

# Land Adjacent to the Old Rectory Kintbury Berkshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



**Oxford Archaeology**

December 2003

**Client: Mr. and Mrs. T. Rolls**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1

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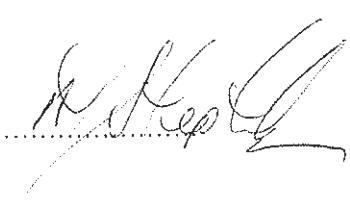
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Position: Head of Fieldwork

Date: 2nd December 2003

Signed.....



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# Land adjacent to the Old Rectory Kintbury, Berkshire

NGR: SU 4381 1669

## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In November 2003, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Kintbury, West Berkshire on behalf of Mr and Mrs T Rolls. No deposits, features, or structures of any archaeological potential or significance were identified during the evaluation.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In November 2003, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Kintbury, West Berkshire on behalf of Mr and Mrs T Rolls in respect of a planning application for the construction of a single family dwelling, with basement (Planning Ref. 01/01851).
- 1.1.2 A brief was set by Mike Lang Hall, on behalf of West Berkshire Council and a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by OA. This was agreed with West Berkshire Heritage Service.
- 1.1.3 The development site is situated adjacent to the Old Rectory, Kintbury and is 0.15 hectares in area.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated in the Kennet Valley on underlying chalk geology (BGS Map 267) at 104 m OD. It is currently part of the gardens of the Old Rectory house.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study, the results of which are presented below (OA, 2003). The site itself has produced no archaeological evidence. There are some known sites and locations with archaeological remains adjacent to the development site.
- 1.3.2 The development site lies within the historic core of Kintbury. Immediately to the east of the proposed development site is the Old Rectory and beyond this the 12th century parish church, which lies on the site of an earlier Saxon church. Saxon burials have been found in both the churchyard and Church Street.
- 1.3.3 To the north of the Old Rectory, archaeological investigations by Wessex Archaeology in 1997 revealed evidence of significant Saxo-Norman activity and occupation within this area of the village. Possible prehistoric and Roman activity was also recorded.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Rolls. Thanks are extended to West Berkshire Heritage Services and its acting archaeological representative Mike Lang Hall (Archaeological Consultant).

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving within the site.
- 2.1.2 Attention was to be given to remains of all periods, in particular those associated with Saxon and Norman occupation. This included evidence for past environments, with provision for environmental sampling included.
- 2.1.3 The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of any modern disturbance and intrusion on the site, and to make available the results of the investigation.

## 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The field evaluation comprised the excavation of two machine-dug trenches within the footprint of the proposed building. Trench 1 measured 30 m in length and Trench 2 measured 15 m in length (Figure 2).

### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. Where identified, all archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed down in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (OAU, 1992).[

## 4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 4.1 Description of deposits

- 4.1.1 In both trenches the chalk natural was overlain by a loose mid-brown subsoil. The subsoil was overlain by a garden soil. No features were identified.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 5.1.1 The results of the field investigation are thought to be reliable and a true indicator of archaeological potential in the area of the development. No features or deposits of archaeological interest or significance were identified during the evaluation.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
1								
	10	Layer	-	0 - 0.20	Topsoil/garden soil	-	-	-
	11	Layer	-	0.20 - 0.42	Subsoil	-	-	-
	12	Layer	-	0.42	Chalk natural	-	-	-
2								
	20	Layer	-	0 - 0.20	Top/garden soil	-	-	-
	21	Layer	-	0.20 - 0.40	Subsoil	-	-	-
	22	Layer	-	0.40	Chalk natural	-	-	-

## APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

OA, 2003 *Land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Kintbury, West Berkshire. Written Scheme of Investigation.*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual*, (ed. D. Wilkinson)

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Land adjacent to the Old Rectory, Kintbury, Berkshire

