

Glebe Road Wymondham Leicestershire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

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Mansell Construction Services

Glebe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire***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	2
2.1 Aims.....	2
2.2 Methodology	2
3 Results.....	2
3.1 Description of deposits	2
3.2 Finds.....	3
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains.....	3
4 Discussion and Conclusions	3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	4
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references	4
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details	4

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Plan of area of watching brief and section 1

SUMMARY

In August 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Glebe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR : SK 841 185). The work was commissioned by Mansell Construction Services on behalf of Orange Personal Communications Services Limited in advance of the construction of a phone mast. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In August 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at land adjacent to Glebe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 841 185) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mansell construction Services on behalf of Orange Personal Communications Services Limited, in respect of a planning application for the construction of phone mast.
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Environment and Heritage Services Department, Leicestershire County Council, as the site lies within an area of known archaeological potential. This was carried out in accordance with the IFA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2001 (IFA 2001).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2005).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated 300 m west of the village of Wymondham and 10 m north of Glebe Road, in an area of open farmland. The underlying geology is Head deposits over Oadbury Till (British Geological Survey, Sheet 143). The site lies at approximately 120 m above OD and occupies an area of 52 m².

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 site lies to the west of the village of Wymondham. Whilst the origins of the present village lie within the medieval period, there is substantial evidence for earlier activity.
- 1.3.3 A Roman 'villa' has been identified to the south-east of the village, adjacent to Rookery House and the line of a possible Roman road runs to the north-east.

- 1.3.4 There is also some evidence of Roman activity in the field to the south of Glebe Road, adjacent to the installation site. Several sherds of Roman pottery together with a roof tile and box flue fragment have been recovered. A tessera was also recovered. It is unclear whether any potential Roman structure suggested by these finds is contemporary with the Roman 'villa' identified within the village proper.
- 1.3.5 Three Saxon pot sherds were also found within this finds scatter and may indicate a continued occupation of the site into the early Saxon period.
- 1.3.6 The area in which these finds were made lies within an enclosed medieval occupation site. This may represent a grange of Tutbury Abbey, the hamlet of Alwericheston or the chapel of Burghkyrk. It is possible that all three are represented as no definitive conclusions can be drawn from the evidence available.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were to determine the presence or absence, extent, date, character, significance, quality and state of preservation of any potential archaeological features exposed during the groundwork for the proposed installation.
- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological remains which the groundworks will remove or damage within the development area.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief consisted of one visit to the site to monitor the progress and extent of the excavations (Fig. 2) and to record any remains exposed during the works.
- 2.2.2 The excavations were planned at a scale of 1:100 and any sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The excavations and sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The works consisted of a 4.7 m square trench, excavated to a total depth of 0.9 m below ground level.
- 3.1.2 The base of the trench cut 0.2 m deep into the top of a layer of tenacious orange clay (3), representing a natural clay deposit (Fig. 2, section 1).

3.1.3 Overlying layer 3 was a layer of tenacious orange silty clay (2), which produced frequent flint and sandstone inclusions and measured 0.4 m in depth. This deposit represents a layer of subsoil, possibly a colluvium.

3.1.4 This was sealed by a 0.3 m deep layer of a friable silty clay loam (1), the present day topsoil.

3.2 **Finds**

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

3.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were encountered during the watching brief

4 **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

4.1.1 Despite the potential for this site to contain archaeological material none was discovered during this watching brief. The ground below the present day topsoil was undisturbed and no archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

APPENDICES**APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.3 m	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	0.4 m	Subsoil, probable colluvium	-	-
3	Layer	0.2 m	Natural clay	-	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2005, Glebe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

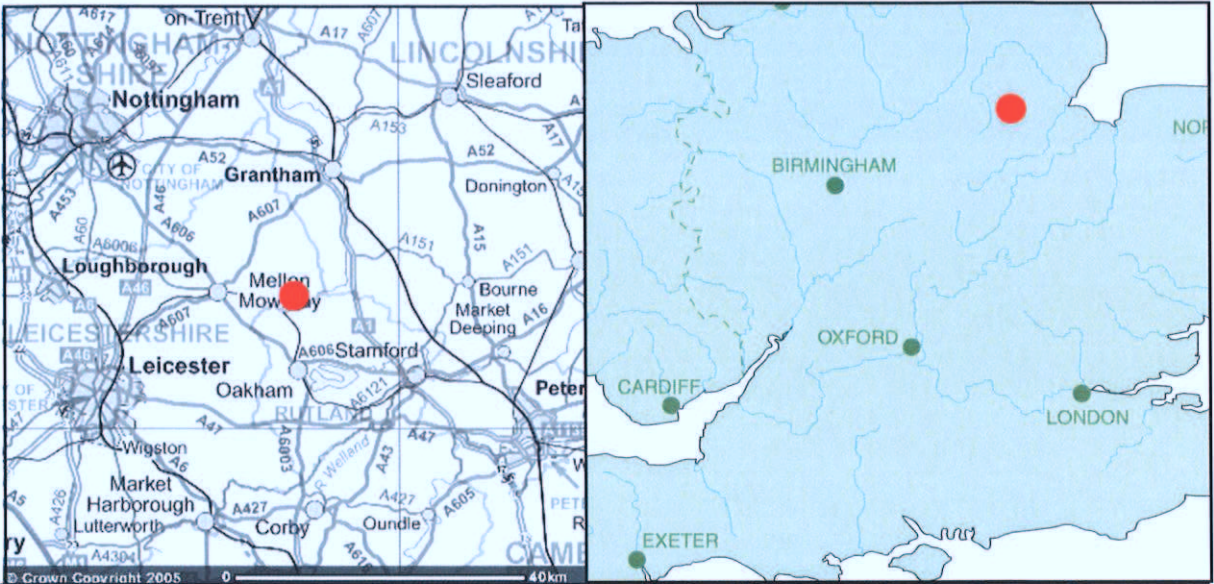
IFA 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

