


Headington School
Headington Road
Oxford



Archaeological
Watching Brief Report


oxfordarchaeology

southsouthsouth
September 2014

Client: West Waddy ADP
on behalf of Headington School

Issue No: 1
NGR: Centred on SP 53596 06696



Client Name: West Waddy ADP
 Client Ref No: -
 Document Title: Headington School, Headington Road, Oxford
 Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
 Issue/Version Number: 1
 Grid Reference: SP 53596 06696
 Planning Reference: 13/02697/FUL
 Invoice Code: OXHEADWB
 OA Job Number: 5843
 Site Code: OXHEAD14
 Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire Museums Service
 Museum Accession No.: OXCMS:2014.7
 Event No.: -

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Robin Bashford Site Supervisor and Carl Champness Senior Project Manager	Andrew Simmonds Project Officer (post excavation)	Carl Champness Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location: X:\o\Oxford, Headington School
 Graphics File Location: \\Server1\invoice codes i thru q\O_codes\OXHEADWB
 Illustrated by: Julia Collins

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Janus House
 Osney Mead
 Oxford OX2 0ES
 t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
 f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oxfordarchaeology.com
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Headington School, Headington Road, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Robin Bashford and Carl Champness

with contributions from Paul Booth, Cynthia Poole, Lena Strid and Geraldine Crann, Julia Meen and illustrated by Julia Collins

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Headington School, Headington Road, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

In May 2014, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief for West Waddy ADP on behalf of Headington School during groundworks associated with the construction of a new sports building and classroom extension. The watching brief revealed a cluster of early Iron Age pits that may have been associated with unlocated domestic focus situated somewhere to the south and/or west beyond the boundary of the site. Other features revealed included an isolated undated pit, the base of a possible furrow, and a brick well or soakaway of probable 17th-18th century construction. Additionally, a relatively linear configuration of postholes was revealed and are likely to represent a modern fenceline.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by West Waddy ADP on behalf of Headington School to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new sports building and classroom extension at the school.
- 1.1.2 The work was being undertaken as a condition attached to the planning permission (planning ref: 13/02697/FUL). A brief was set by the Oxford City Council Archaeologist (Radford 2014), detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced which outlined how OA would implement those requirements (OA 2014).
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The area of the development was situated c 2.7km north-east of Oxford city centre at NGR SP 53596 06696 (Fig. 1). It lay within the suburb of Headington, along Headington Road.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site was mapped by the British Geological Association as sandstone bedrock which is part of the Beckley sandstone member (BGS Sheet 237 1:50,000). These are shallow marine deposits that were formed in the Jurassic period around 156-161 million years ago. No drift geology was recorded overlying the site.
- 1.2.3 The site is currently an area of hard standing and grass within the grounds of Headington School. The site is also located within the Headington Hill Conservation area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background was outlined in the brief from Oxford City Council (Radford 2014) and is briefly summarised below:

- 1.3.2 This site is of interest because it is located on a natural terrace at the top of Headington Hill, in a location that has the potential for Iron Age, Roman and early Saxon activity. Previously early Saxon finds have been found to the west, on the crest of the hill (HER No 3629) and Iron Age and Roman rural settlement activity has been identified to the east, near the school music room (HER No 26157).
- 1.3.3 An excavation in advance of construction of a new music building within the grounds of the school in 2008 uncovered early Roman boundaries forming part of a rectilinear plan. The majority of features encountered can be dated to the 1st century, with a few residual sherds of late Iron Age pottery. The boundaries probably formed part of a field or enclosure complex with domestic occupation probably located a short distance away (TVAS 2008).

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The main aims of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the ground works, paying particular regard to the potential for Roman remains;
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site and to take samples where appropriate;
- To prepare an appropriate archaeological archive of the site and make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Figure 2 shows the areas monitored during the watching brief and the location of the archaeological features encountered.

