



Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

May 2017

Client: Thames Water

Issue No: 1

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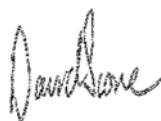
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Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

*Written by Steve Teague with a contribution by John Cotter
and illustrated by Markus Dylewski*

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Summary

In June 2017, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Thames Water to carry out a watching brief along the route of a proposed new water main installation on Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

The presence of 20th century made ground deposits was recorded across the site along with the remains of the 20th century terraced housing that once stood on site. Significant truncation has taken place across the site and the lack of natural deposits would suggest that this has removed any archaeological deposits that may have existed. The only find of note was a complete stoneware spirits flagon dating to c 1880-1950 recovered from the rubble of former house foundations.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank, Claire Hallybone, Thames Water Archaeologist, for commissioning this project. Thanks are also due to Richard Oram, Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, who monitored the work on behalf of the County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was undertaken by Lee Sparks. Finds processing was managed by Leigh Allen. The archive was prepared under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Thames Water to undertake a watching brief along the route of a new water main installation at Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire.
- 1.1.2 A brief was not set but discussion with Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) recommended a watching brief during the course of the works. Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was compiled that detailed the intended methodology of the watching brief (OA 2017). This was approved by OCC prior to the commencement of the works.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching briefs (2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site (NGR: SP 45432 40341; Fig 1) is located along Calthorpe Street, just to the south of Banbury High Street. The proposed route runs along the edges of the road which comprise pavement and tarmac.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is alluvium overlying Lower Lias (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet no. 201).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been discussed by reviewing the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER).
- 1.3.2 Neolithic evidence in this part of Oxfordshire is sparse. A scatter of worked flint dated to the Neolithic and Bronze Age was found at Hardwick Farm (OHER PRN 1098). A probable causewayed enclosure has also been identified at Wykham Farm to the south-west of Banbury, although this has only been interpreted by from aerial photographs (OHER PRN 16016).
- 1.3.3 The area to the north of the site at Hardwick Farm is the site of a shrunken medieval village and the furrows identified by geophysics and the evaluation appear to be associated with this settlement (OHER PRN 1098).
- 1.3.4 A multi-phase field system has been identified at Hennef Way to the north of Banbury which dates to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval periods (OHER PRN 16934).
- 1.3.5 A pit containing domestic refuse including Potters Pury and Brill wares of 13th or 14th century date was found during an evaluation at the Calthorpe Street/Marlborough Street redevelopment. It appears to have lain at the rear end of a burgage plot established by the 13th century (OA).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the watching brief were to determine the nature, function and to characterise any archaeological remains within their cultural and environmental setting.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief were as follows:

- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- ii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- iii. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- iv. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- v. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vi. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A summary of general approach to watching briefs and recording is outlined within the WSI (OA 2017).

2.2.2 The watching brief took place in June 2017. Several narrow trenches were initially opened along the proposed route of the new water main (Fig. 2). The excavations were monitored continuously during the course of the excavations and examined for signs of archaeological remains. Once the footings had been excavated the exposed sections were cleaned and then recorded.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the deposits identified.
- 3.1.2 The water main trench was excavated to depth of c 1.2m and revealed a large number modern service trenches throughout its length that extended to below its base (Plates 1-2). Natural levels were not revealed.
- 3.1.3 The earliest feature revealed was a red brick wall (3) that extended c 8.30m along the trench in front of Calthorpe House (Fig. 2; Plate 3). It was founded upon concrete and at least three brick pillars or wall returns were observed, spaced every c 3.20m.
- 3.1.4 Abutting the wall was a thick deposit brick and gravel rubble (5) that probably represented demolition associated with the structure that the wall pertained to. A complete stoneware spirits flagon dating to c 1880-1950 was recovered from the rubble (Plate 4).
- 3.1.5 Tarmac (1) and its hardcore base (2), totalling c 0.60m in thick, formed the existing road surface.

4 FINDS

4.1 Pottery

by John Cotter

- 4.1.1 Description: A single complete vessel (1461g). A fairly small cylindrical spirits flagon in English stoneware with a Bristol-type glaze (Fabric code: ENGS BRST). Complete and in pristine condition, apart from a missing handle originally attached to the shoulder (Plate 4). The upper part of the vessel is conical and tapers to a narrow neck with a pulley-like rim. The inside of the rim and neck has a screw-thread which dates it after c 1880, and probably after c 1890. It is in a pale grey or off-cream stoneware with a clear Bristol-type glaze all over externally and internally. The upper third of the vessel has been dipped in an iron-rich slip appearing light brown under the glaze. No maker's mark present, but a London or Bristol source is likely.
- 4.1.2 Vessel height 218mm; body diameter 114mm; rim diameter 49mm.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The watching brief identified no surviving archaeological remains that predated the late 19th century. Natural levels were not reached and are assumed have been truncated to the depth of the water main trench by modern surfaces.
- 5.1.2 Brick foundations and a concrete base relating to the houses that stood on the site in the early-mid 20th century were uncovered and recorded during the course of the works.

