

The Co-op Store Market Place Deddington Oxfordshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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The Co-op Store, Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

Between 30th of January and 11th of February 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Co-op stores, Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by Sidleys Surveyors in advance of construction of an extension and internal alterations. The watching brief revealed deposits of garden soil and features consistent with 19th and 20th century occupation but no evidence for earlier archaeology was encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 30th of January and 11th of February 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Co-op store, Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by Sidleys Surveyors in respect of a planning application for an extension and internal alterations to the existing Co-op foodstore.

1.1.2 A project brief (CAS 2003) was set by, and a WSI (OA 2004) was agreed with Hannah Fluck, the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services.

1.2 Topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies within a courtyard formed by residential and retail buildings within the centre of Deddington (Fig.1). The site is bounded to the west by private dwellings, to the south and east by the existing Co-op buildings and to the north by a retaining wall for a raised garden. The site is situated at approximately 128 m OD and measures 0.005 hectares in area. The underlying geology is alluvial clay over Middle Lias deposits.

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 2004) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 The site of the proposed development lies within the historic core of Deddington, immediately to the south of the church of St Peter and St Paul which dates to the 13th century. The name Deddington is probably Saxon in origin and is first mentioned in 950 AD in the *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici* (ed. J.M. Kemble 139-48). The church would have formed the centre of the medieval settlement and, given the proximity of the proposed site to the church it was considered likely that archaeological deposits relating to the early medieval settlement at Deddington would be disturbed during the groundworks.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The foundations for the new extension were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 1.5 ton tracked excavator (Kibota) fitted with a 0.3m bucket. The excavated material was removed in 0.1 m spits within the potential archaeological strata. The ground reduction within the area of the extension was monitored on the basis of regular visits.
- 2.2.2 A plan of the extent of the excavations was drawn at a scale of 1:200 (Fig.2) and a number of sample sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20. A full photographic record of the work was made using colour slide and black/and/white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the OA's *Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The natural (4) was a tabular limestone, very fractured with the interstices filled by a dark brown silt clay (Fig.3, Sections 1 and 2) which was excavated to a depth of 1.4 m below ground level. This was overlaid by a pinkish brown silt clay (3), between 0.2 m and 0.3 m in depth which contained many subangular fragments of limestone and represents a layer of weathered and frost shattered natural. Within the north-west extent of the site this was sealed by a lens of dark yellow brown clay silt (2) (Fig.3, Section 1), up to 0.2 m in depth, probably material cast up from the excavation of the existing buildings foundation. This was overlaid by a 0.4 m deep layer of a dark brown silty loam (1), a layer of worked garden soil. This had been heavily disturbed by modern service trenches and a 20th century soakaway within the area of the ground reduction. Running across the north end of the site was the foundation cut (5), 0.8 m wide by 0.6 m deep which contained a stone retaining wall (6) (Fig.3, Section 2), since removed by the new foundation excavations. Butting up to this wall and sealing layer 1 was a 0.2 m thick layer of concrete, a modern yard surface.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the watching brief. All the finds were 19th and 20th century in date consisting of transfer printed ware, creamware and stoneware pottery, clay pipe, bottle glass and brick fragments. These were evaluated on site but not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for paleo-environmental sampling were identified during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The watching brief showed that only a limited amount of activity has taken place within the area of the site. The range of dating evidence recovered during the watching brief was limited to that of the 19th and 20th centuries and probably relates to the occupation of the surrounding buildings. The absence of earlier artefacts or features suggest that this area was located well behind the street frontages served as a garden or open area throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

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	0.0 m - 0.5 m	Worked garden soil	Pottery, Clay pipe, Brick, Glass	C19th - C20th
2	Lens	0.3 m - 0.5 m	Cast up material from original foundations	Brick	C19th
3	Layer	0.5 m - 0.8 m	Weathered, Frost shattered natural	-	-
4	Layer	0.8 m - >1.4 m	Tabular, natural limestone	-	-
5	Cut	0.0 m - 0.7 m	Foundation trench for retaining wall	-	C19th
6	Structure	0.0 m - 0.7 m	Stone built retaining wall	-	C19th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CAS, 2003 *Design brief for an archaeological watching brief.*