2.2.2 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI (OA, 2014). Standard methodologies for Geomatics and Survey, environmental evidence, artefactual evidence and burials can also be found in that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

2.2.3 Site specific methodologies were as follows:

- The requirement was for a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological deposits.
- The watching brief was maintained during ground disturbance works including surface stripping, ground reduction, landscaping works and all other invasive work.
- As archaeological deposits were encountered, the site contractor allowed sufficient time for them to be properly investigated and recorded.
- Bulk samples for charred plant remains were collected from the fills of early Iron Age pits 4, 8, 10 and 12.
- The features were cleaned and excavated by hand. The early Iron Age pits were 100% excavated in order to maximise finds retrieval, due to their obvious significance, and the other discrete features were half-sectioned

- Excavation was undertaken in line with the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, the Oxford City Archaeological Officer's brief for the work and the procedures outlined in the WSI.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Early Iron Age pits (Fig. 3)

- 3.1.1 Natural geology was encountered at approximately 0.75m below existing ground level.
- 3.1.2 In the south-west corner of the site, the natural geology was cut by a group of seven pits. The pits were arranged into a cluster of six intercutting features (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 16) with a single discrete pit (11) that was located against the western edge of the area. The pits were typically oval in plan, although pits 3 and 11 were more sub-rectangular. They had quite steep-sided profiles and the larger examples had flat bases. Their depths ranged from 0.25-0.52m. Pits 1 and 16 were the earliest features in the cluster. Pit 1 was one of the larger pits, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep, but pit 16 had been largely truncated by the digging of the subsequent pits, and only part of the southern and eastern edges survived. The first pit to be dug into the fill of pit 16 was pit 5, which was the smallest feature in the group, and this pit and pit 1 were both cut by pit 3. Pit 3 was cut by pit 7 and pit 1 was also cut by pit 9.
- 3.1.3 At least two possible stake holes (15) were identified in the base of pit 3. These may have supported light wooden frames used as part of the original pit function. However, they may alternatively have been caused by bioturbation and based on their size and morphology it was impossible to be certain.
- 3.1.4 The fills of the pits were all of similar composition, each containing a single deposit of slightly organic sandy silt with frequent finds and charcoal inclusions (10-20%). These deposits are interpreted as domestic rubbish deposits with which the pits were filled shortly after they were dug. The fills of pits 3, 7, 9, 11 and 16 produced large fragments of early Iron Age pottery as well as fired clay, burnt animal bone fragments and charred plant remains.
- 3.1.5 The features were overlain by up to 0.4m of mid-dark brown silty sand subsoil, which was in turn overlain by up to 0.35m of sandy loam topsoil.

Undated features (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.6 In the north-eastern corner of the reduced dig for the new sports building was an isolated pit, c 0.75m in diameter and at least 0.85m deep. No artefactual evidence was recovered from this feature.
- 3.1.7 Immediately to the north of the undated pit was a relatively ephemeral, E-W aligned linear feature which was a maximum of 0.1m deep. The edges of the feature were quite irregular. It is possible that this represents the base of a furrow, although no other similarly aligned features were observed during the works.
- 3.1.8 A NW-SE aligned linear configuration of post-holes was observed in the north-eastern area of the reduced dig. These were seen to cut the subsoil deposit and the fills were very similar in composition to the existing topsoil. It is likely that this represents a fence line which, although not closely datable, is likely to be relatively modern.
- 3.1.9 The top of a circular brick-lined well or soakaway was revealed to the west of Davenport Cottages. The structure had a corbelled top that is characteristic of 17th-



18th century wells that utilised a pump and lead piping rather than a bucket (M Simms pers. comm.).

3.2 Finds Summary

3.2.1 The excavation produced 110 sherds (1391g) of pottery of later prehistoric date from five separated deposits, all fills of the small cluster of closely adjacent pits. The same features produced a single fragment of fired clay weighing 11g, 2 pieces of undatable prehistoric struck flint and 10 fragments of burnt unworked stone. Full reports on the artefactual material can be found in Appendix B.