APPENDIX A ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Finds	Date
1	Layer	0.2m			Tarmac Road		20 th Century
2	Layer	0.4m			Made ground		20 th Century
3	Structure	0.5m	0.2m		Brick foundations		20 th Century
4	Structure	?	?		Concrete base		20 th Century
5	Layer	>0.6m	?		Rubble layer		20 th century
6	Layer	?	?		Alluvium		-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIFA, 2014 Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief
(https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf)
Heritage Gateway, 2017 (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>)

MoLA, 2014 Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes (<http://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes>)

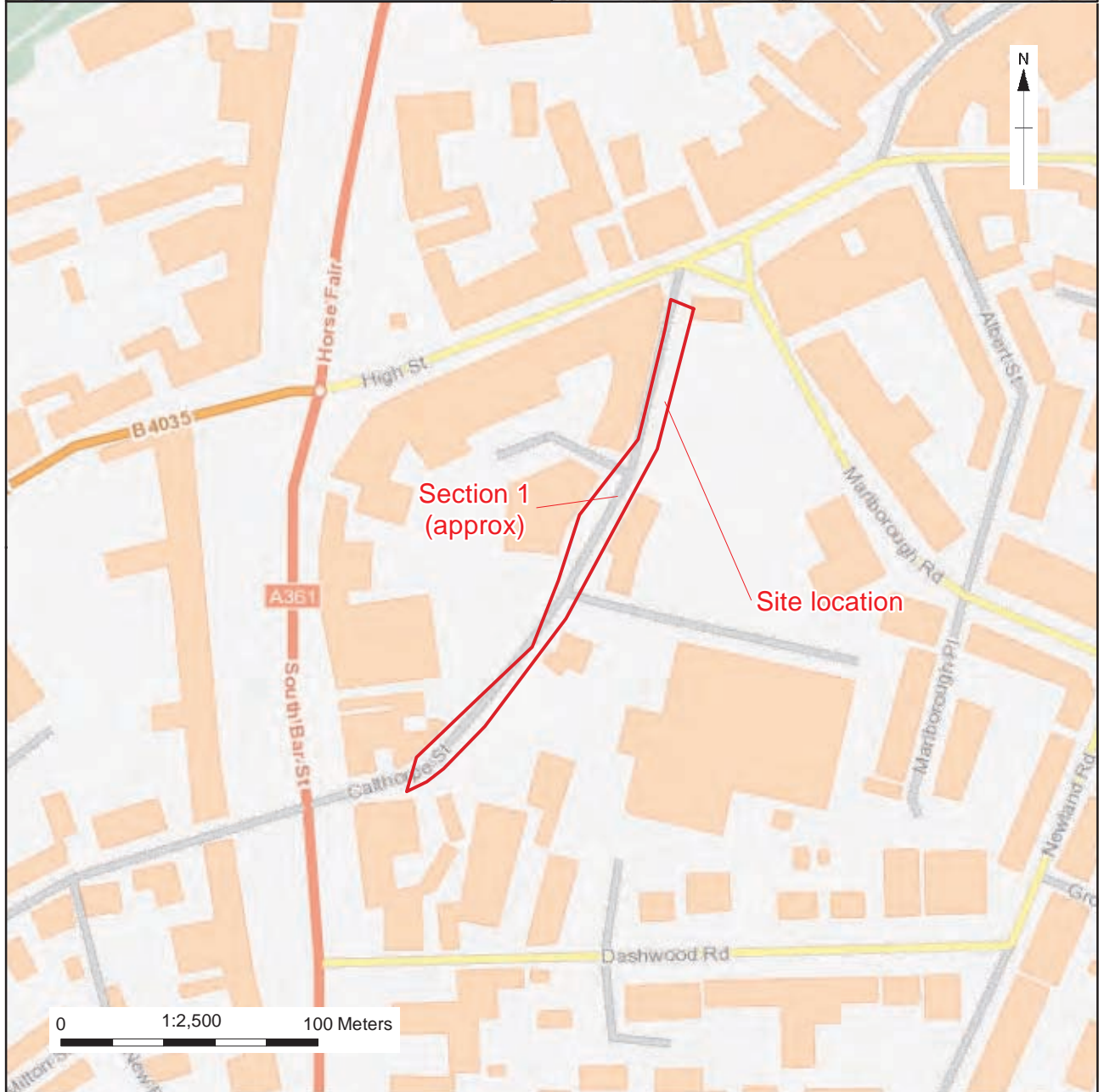
OA, 1984 Calthorpe Street/Marlborough Street Redevelopment: Archaeological Evaluation.
(Unpublished document/SOX2379)

OA, 2017 Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation: Watching Brief

APPENDIX C

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire
Site code:	BACALT17
Grid Reference	NGR: SP 45432 40341
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	5/6/17-5/7/17
Area of Site	0.2 ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2017.98.
Summary of Results:	In June 2017, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Thames Water to carry out a watching brief along the route of a proposed new water main installation on Calthorpe Street, Banbury. The presence of 20th century made ground deposits was recorded across the site along with the remains of the 20th century terraced housing that once stood on site. Significant truncation has taken place across the site and the lack of natural deposits would suggest that this has removed any archaeological deposits that may have existed.



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Figure 1: Site location

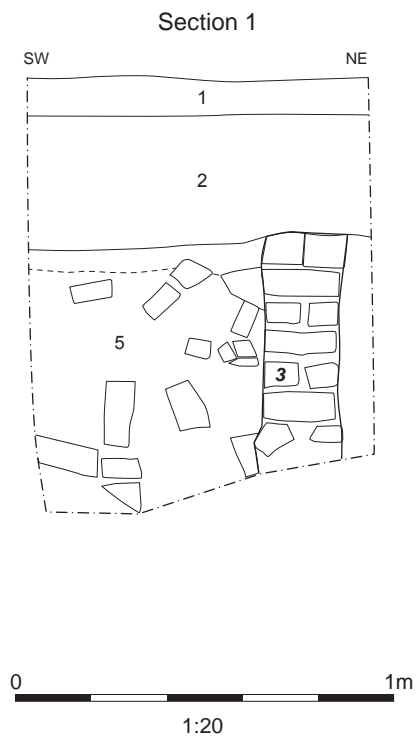


Figure 2: Section 1



Plate 1: Excavations for the new water main



Plate 2: Visibility of deposits and sections (1m scale)



Plate 3: Brick structure 3 looking east (1m scale)



Plate 4: 19-20th century stoneware flagon



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