Kemble, J,M, 1839-48 *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici*

OA, 2000 *OA Environmental Guidelines for sampling (first edition, July 2000)*

OA, 2004 *The Co-op Store, Market Place, Deddington - Written Scheme of Investigation*

OAU, 1992 *Fieldwork Manual (Ed. D Wilkinson)*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Co-op Store, Market Place, Deddington, Oxfordshire

Site code: DECOOP 03

Grid reference: SP 46743165

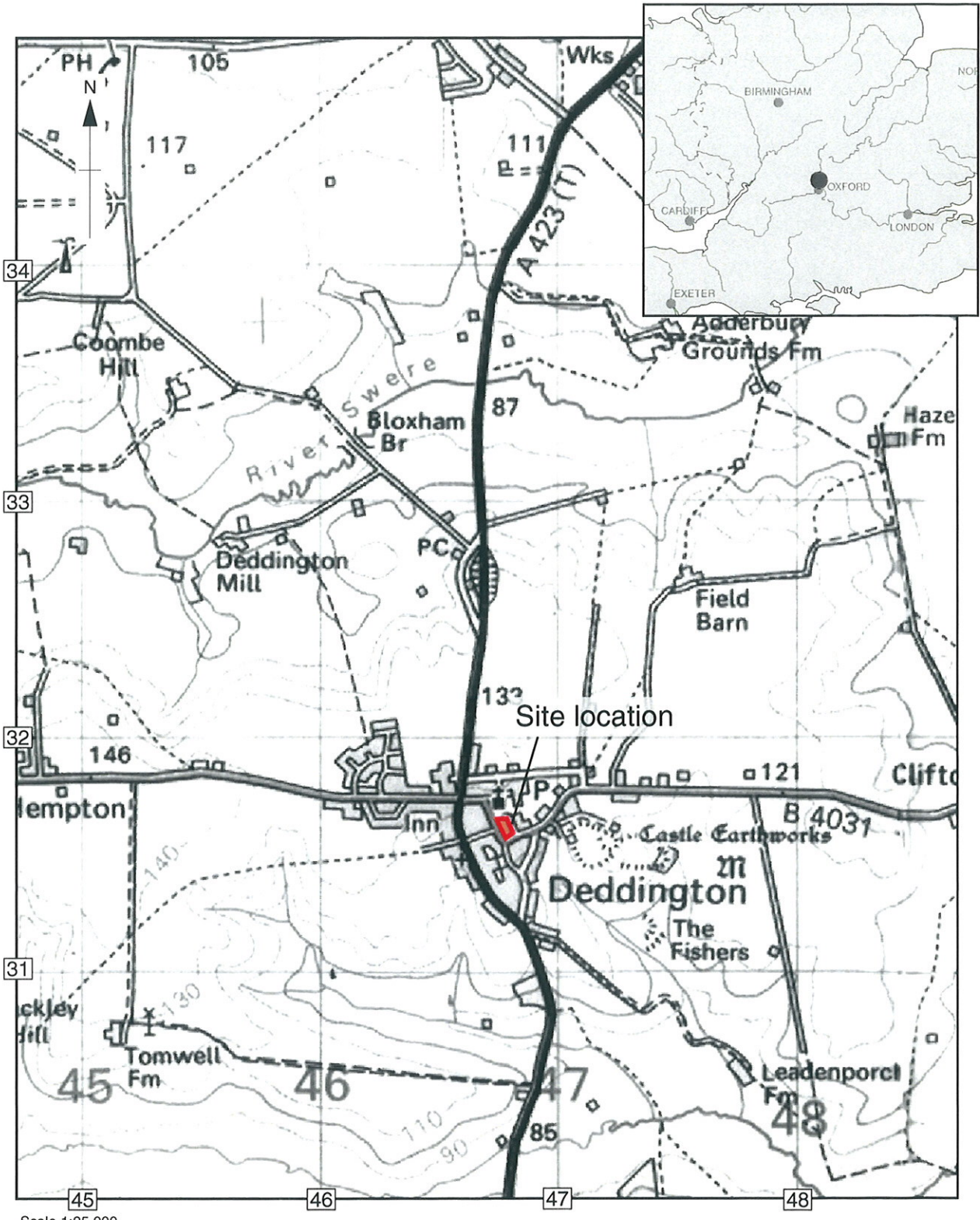
Type of watching brief: Excavation of footings and reduction of ground level

