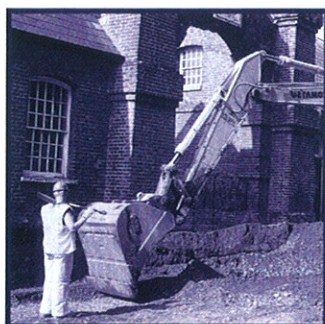


Skipwith Housemaster's House
Shiplake College
Shiplake
Henley-on-Thames
Oxfordshire



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology

15th February 2002

Client Name:
Nicholas Brown Webber Architects

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1215

Planning Ref N^o: PO1/SO795

NGR: SU 7576 7834

Client Name: Nicholas Webber Brown

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Skipwith Housemaster's House, Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: NGR SU 7576 7834
Planning Reference: PO1/SO795

OA Job Number: 1215
Site Code: HESHIP02
Invoice Code: HESHIPWB
Museum Accession No:

Prepared by: James Mumford

Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: 15th February 2002

Checked by: Jon Hiller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 15th February 2002

Approved by: Robert Williams
Position: Director, Head of Business and Operations
Date: 15th February 2002

Signed..... 

Document File Location U:\OAU\wbREPORTS\Oxfordshire\HESHIPCOLL.doc
Graphics File Location \\Server4\oaupubs1\All

drawings*HESHIPWB\Skipworth Housemaster House
Shiplake College, Henley on Thames*RMS* 15.02.01
Illustrated by Roz Smith

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2002

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Skipwith Housemaster's House, Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	1
2.1 Aims	1
2.2 Methodology.....	2
3 Results	2
3.1 Description of deposits.....	2
3.2 Finds	2
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains	2
4 Discussion And Conclusions.....	2
Appendix 1 Bibliography and references.....	3
Appendix 2 Summary of Site Details.....	3

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 OS Site location map
Fig. 2 Site plan of area of watching brief

SUMMARY

In February 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 7675 7834). The work was commissioned by Nicholas Brown Webber architects in advance of the construction of new Skipworth Housemaster's House at Shiplake College. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In February 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Nicholas Brown Webber Architects and Landscape Planners in respect of a planning application for the New Housemaster's House, east of the New 6th Form House (Planning Application No. P01/S0795)
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Paul Smith County Archaeological Officer for Oxfordshire County Council.
- 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 underlying geology of the application site is Thames floodplain alluvium over gravels. The site is above 59.5 m OD. The site is situated on the west bank of the Thames and is 910 m² in area with the new building footprint covering 170m².

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, 2002) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The proposal site lies east of the medieval Church of SS Peter and Paul within which area there is the potential for medieval vernacular remains surviving below ground. However, during refurbishment works in 1910, Roman bricks were noted in the south wall of the church and in the floor of the tower. The potential for the remains of a substantial Roman building to exist in the vicinity of Shiplake College is high.
- 1.3.3 OA undertook a previous watching brief at the 6th Form House in 2001 (OA, 2001).

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 area of the new house and attached garage was reduced and a 300 mm trench for the toe of the concrete foundation raft was then excavated. This was done with a JCB with a ditching bucket.

2.2.2 A site plan was made at a scale of 1:100. 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 site of the new house sloped from west to east. This resulted in the depth of the excavations varying from 0.5 m in the west corner to 0.1 m in the east corner. The excavation exposed the natural reddish brown silty clay with patches of flint gravel and nodules in the west corner of the site. Overlying this was subsoil of dark reddish brown silty sand with flint nodules, flint gravel and flecks of chalk, which ran from the north corner to the south. The topsoil was a dark greyish brown silty sand loam with flint gravel and chalk specks, with a patch of garden debris along the north east side of the site.

3.1.2 In the area covered by some old huts on the site the topsoil was very dark and had a lot of large flint hardcore for the hut bases. A number of services for the huts cut across the site north to south through the topsoil and into the subsoil.

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No environmental samples were taken during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The results from the watching brief show that no archaeological activity had occurred on the site until the college buildings were constructed.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2001, *New 6th Form House, Shiplake College, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire*.
Watching Brief Report

1992, D Wilkinson, *OAU Fieldwork Manual*

OA, 2001, *New 6th Form House, Shiplake College, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire*, Written Scheme of Investigation.

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Skipworth Housemaster's House, Shiplake College, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Site code: HESHIP02

Grid reference: NGR SU 7675 7834

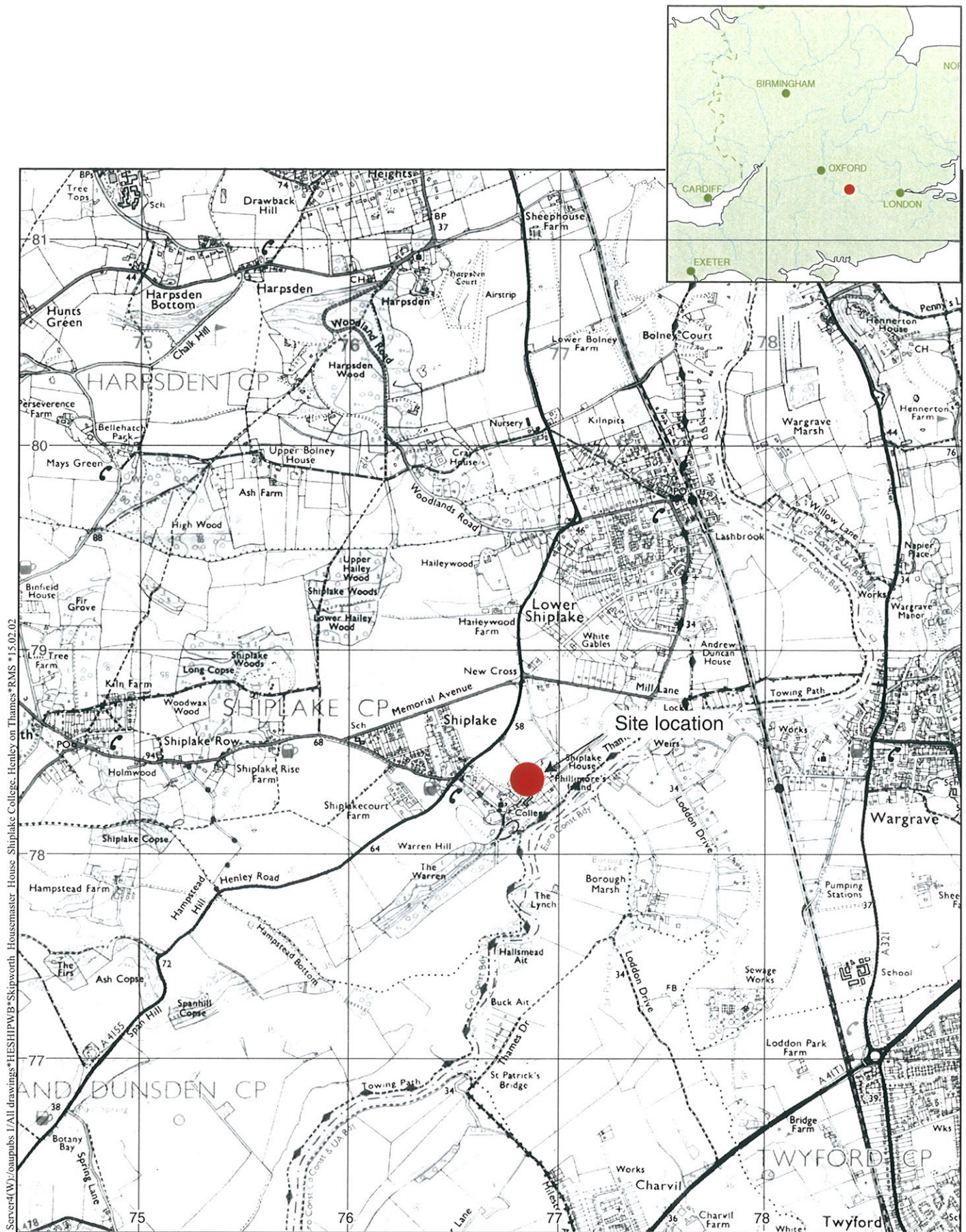
Type of watching brief: Excavation of foundations and ground reduction.

Date and duration of project: One site visit on the 13/02/2002

Area of site: 17 x 10 m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or features were discovered.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

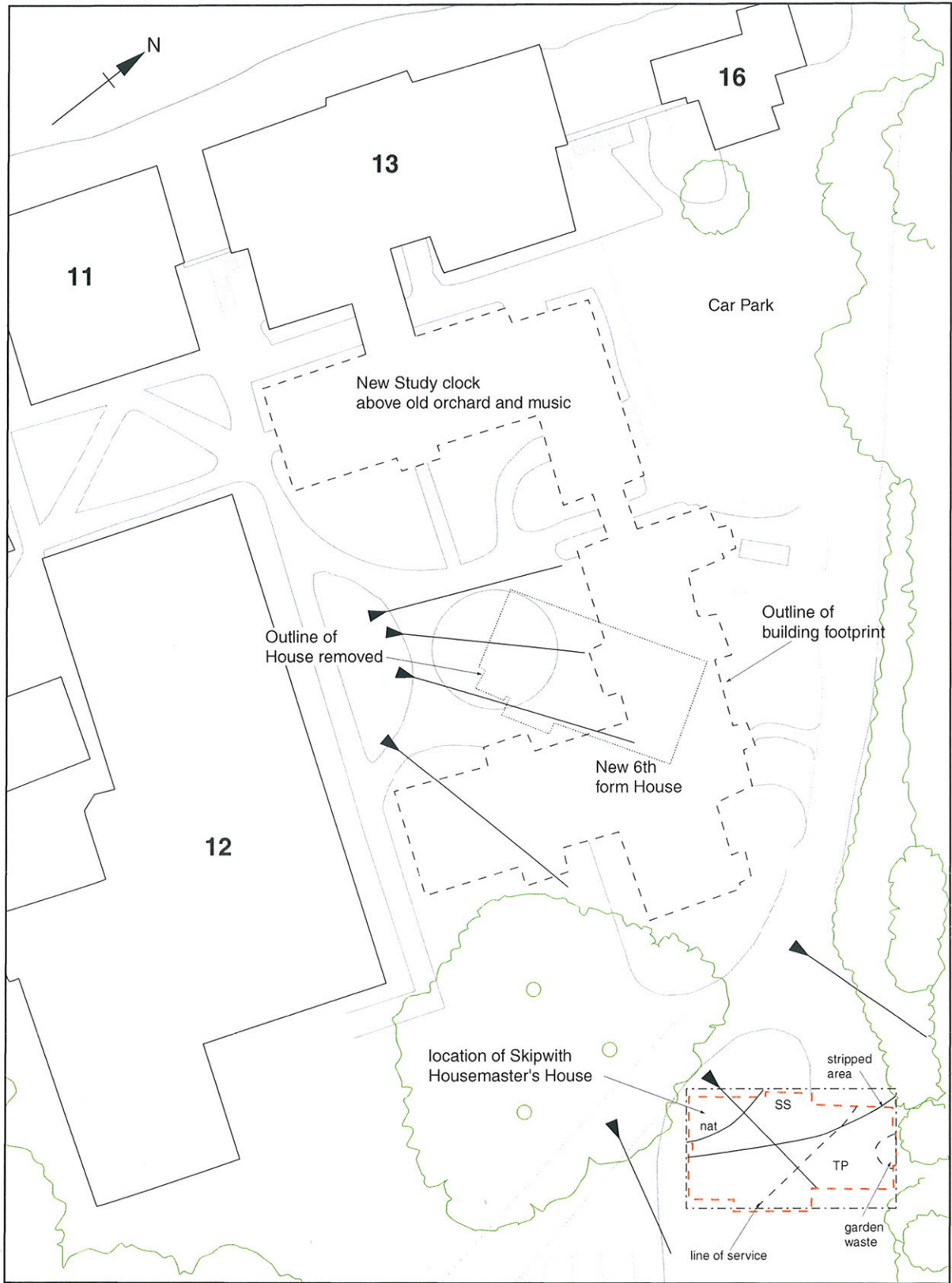


Server:(W)/gaupubs/HESHIPWB/Skipworth/Housemaster/House/Shipplake College, Henley on Thames* RMS *15.02.02

Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 1989. All rights reserved. Licence No AL 10005569

Scale 1:25000

Figure 1: Site location



Scale 1:500

Figure 2: Site location showing Building footprint, slope of topsoil, service trench and area of garden waste



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES