

Hewanicka & Price, Architectural and Interior Designers

Ashbury Allotments, Church lane, Ashbury, Oxfordshire

NGR SU 2646 8490

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Planning Ref. No. ASH/119/7

Oxford Archaeological Unit

September 1999

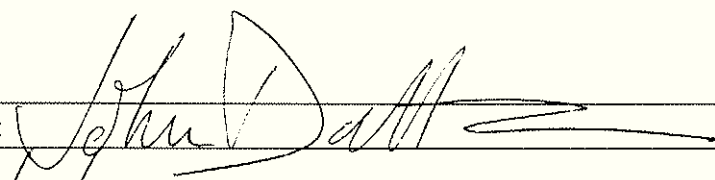
Hewanicka & Price, Architectural and Interior Designers

Ashbury Allotments, Church lane, Ashbury, Oxfordshire

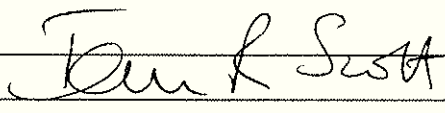
NGR SU 2646 8490

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Planning Ref. No. ASH/119/7

Prepared by: 

Date: 30/9/99

Checked by: 

Date: 30/9/99

Approved by: R. Hewanicka HEAD OF FIELDWORK

Date: 1/10/1999

Oxford Archaeological Unit

September 1999

Summary

In September 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at Ashbury Allotments, Church Lane, Ashbury, Oxon (NGR SU 2646 8490). No archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.

1 Introduction

The development proposal (planning application no. ASH/119/7) comprised groundworks in advance of the construction of two new dwellings with double garages. An archaeological watching brief was required in accordance with the planning consent granted under PPG 16, as the development site lies within an area of proven archaeological significance.

The watching brief was commissioned by Hewanicka & Price, Architectural and Interior designers on behalf of their clients. It was undertaken to a brief set by and a WSI agreed with the Deputy County Archaeologist.

2 Background (Fig. 1)

Ashbury lies approximately 4 km south of Shrivenham and at the junction of the B4000 Lambourn to Shrivenham road and the B4507 road to Wantage. The development site lay at approximately 142 m OD and the underlying geology is a silty soil overlying chalk. Previous land use on the site was as a series of allotment gardens.

The development site is located immediately adjacent and to the west of St Mary's Church, which dates from the Norman period with 13th-century additions. The church, and therefore the development site, is located at the historic core of the settlement.

3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to identify any archaeological remains exposed on site during the course of the works, and to record these to established OAU standards (Wilkinson 1992), in order to secure their preservation by record.

4 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken by means of separate inspection visits; all excavation was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator.

Within the constraints imposed by health and safety considerations the deposits exposed were cleaned, inspected and recorded in plan, section and by colour slide and monochrome print photography. Written records were also made on proforma sheets. Soil description utilises standard charts for the approximation of percentage of inclusion types in soil deposits.

5 Results

The site was inspected both during and immediately after the removal of topsoil; the surface of the underlying subsoil, which may possibly represent an earlier ploughsoil, was exposed across the affected area. No archaeological features were exposed and, despite careful cleaning, none were seen in any part of the site.

The strip foundations were also inspected due to the possibility of features being obscured in plan, however none were seen.

6 Finds

No finds were retrieved during the course of the watching brief.

7 Environmental results

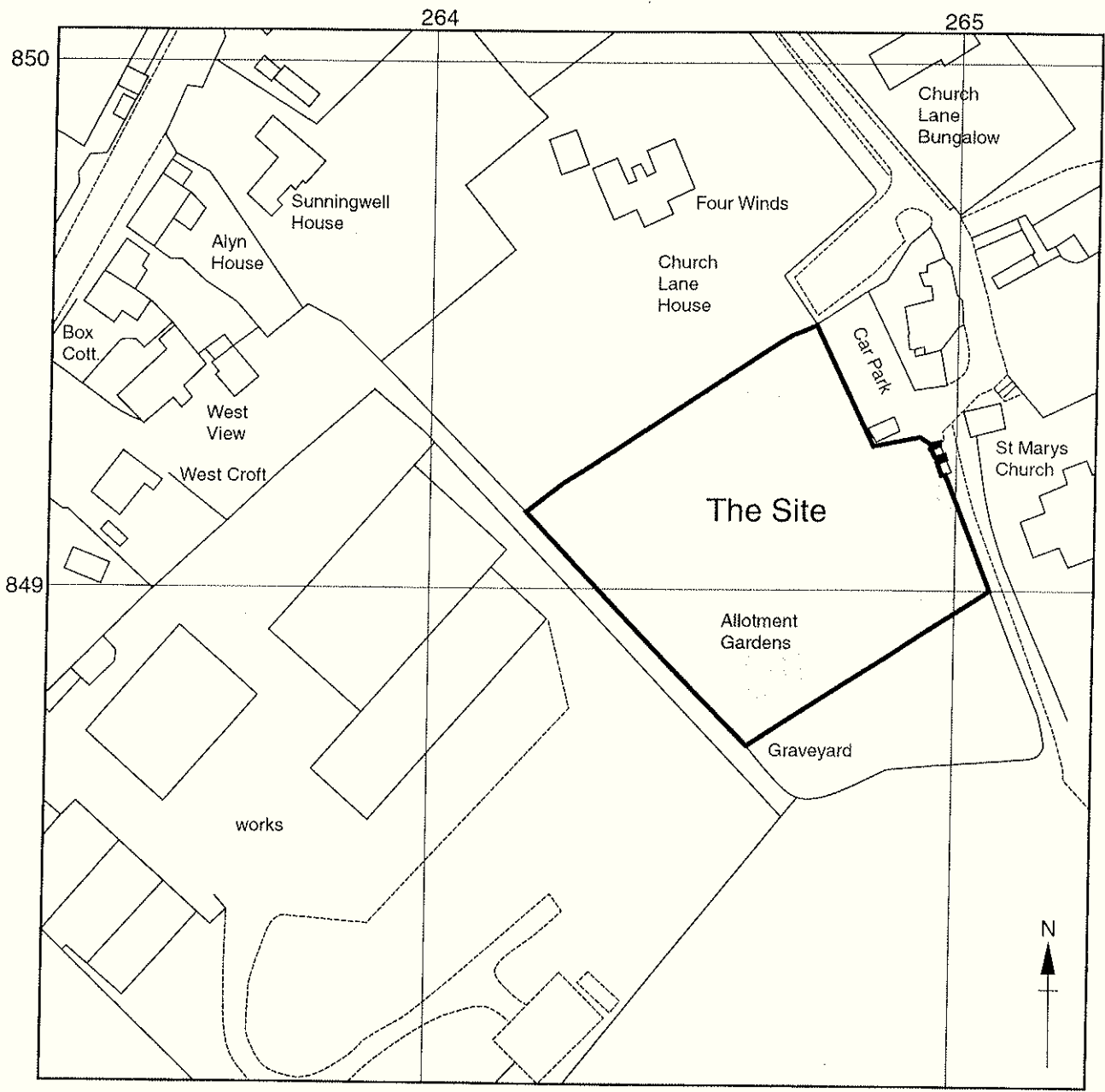
Due to the absence of any significant archaeology, no environmental soil samples were taken.

8 Discussion

Neither archaeological features nor finds were identified within the development area during the course of the watching brief. It is possible that the subsoil seen may represent an earlier ploughsoil, however no finds were retrieved from within it and it was a fairly tenuous deposit.

References.

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992).



scale 1:1250

Figure 1: site location



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

email: postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk



Director and Chief Executive: David Jennings B.A., M.I.F.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES