

51 Northdown Road
Longfield
Dartford
Kent



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

August 2005

Client: Mrs Jane Roper

Issue N^o: 1

Planning Ref N^o: DA/04/00255

NGR: TQ 601 693

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In August 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 51 Northdown Rd, Longfield, Dartford (NGR TQ 601 693). The work was commissioned by Mrs Jane Roper in advance of the construction of new extension at rear of the property. The watching brief revealed no archaeological deposit or remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In August 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 51 Northdown Rd, Longfield, Dartford (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs Jane Roper in respect of a planning application for the construction of new extension at rear of the property (Planning Application No. DA/04/00255).
- 1.1.2 Dartford Borough Council, the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (HCGKCC) recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording be attached to the planning consent. This is in line with Local Planning Policy and PPG 16 and a watching brief is the most appropriate measure to satisfy this condition in the first instance.
- 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 lies on upper chalk and is located within the parish of Longfield, and is bounded by Northfield Road to the south. The site is centred at NGR: TQ 601 693.

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 2005) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The development site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with a rectilinear feature (SMR No. TQ 66 NW 24) approximately 65 m away and a curvilinear feature / cropmark (SMR No. TQ 66 NW 39) approximately 185 m away.
- 1.3.3 There are also a number of cropmarks and enclosures located roughly 255 m away from the site.

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 ground works during the construction of the extension.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The work was carried out by a small mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.6 m wide bucket. The foundations were excavated to a depth of 1.2 m and service trenches to maximum of 0.8 m. This was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 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. 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 foundation trenches were 0.6 m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2 m below ground level. These cut into the chalk natural, which was sealed below a 0.3 m thick layer of dark grey brown silty clay cultivated topsoil. In the area of the old patio the cut for the terrace was observed with a 0.15 m thick compacted stone chipping base for the patio slabs (Fig. 2).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered from the watching brief.

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 No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the excavation of foundations and service trenches. Disturbance from the terracing of the patio and base make up were exposed adjacent to rear of the property.

APPENDICES**APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	Layer	0.3 m			Topsoil
2	Layer	0.15 m			stone chipping hardcore
3	Natural				Natural chalk

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2005 51 Northdown Rd, Longfield, Dartford, Kent Written Scheme of Investigation

OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (1st edition, ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: 51 Northdown Road, Longfield, Dartford, Kent

Site code: DANORD 05

Grid reference: NGR TQ 601 693

Type of watching brief: Monitoring of ground works during the construction of new extension at rear of property.

Date and duration of project: One site visit on the 8/8/2005.

Area of site: 17 m x 11 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed no archaeological deposit or remains.

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



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

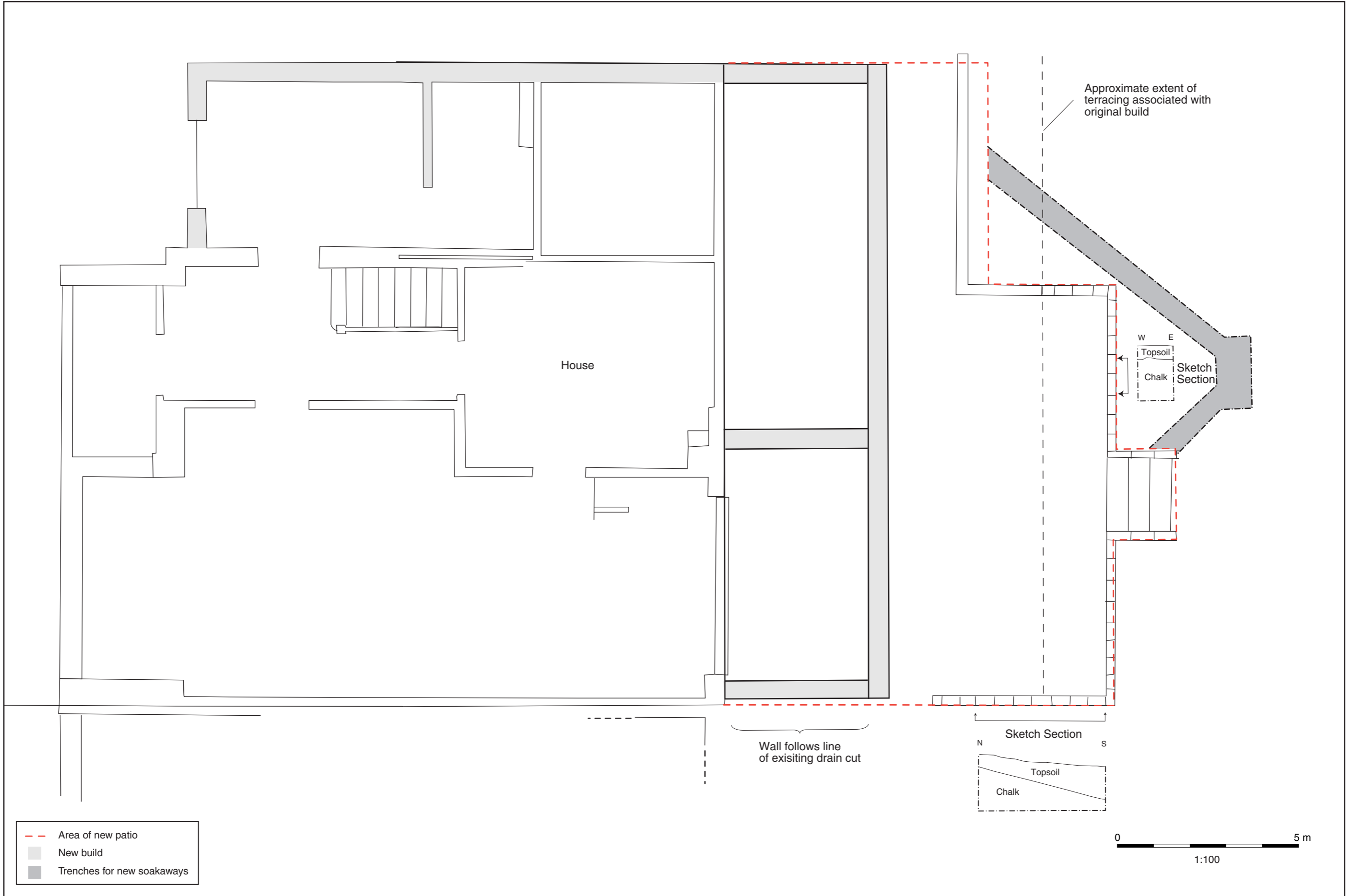


Figure 2: Site plan and sections