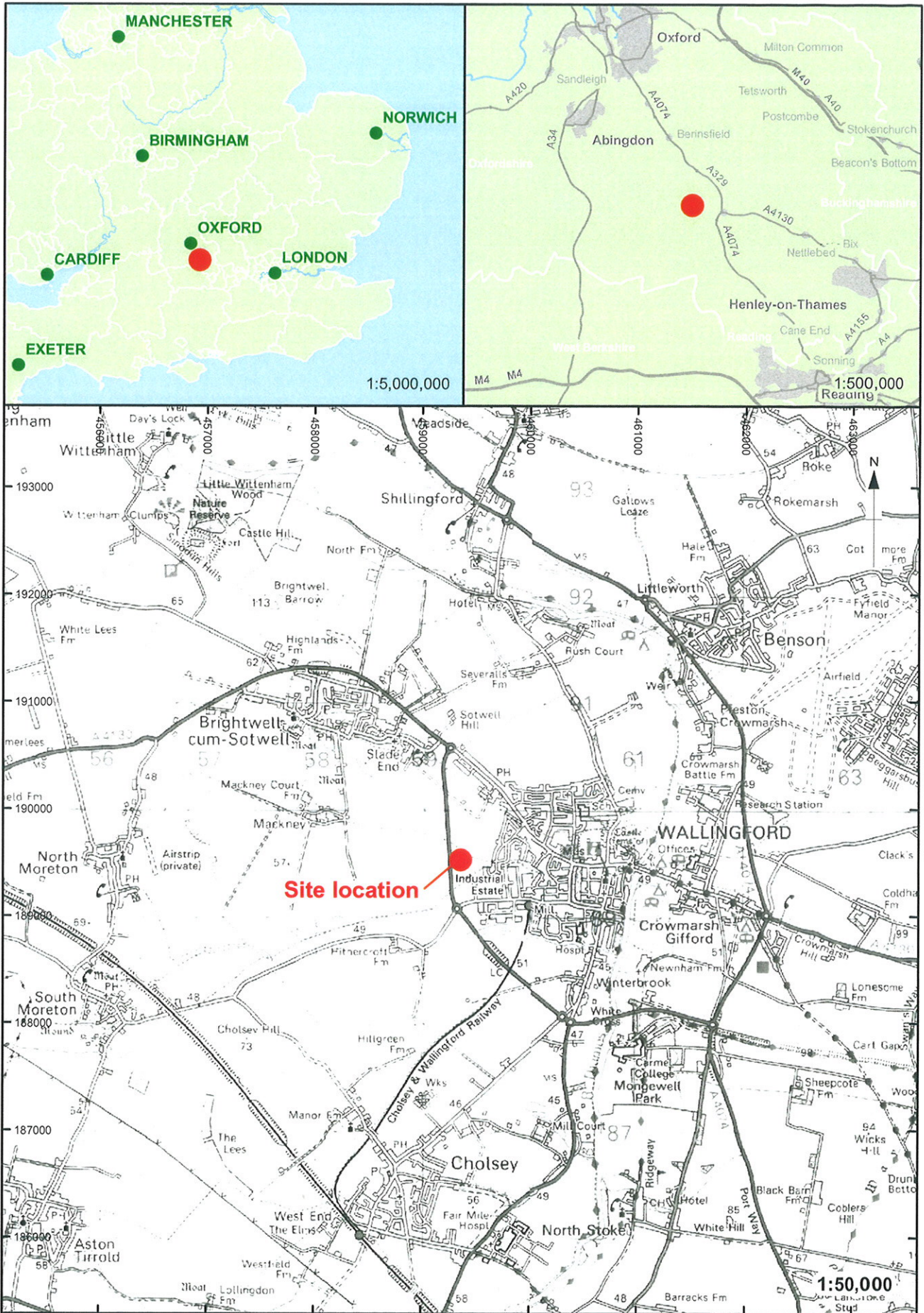
**Type:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration:** 24th and 25th November 2008

**Area of site:**

**Summary of results:** Six foundation pits measuring 1.2 m x 1.2 m x 1.2 m were excavated. No archaeology was identified.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2008.141



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Figure 1: Site location

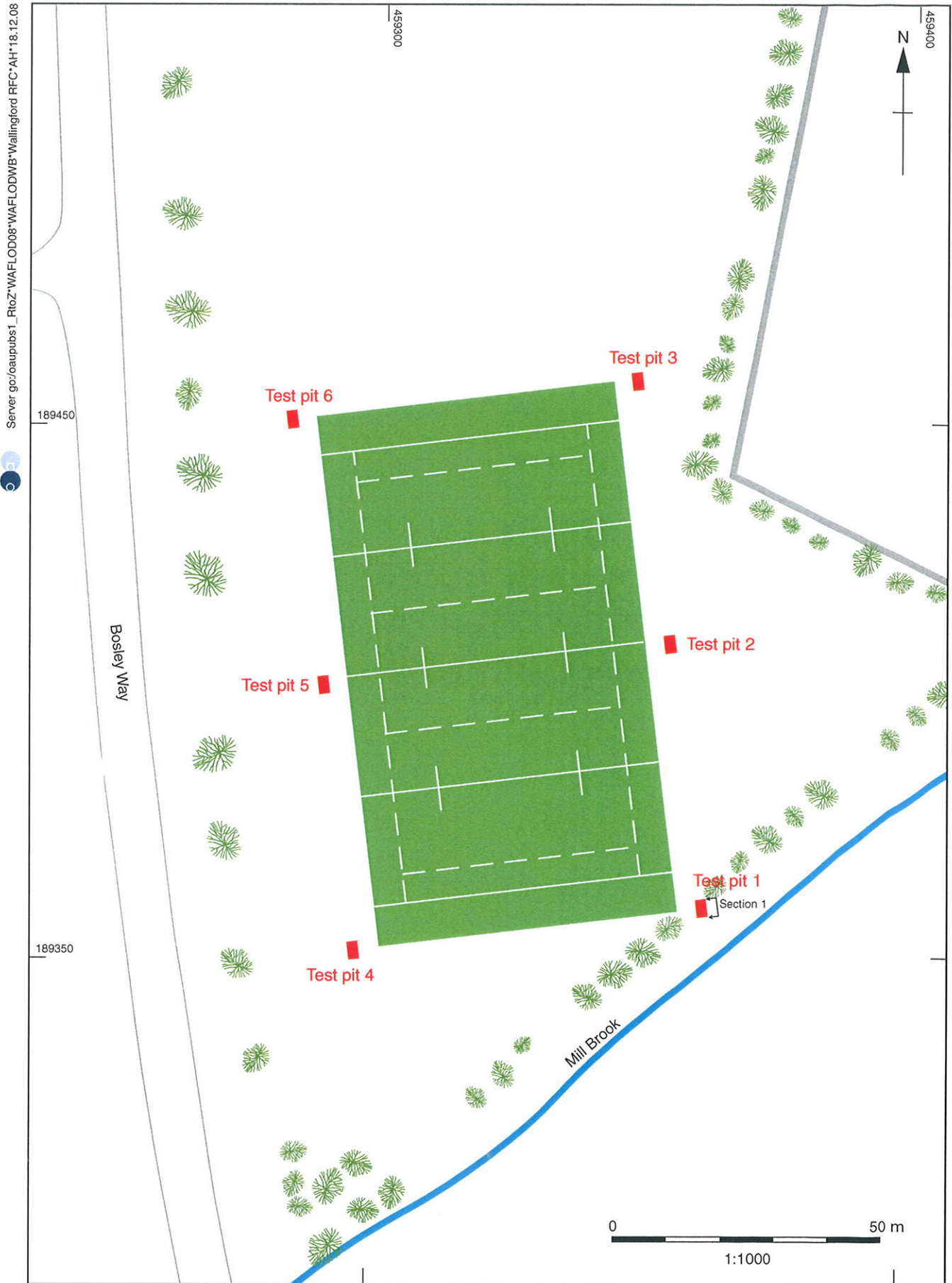


Figure 2 : Site plan



### Sample Section

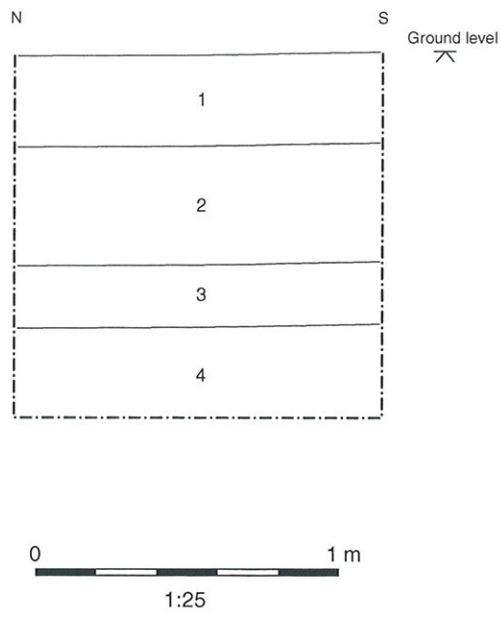


Figure 3 : Section 1 (sample section)

**OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

**OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Mauguio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: oamed@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



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