Date and duration of project: Between the 30th of January 2004 and the 11th of February 2004, 4 site visits

Area of site: 0.005 hectares

Summary of results: The watching brief produced evidence of 19th century occupation but no evidence for earlier activity

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

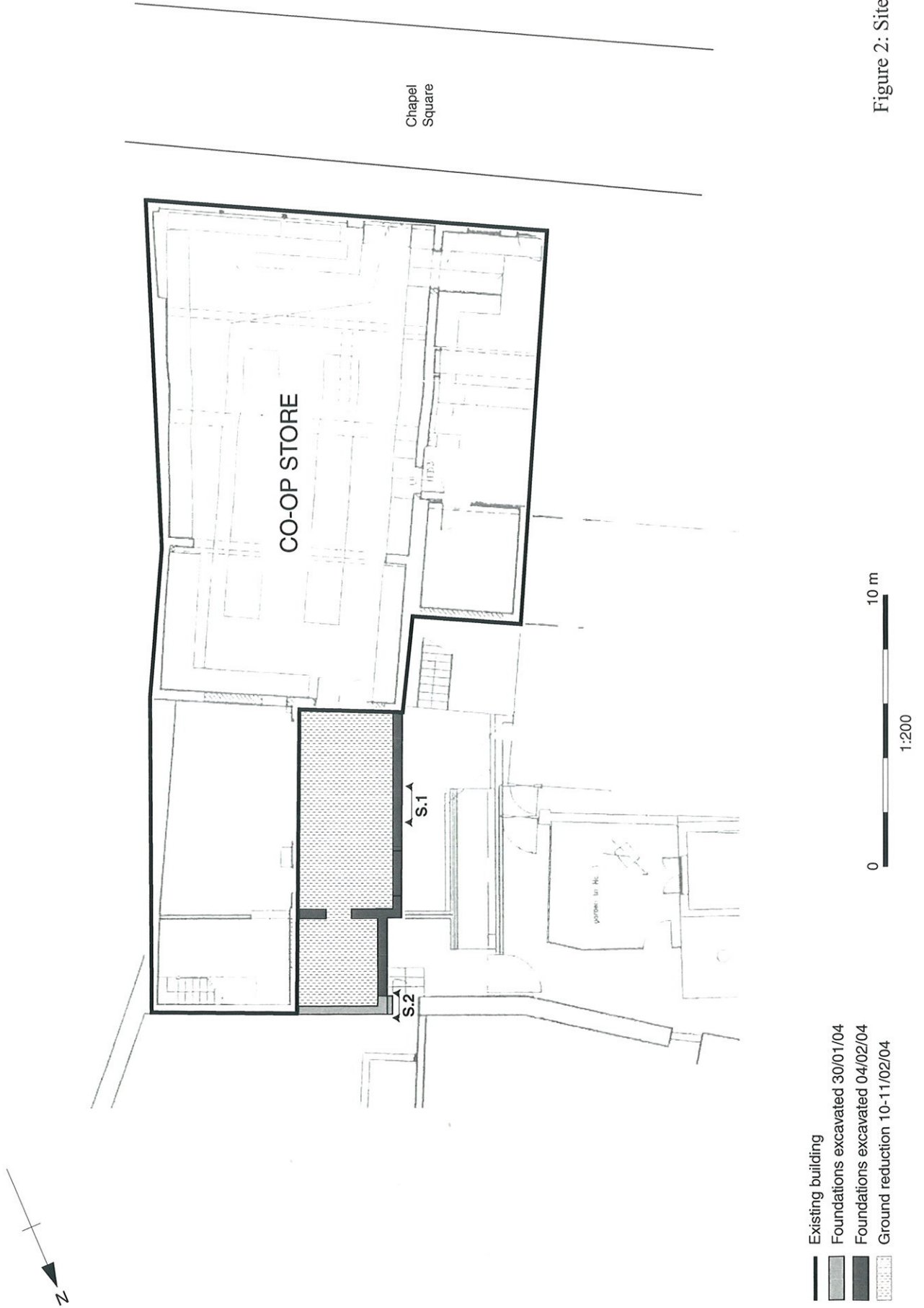


Figure 2: Site plan

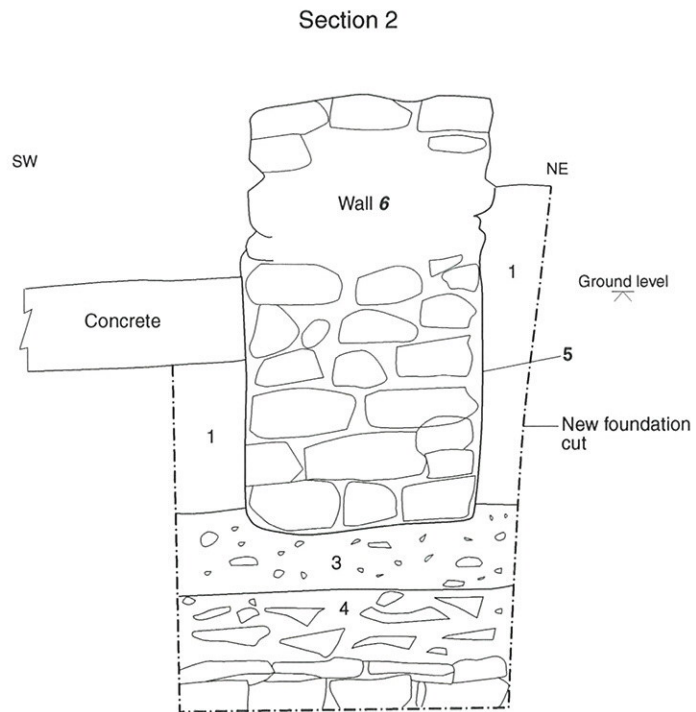
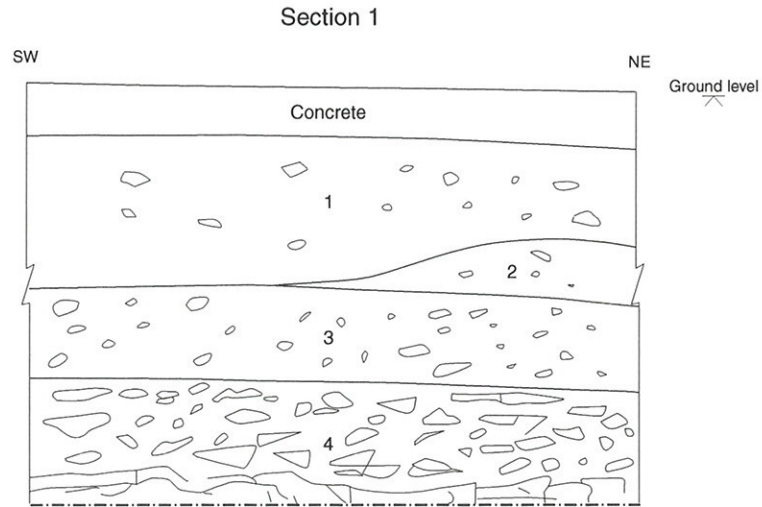


Figure 3: Sections 1 & 2



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