3.3 Environmental Summary

3.3.1 Four environmental bulk samples were taken from the fills of the early Iron Age pits, none of which contained much charred plant material beyond what was generally fairly fragmented charcoal. The pits also yielded 11 fragments of unidentified burnt bone weighing a total of 3g. Full reports on the environmental evidence can be found in Appendix C.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The large fragments of pottery, burnt animal bone and cereal remains recovered from the fills of the cluster of pits in the south-western corner of the site suggest that they derive from domestic activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. The poorly fired nature of the pottery may also suggest possible local pottery production at the site. Given that the evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity revealed near the Music Room lies c 150m to the north-east, it seems more likely that these pits are associated with a different settlement focus. The fact that no archaeological features (with the exception of the isolated pit) were observed over the remainder of the new building footprint to the north and east of the pit cluster would suggest that this focus lies to the south and/or west of the current development site. If this is the case it is likely that these features represent rubbish pits on the periphery of the settlement.
- 4.1.2 Remains of early Iron Age settlement are still quite rare in Oxford, although what evidence is known has prompted Lambrick (2013) to suggest that there was a move towards major communal foci in late prehistory, especially to large fortified enclosures on naturally defensible hill tops and steep-sided spurs. On the hills to the east and west of Oxford several sites have produced evidence of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age activity, mainly from sparse pottery finds, gullies, pit and postholes. As yet no substantial settlement from this period has been found, but there are hints of such sites at Rose Hill, Wytham Hill and on Headington Hill.
- 4.1.3 In the vicinity of the watching brief, evidence of possible middle to late Iron Age activity was also recorded during excavations at the Music Building, Headington School (TVAS 2008), where early Roman boundaries formed part of a rectilinear plan. The site appears to have been occupied until the early 2nd century AD (TVAS 2008). Several pits with similar fills to those found at the school have been recorded at Ruskin College, one of which contained five sherds from a single early Iron Age pottery. At the Manor Ground, a small quantity of Bronze Age and early Iron Age pottery was recorded from a single feature, and there was also evidence of middle to late Iron Age activity (JHMS 2003).
- 4.1.4 Further afield, similar pit features and a large enclosure ditch were discovered at Tilbury Farm, on Wytham Hill, which were filled with early Iron Age shell-tempered pottery, animal bone and ironwork. The large ditch was interpreted as a possible hillfort ditch, but this has yet to be confirmed through further excavation. Similarly early Iron



Age features and finds were found at Annesley Road, on Rose Hill, to the south of Oxford.

- 4.1.5 The features and finds identified during the watching brief at Heading School are significant as they provide further evidence for a focus of early Iron Age settlement on the hills surrounding Oxford. Many of these hill-top sites continued as a focus for settlement throughout the Iron Age and well into the Roman period.

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APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Soil Description
1	Cut	0.25	1.1	1.1	Circular pit of indeterminate function	
2	Fill	0.25	1.1	1.1	Fill of Pit 1	Mid grey brown silty sand
3	Cut	0.4	0.9	1.3	Square-cut pit of indeterminate function	
4	Fill	0.4	0.9	1.3	Fill of Pit 3	Mid-dark grey silty sand with 5-10% charcoal inclusions and concentrations and lenses of re-deposited clayey sand natural
5	Cut	0.5	0.5	0.2	Small pit of indeterminate function	
6	Fill	0.5	0.5	0.2	Fill of Pit 5	Mid-dark grey silty sand with 5-10% charcoal inclusions
7	Cut	0.52	0.97	1.14	Ovate pit of indeterminate function	
8	Fill	0.52	0.97	1.14	Fill of Pit 7	Mid grey brown sandy silt with 5% charcoal inclusions and concentrations of re-deposited natural
9	Cut	0.25	0.50	0.84	Ovate pit of indeterminate function	
10	Fill	0.25	0.50	0.84	Fill of Pit 9	Mid-dark brownish grey sandy silt with 5-10% charcoal inclusions
11	Cut	0.3	0.9+	1.1	Probable pit partially exposed along eastern edge of new build	



Context	Type	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Soil Description
12	Fill	0.3	0.9+	1.1	Fill of Pit 11	Mid grey brown silty sand with 2-3% charcoal inclusions
13	Cut				Bioturbation	
14	Fill				Fill of bioturbation	Mid grey brown sandy silt
15	Cuts				Possible stakeholes in the base of Pits 1, 3 and 11 but more likely bioturbation	
16	Cut	0.45	0.4	0.7	Small ovate pit with undercut edges	
17	Fill	0.45	0.4	0.7	Fill of Pit 16	Mid-dark grey sandy silt with 5-10% charcoal inclusions and concentrations and lenses of re-deposited natural



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Paul Booth

Introduction

B.1.1 The excavation produced 110 sherds (1391g) of pottery of later prehistoric date from five separated deposits, all fills of the small cluster of closely adjacent pits. The pottery was recorded using the methodology and codes set out in the Oxford Archaeology recording system for later prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth 2012). Since the assemblage was small, pottery from soil sample residues was noted as well as the hand-collected material. These amounted to 38 sherds (102g) which are included in the overall totals given above. The pottery was in variable condition. Some sherds were quite friable, but in general surfaces were fairly well-preserved and the mean sherd weight of the hand-collected material (17.9g) suggests material that had not been subject to extensive redeposition.

Fabrics

B.1.2 The fabric of most of the sherds was examined under a binocular microscope at x10 or x20 magnification, and recorded using letter codes to identify principal inclusion types in order of importance (including an indication of a lack of secondary inclusions if this is relevant), plus a numeric indicator of coarseness on a sliding scale from 1 (very fine) to 5 (very coarse). Inclusion types present in the present assemblage are:

- A quartz sand
- G Grog
- I Iron oxides/pellets
- N None
- R an uncertain 'rock' type, possible calcite
- S Shell
- V Vegetable/organic
- Z indeterminate voids

B.1.3 The great majority of the sherds belonged to a single fabric tradition (hereafter 'I'). Sherds in this tradition were coarsely tempered with varying combinations of distinct rounded iron oxides/pellets, typically 1-3mm in diameter, irregular/elongated voids up to 5mm in length, and rounded or subrounded quartz sand grains ranging from c 0.3mm-1mm in size. The identification of the voids is uncertain, but on balance it is most likely that they represent leached out shell rather than burnt out organic material, although the presence of the latter is possible in a few cases. Fabric variations were noted in a couple of cases. A rim sherd in context 10 was recorded as fabric VAI4, but in overall character was consistent with the rest of the group, and one sherd in context 8 appeared to have at least one large grog inclusion –the inclusion in question apparently deriving from a shell-tempered fabric. The surface treatment and firing of sherds of this group were very variable, giving the initial impression that distinctly different fabrics were present. Sherds varied from hard and smooth-surfaced to rough and brittle, and the extent to which the voids were visible on sherd surfaces was also very variable, a reflection of variation in the proportion of ?shell incorporated in each piece. Sherd



colour was also extremely variable, from oxidised throughout to completely unoxidised, with almost every possible combination of interior and exterior firing represented. The more obviously vesicular sherds tended to be oxidised, while the better finished and harder fired sherds were more usually unoxidised, but these correlations were not invariable. Burnished surfaces were specifically noted only on seven sherds – one rim (with internal and external burnish) and the rest probably all from vessel shoulders/necks. Sherd thickness in this fabric tradition was variable, with some unusually thick sherds present (up to c 15-16mm).

- B.1.4 Only three sherds were certainly not in the I fabric tradition. Two of these were sand-tempered: a fine sherd in context 4 and a more coarsely tempered small fragment in context 8. A further sherd from context 8 contained the iron oxide inclusions of the dominant fabric, but also contained moderate quantities of a hard angular white inclusion, possibly calcite. None of these pieces displayed any other diagnostic characteristics.

