

Biochemistry Cycle Shelter

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

November 2019

Client - CPC Project Services

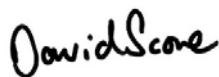
Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: OXBCYWB

NGR: SP 51618 07087



Client Name: CPC Project Services
Document Title: Biochemistry Cycle Shelter
Document Type: Watching Brief Report
Grid Reference: SP 51618 07087
Planning Reference: 17/03411/FUL
Site Code: OXBCY19
Invoice Code: OXBCYW8
Receiving Body: Oxfordshire County Museum Services
Accession No.:
OA Document File Location: X:\o\Oxford_Biochemistry-Cycle-Shelter_WB\Report
OA Graphics File Location: X:\o\Oxford_Biochemistry-Cycle-Shelter_WB\010Geomatics\01
PDFs
Issue No: 1
Date: 2019-11-18
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Written by Christopher Clark with contributions by Aidan Farnan

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CPC Project Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the site of a proposed construction of a cycle shelter. The site lies in the vicinity of the University Park by Sherrington Road in Oxford.

The Excavations of the holes were monitored. The works encountered modern crush from modern pads in the area. No archaeology was present.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CPC Project Services for commissioning this project. Thanks, are also extended to David Radford who monitored the work on behalf of Oxford City Council

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Joakim Thomasson. The fieldwork was directed Christopher Clark. Survey and digitising were carried out by Aidan Farnan. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff who prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CPC Project Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the site of a proposed construction of a cycle shelter.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 17/03411/FUL). Although the Local Planning Authority has not set a brief for the work, discussions with David Radford, City Archaeologist at the Oxford City Council, have established the scope of work required; this document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Guidance (CIFA 2014).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies in the vicinity of the University Park by Sherrington Road in Oxford, centred on SP 51618 07087. A purpose-built cycle store is located in the courtyard to the rear of the Old Observatory building, to the north-east of the Biochemistry Building. The area of proposed development consists of tarmac hardstanding and bicycle racks.
- 1.2.2 The site is located on the 2nd north-south aligned Summertown-Radley gravel terrace, between the River Thames to the west and the River Cherwell to the east. The geology of the area is located on a geological boundary between Northmoor sand and gravels and alluvium silt and sand (BGS, 2019). The site is situated at approximately 62.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the Oxford area has been described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the undertaken archaeological watching brief (OA 2019), and will not be referred here.

2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives of the watching brief were:

- i. To reveal the archaeologically significant horizon (or natural horizon) at the site and determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains;
- ii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present; and
- iii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief were:

- i. Identify and record any archaeological remains, paying particular regard to the potential for deposits connected to the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age funerary activities and the middle Iron Age and Roman settlement activities. Any such remains should be interpreted with reference to the known archaeology of the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace.
- ii. If applicable the report should refer to the city, county and regional period-based resource assessments and research agendas.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The groundworks were carried out by ground workers using a mixture of saws and jackhammers to cut through the tarmac and the ground underneath till it was at the required depth. Once opened the holes were checked by the archaeologist.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 A total of 18 trenches with a combined size of 144m were machine excavated. The sizes of the individual trenches varied. The smaller measured 0.8m by 0.8m with a maximum depth of 0.3m, the larger 1.65m by 1m with a maximum depth of 0.3m. All the trenches were located in an area of previous concrete slabs and in an area that had been tarmacked.
- 3.1.2 The material that was exposed within the excavated holes was tarmac at the top with type 1 crush underneath. In some of the holes, concrete was visible from previous pads that had been constructed in the area. Modern pipe was visible at the base of two of the holes.
- 3.1.3 During the watching brief no observations of preserved archaeological deposits or finds material were made.