OA 1992, *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Glebe Road, Wymondham, Leicestershire
Site code: X.A.155.2005
Grid reference: SK 841 185
Type of watching brief: Watching Brief on Pit for Phone Mast
Date and duration of project: 1 Visit on 17th August 2005
Area of site: 54 m square / 0.0054 ha
Summary of results: No archaeological finds 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 Leicestershire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: X.A.155.2005

Servergo/oupubs1_Rttnz*X.A.155.2005*WYGLROWB*Glebe Road*MW*17.10.05



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

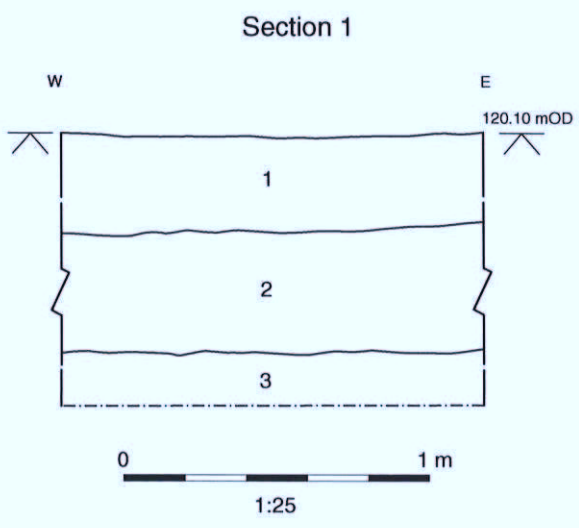
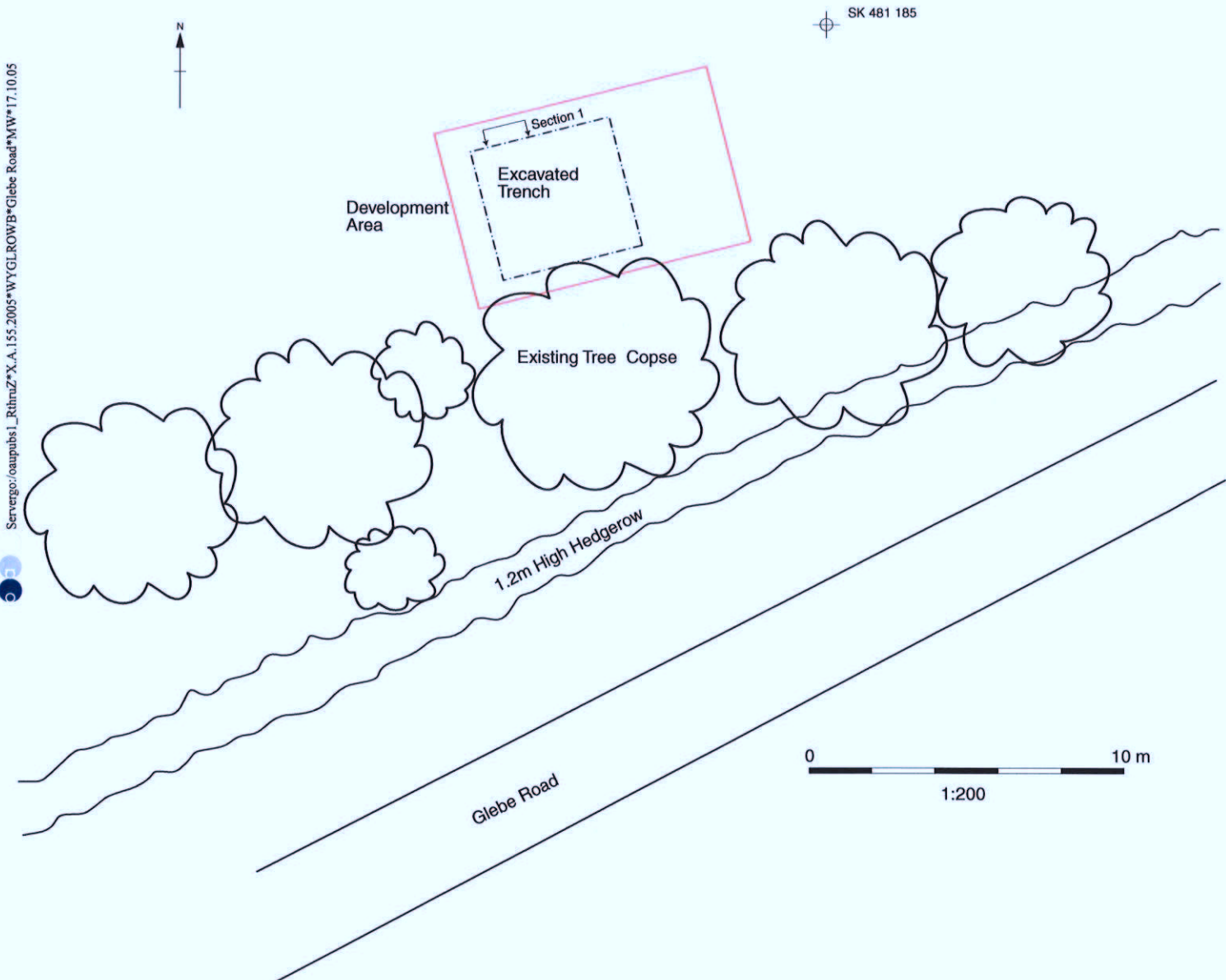


Figure 2: Plan of area of watching brief and Section 1



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