Vessel forms

- B.1.5 Diagnostic sherds were rarer throughout the assemblage. Five rim sherds were present, all probably from jars of various types. The rims were typically simple forms, either upright or slightly outsloping or curving. One rim in context 4 was from a slightly necked vessel with a shoulder at the base of the neck, while a further fairly fine rim in context 4 (from sample 4) was of a straight outsloping type typical of round- or angled-shouldered (tripartite) vessels. This sherd also had both internal and external burnish characteristic of such vessels. A single possible base angle sherd was also present. One sherd had a partly-surviving hole, with an estimated diameter of c 6mm, which seems to have been made prior to firing. Its function is unclear.

Chronology

- B.1.6 The possible tripartite vessel provides the best indication of the date of the group. This form is characteristic of the early Iron Age in this region (cf Harding 1972, plates 55-57). The other rims are not particularly diagnostic in chronological terms, but are all consistent with an early Iron Age date. The homogeneity of the assemblage overall suggests a limited time span for the excavated features, but only with the fairly broad compass of this period, perhaps 5th-4th century BC.

Discussion

- B.1.7 The assemblage has some unusual features, most particularly the consistency of the fabric of almost all the sherds, notwithstanding the evident variation in their surface appearance. It was this variation, together with the lack of typologically diagnostic material, which initially raised considerable uncertainty about the date of the assemblage. The fabric lacks obvious local parallels, although if one of the principal tempering agents was indeed shell (represented by voids) this would be consistent with the dominant early Iron Age tradition of the region. The prominent iron oxides in the fabric may (speculatively) reflect a particular local clay – it is hard to see that they would have been a deliberate addition as tempering. The (broad) consistency of fabric and the extreme variation of surface condition and colour strongly suggest very local production, although there is no other evidence for this from the present site. The pottery does not, however, simply represent production waste, since at least one sherd appeared to have a burnt residue on its internal surface, suggesting use as a cooking vessel.

Nevertheless, the assemblage may incorporate a component of waste material from immediately local pottery production, and as such is of interest, even though it is likely that the range of distribution of this material was very limited.

Table 1: Summary of pottery assemblage

Context	I fabrics		Other fabrics		Notes
	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	No. sherds	Wt. (g)	
4	42	607	1	4	2 rims
8	25	423	2	5	1 rim
10	30	225			2 rims
12	2	113			
17	1	21			

B.2 Fired clay

Cynthia Poole

- B.2.1 A single fragment of fired clay weighing 11g was recovered from context 8. This was made in a moderate density of medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz sand and small white calcareous grit <1mm, probably chalk. The form of the object is uncertain: the only shaping is one even convex moulded surface. It is not heavily fired so is more likely to relate to domestic ovens or hearths rather than industrial activity. As a non-diagnostic fragment this piece cannot be closely dated: fired clay was in use from the later prehistoric through to the medieval period.

B.3 Worked flint

Geraldine Crann

- B.3.1 Two pieces of undatable prehistoric struck flint were recovered from pit fill 12.

Context	Description
12	Single flint flake, winged butt, slight patination, modern break with no patination to new edge, rolled and edge damaged, 3g
12	<1> Single chip from environmental sample, 1g

B.4 Stone

Ruth Shaffrey

- B.4.1 Ten fragments of burnt unworked stone were recovered from context 8. Having been recorded the stone may be discarded.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

C.1 Charred plant remains

Julia Meen

Introduction

- C.1.1 Four environmental bulk samples were taken during an archaeological watching brief at Headington School, Oxford, in May 2014. The samples were taken from the fills of a series of intercutting pits, noted in the field to contain fragments of what appeared to be poorly fired pottery. One of the aims of taking the bulk samples was to help establish whether these pits were used for the disposal of 'wasters' from nearby pottery production, or whether the fills represent dumps of domestic refuse. The samples were processed for the recovery of ecofacts such as charred plant remains, as well as any bones and other artefacts that may be present.
- C.1.2 The four pit fills were all thought to have been deposited during the Iron Age, on the basis of spot dating of associated pottery. Iron Age settlement has previously been identified in the close vicinity of the features. Sample <1> was taken from pit fill (12), a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand of 39L volume. Sample <2> was taken from pit fill (10), an olive brown (5/6) sandy silt, 39L in volume. Sample <3> was taken from pit fill (8), a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand, which was 38L in volume. Sample <4> was taken from pit fill (4), an olive brown (2.5Y 4/3) sandy silt, which was 38L in volume.