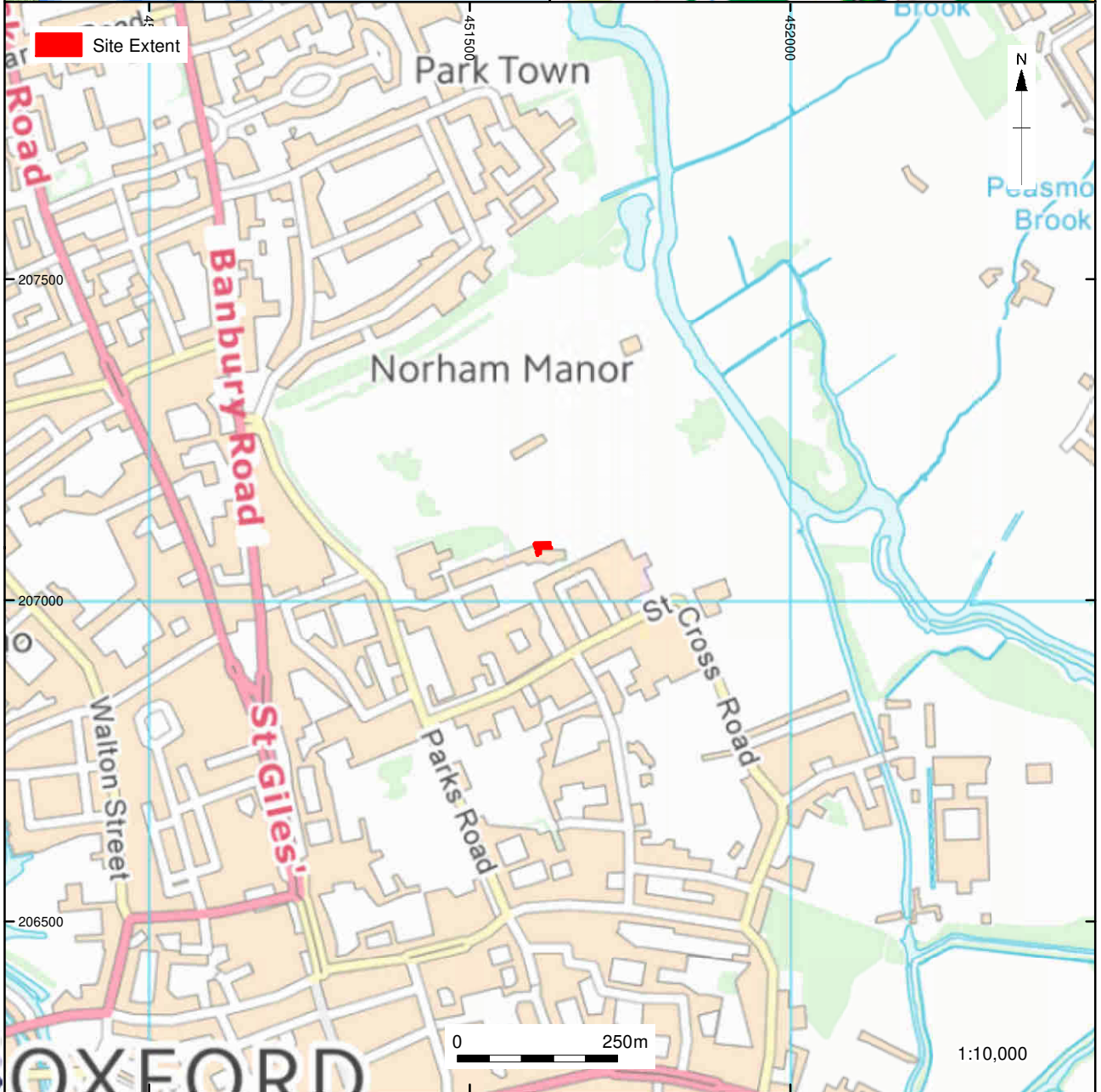
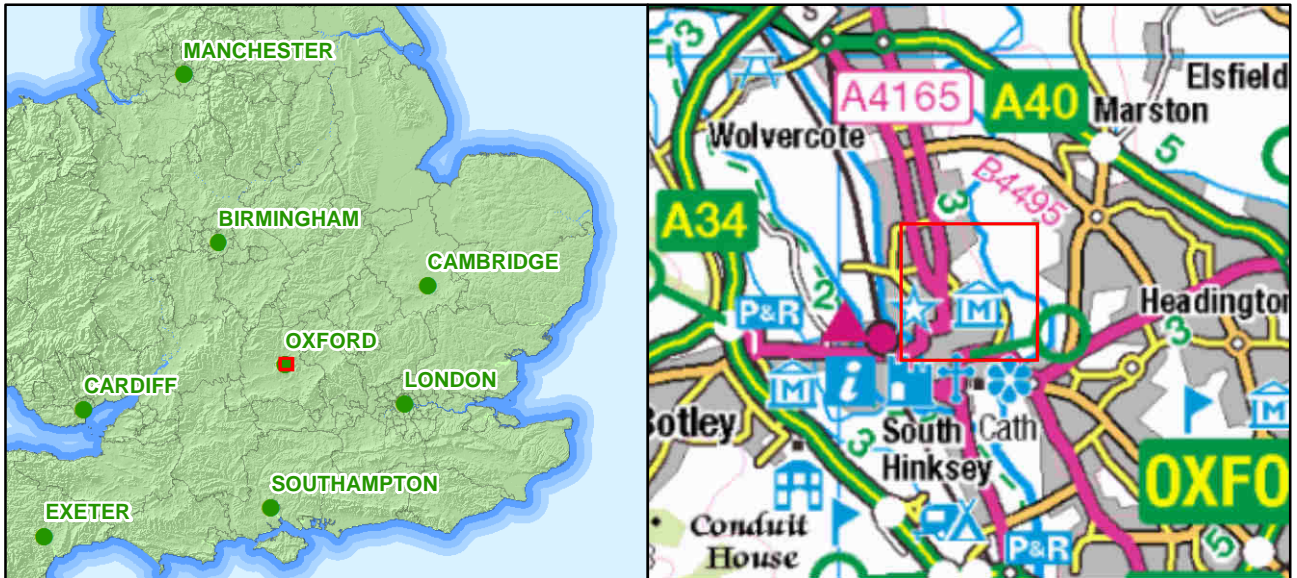
APPENDIX A BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIfA 2014. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Oxford Archaeology 2019, *Biochemistry Cycle Shelter Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Watching Brief*. OA reference: 23341