**Site code:** KIORA 03

**Grid reference:** SU 4381 1669

**Type of evaluation:** Two trial trenches (30 m x 1.6 m and 15 m x 1.6 m)

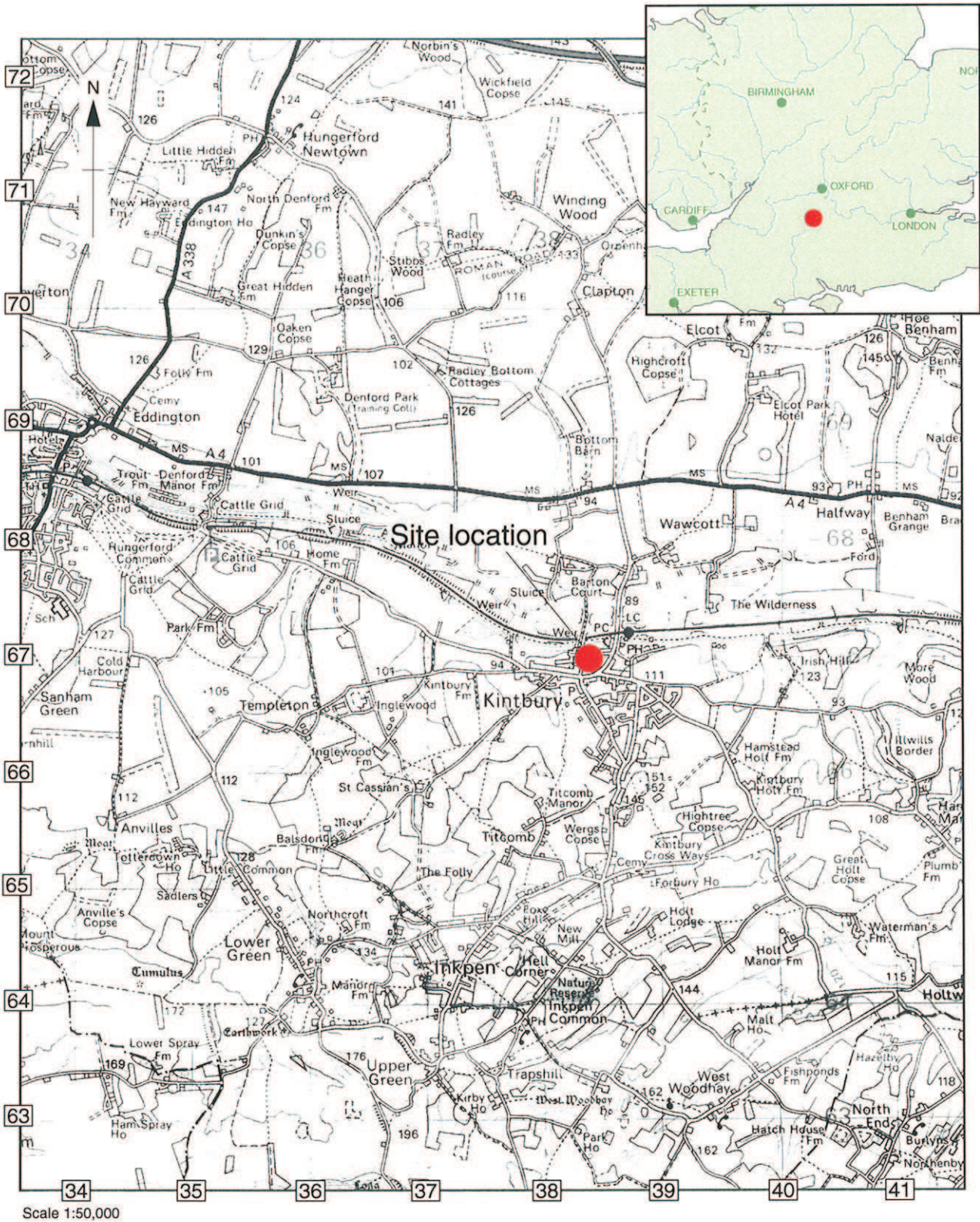
**Date and duration of project:** 19th November 2003; 1 day

**Area of site:** 0.15 ha

**Summary of results:** No features or deposits of archaeological interest or significance were identified during the evaluation. Garden soil sealed the subsoil overlying the natural chalk.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with West Berkshire Heritage Services in due course, under the following accession number: NEBYM:2003.20





Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location



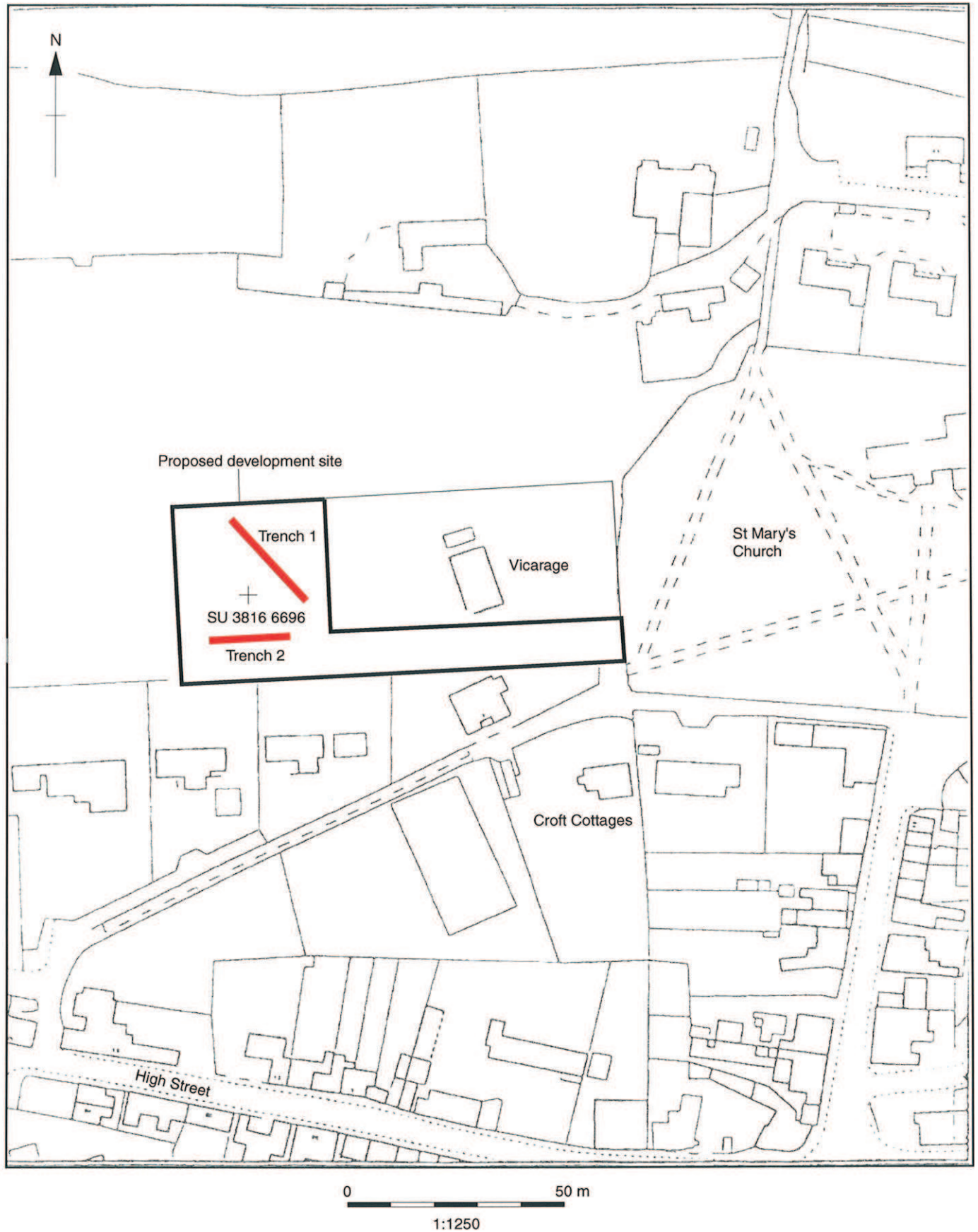


Figure 2: Trench location



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