Methodology

- C.1.3 Each sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on 250µm mesh and the heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification to establish presence of charred plant remains. Identifications of this material was made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. The flots were then dry-sieved to determine the proportion of charcoal in each which would be of potentially identifiable size, generally taken to include pieces above 2 or 3mm in diameter. This was particularly important as any further analysis of the charcoal assemblages would require a minimum of at least 50 identified items in order to make statistically valid interpretations of the material, and much of the charcoal in the samples was highly fragmented and not appropriate for species identification. Ten items of charcoal from each sample were examined initially using a binocular microscope at x8-35 magnification and then using a Brunel Metallurgical SP-400 BD microscope at x50-400 magnification, under guidance from S. Boardman.. This was to make identifications to species or genus level, in order to provide an overview of the range of species present. Charcoal identifications were made with reference to Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Results

Finds

- C.1.4 Pottery was recovered from all four of the samples. In addition, a small quantity of fragmented burnt bone was recovered from samples <2> and <4>, as well as a piece of possibly worked flint from sample <1>.

Charred plant remains

- C.1.5 Sample 1 produced a flot of 30ml in volume, 100% of which was scanned under binocular microscope. The only non-charcoal plant remains to be observed were a single poorly preserved, indeterminate cereal grain, and half of a charred *Galium* sp. (bedstraw) seed. Each of the ten charcoal items selected for study were identified as *Quercus* sp. (oak) or c.f. *Quercus* sp. (the latter classification applied in cases where the small size of the charcoal did not allow for a more definite identification). Due to the shortage of appropriate charcoal items for identification, it is unclear whether the absence of any species apart from oak reflects a true preference for one species or is simply a result of preservation bias and small sample size.
- C.1.6 Sample 2 produced a flot of 150ml, of which approximately 50% was scanned under binocular microscope. The charred assemblage was limited to one fragment each of wheat (*Triticum diccocum/spelta*) glume base and spikelet fork, and three charred weed seeds. The remainder of the flot was composed of charcoal. Ten items of charcoal were selected for further analysis. Five of the studied items proved to be of oak, with four of the remaining pieces identified as field maple (*Acer campestre*) and one as belonging to the hawthorn (Pomoideae) group.
- C.1.7 Sample 3 produced a flot of 100ml, 100% of which was scanned under binocular microscope. Five poorly preserved, indeterminate cereal grains were observed. The remainder of the flot was composed of charcoal, and ten items were selected for study. Six of these were identified as oak, with two of the remaining items classed as field maple and the other two as Pomoideae type.
- C.1.8 Sample 4 produced a flot of 300ml, which was dry sieved into fractions to aid assessment. All of the flot greater than 4mm in size was composed of charcoal. The next size fraction, 4-2mm, was again mostly charcoal, with the only exceptions a single indeterminate, poorly preserved cereal grain and a fragment of nutshell, most likely hazel (c.f. *Corylus avellana*). The remainder of the flot, which made up over one half (c 170ml) of the overall flot, contained only highly fragmented charcoal of too small a size to be identifiable. Of the ten charcoal items selected for examination, half were of oak. Three items were identified as belonging to the Pomoideae group, and the remaining two items as field maple.

Discussion

- C.1.9 None of the four sampled fills contained much charred plant material beyond what was generally fairly fragmented charcoal. The material that was present, mostly occasional poorly preserved cereal grains or fragments of chaff, was in such low quantity that no valid interpretation can be made as to its origin, and could easily represent no more than background or intrusive material from activity elsewhere in the vicinity of the features. No one species dominated the charcoal assemblages, nor was any charcoal that was obviously of roundwood observed, factors which might otherwise have informed about the deliberate selection of material appropriate as fuel for a pottery kiln.