APPENDIX B**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM**

Site name:	Biochemistry Cycle Shed, Oxford
Site code:	OXBCY19
Grid Reference	SP 51618 07087
Type:	Watching Brief
Date and duration:	1 Day, November 2019
Area of Site	The total trench size was 144m ² . The sizes of the individual trenches varied. The smaller measured 0.8m by 0.8m with a maximum depth of 0.3m, the larger 1.65m by 1m with a maximum depth of 0.3m.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford and will be deposited with an appropriate repository in due course
Summary of Results:	In November Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CPC Project Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the site of a proposed construction of a cycle shelter. The site lies in the vicinity of the University Park by Sherrington Road in Oxford. The holes dug were motioned. Going down depths of 0.3m no archaeology was encountered.



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Figure 1: Site location

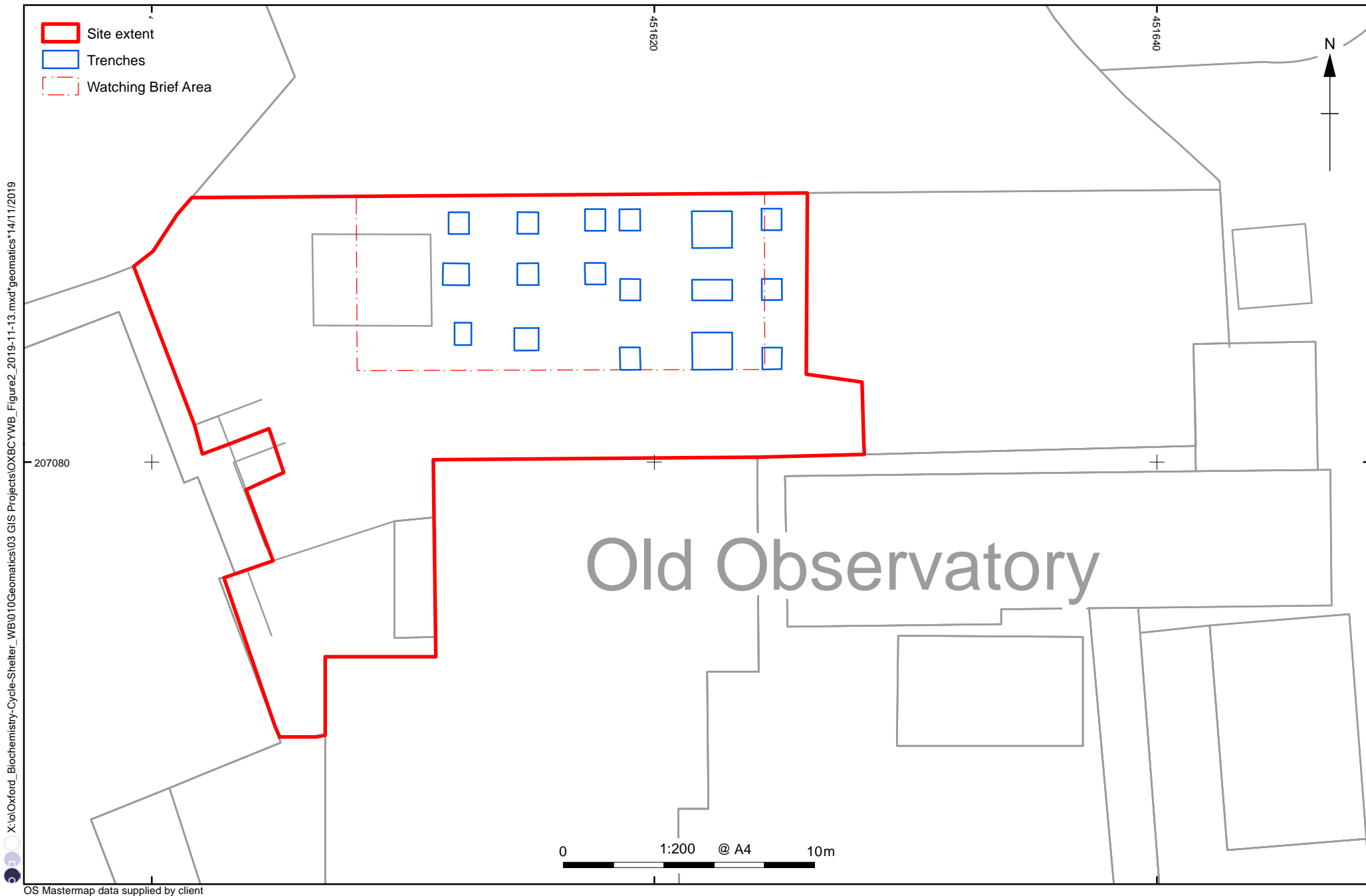


Figure 2: Trench location



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