Two of the fills did contain a small quantity of burnt animal bone, which would instead suggest that the fills at least partially include debris derived from domestic activity.

C.2 Animal bone

Lena Strid

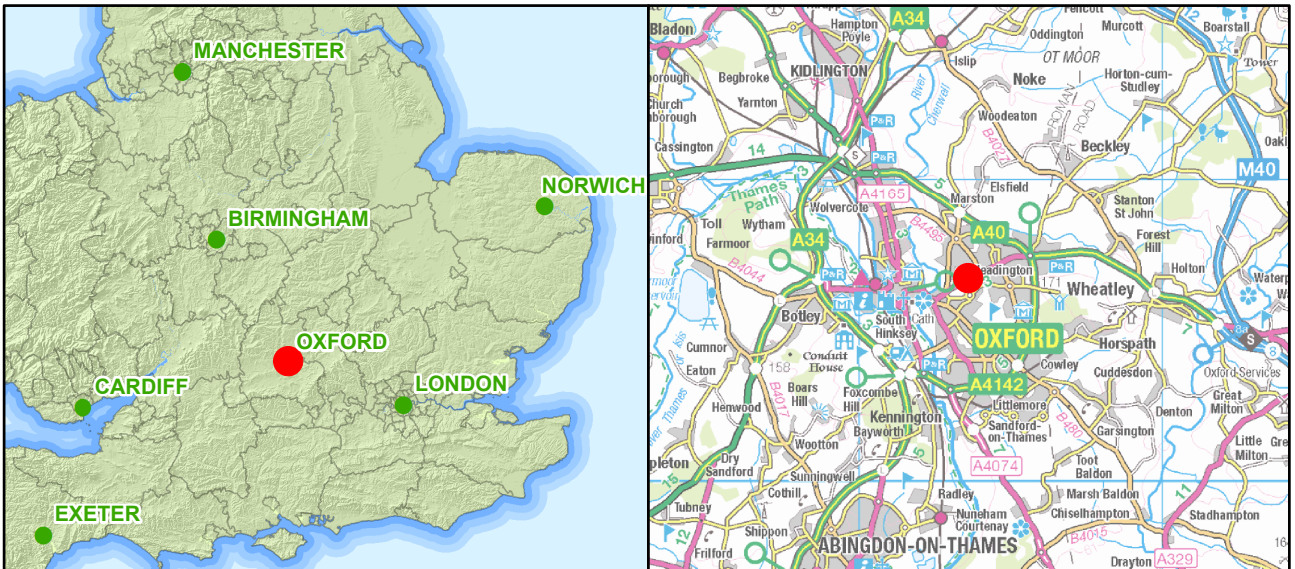
C.2.1 The rubbish deposits from the pit complex produced 11 fragments of unidentified burnt bone weighing a total of 3g. The assemblage is consist with material recovered

Context	Description
4	<4> 8 fragments unidentifiable burnt animal bone, 2g
10	<2> 3 fragments unidentifiable burnt animal bone, 1g



APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Headington School, Headington Road, Oxford
Site code:	OXHEAD14
Grid reference:	SP 53596 06696 (centred)
Type of watching brief:	Intermittent
Date of project:	May 2014
Summary of results:	<p>In May 2014, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by West Waddy ADP on behalf of Headington School to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new sports building and classroom extension. The watching brief revealed a cluster of late pre-historic pits in one corner of the site which may have been associated with domestic activity to the south and/or west. Other features revealed included an isolated and undated pit, the base of a possible furrow, and a brick well or soakaway with a corbelled top characteristic of 17th-18th century. Additionally, a relatively modern linear configuration of post-holes was revealed and are likely to represent a fenceline.</p>
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at Janus House and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course under accession number OCMS:2014.7



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Figure 1: Site location



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
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