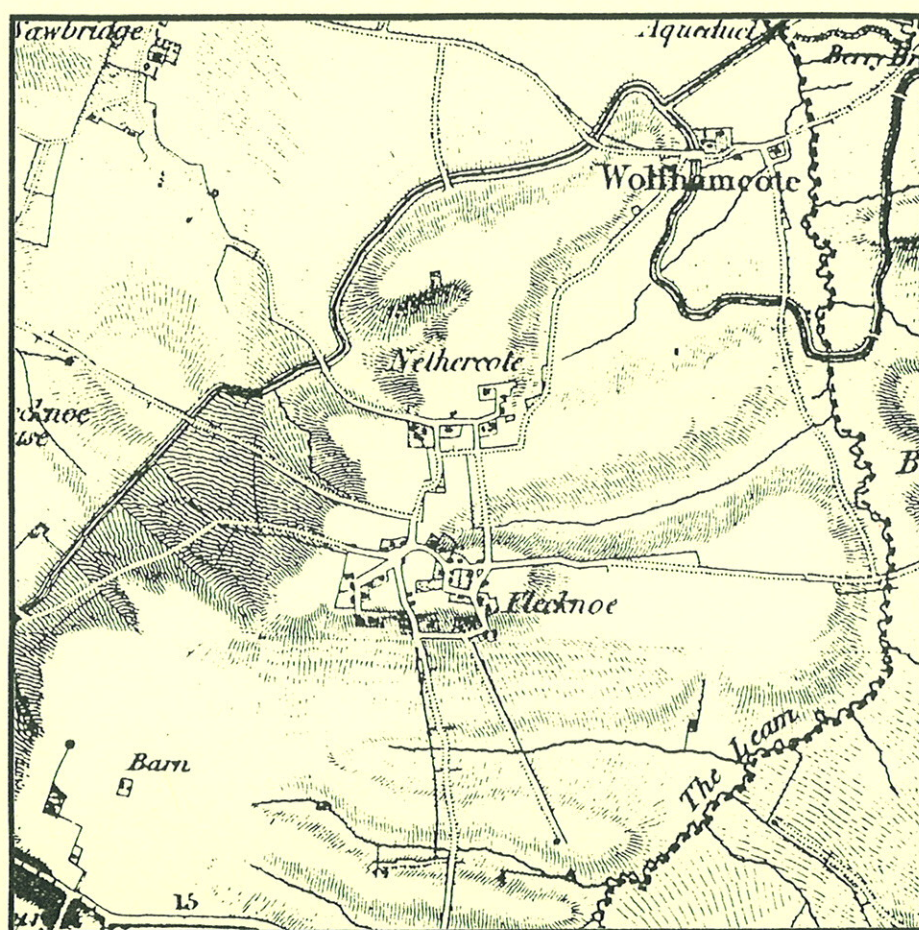


Plot adjacent to Manor Farmhouse Flecknoe, Wolfhamcote, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT



**PLOT ADJACENT TO MANOR FARMHOUSE, FLECKNOE,
WOLFHAMPCOTE, WARWICKSHIRE**

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER 92/0375.

NGR SP 5168 6348

Introduction

As part of the consideration of a planning application for the erection of a dwelling and garage on the above named site an archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit during June 1992. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence and degree of preservation of any archaeological deposits in order to determine the impact of the proposed development.

Archaeological Background

The site of the proposed development lies within the area of the medieval settlement of Flecknoe, which was larger than the present village. Parts of the remains of the medieval settlement are visible as upstanding earthworks in adjacent fields. It was thought likely that significant archaeological deposits of the medieval period had survived within the area of the site.

Topography

The area affected by the proposed development is about 880 sq m and is at present waste ground. The central third of the site slopes down from south to north at a gradient of about 1 in 3. The soils in the area are generally clay and the underlying geology is Lower Lias clay.

Strategy

Three 10 m x 1.5 m trenches were excavated in appropriate locations in the area of the proposed development. Trench 1 was aligned north-south and ran through the centre of the area marked out for the garden. Trench 2 was aligned east-west just to the north of the area of the proposed dwelling. Trench 3 aligned to be north-south through the area marked out for the drive.

A JCB mechanical digger was used to excavate the trenches down to the top of archaeological deposits or in their absence to the top of the natural subsoil. Archaeological deposits were then sampled by hand to retrieve datable finds and the features were described and recorded by measured drawing and photography.

The Excavation

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned north-south, its length was 10 m and its width was 1.55 m. It was excavated using a JCB mechanical digger down to the top of the natural. In the northern half of the trench was reached at a depth of 0.40 m below the present ground surface but in the southern half had been cut away by a large modern feature (107). The layers removed by machine were the topsoil (101), a medium to dark grey/brown silty clay loam, below which in the southern half of the trench was a modern levelling up layer (102), a medium brown sandy and slightly loamy clay with very few inclusions. 102 only existed in the southern half of the trench but overlaid the subsoil (103) (degenerated Lias clay) in a small area in the middle of the trench. 103, a very pale brown slightly silty clay, existed only in the northern half of the trench and directly overlay the natural (104), a light yellowish brown clay. The excavation of the southern part of the trench revealed a large feature (107) only part of which was within the area of the excavation. This feature took up the whole southern third of the trench apart from a small area in the south-east corner where an edge running north-east - south-east was identified; the north edge of feature 107 was seen running east - west across the middle of the trench. The feature was excavated to depth of 1 m below the present ground surface and, although it clearly continued down below this level, excavation was stopped because this was clearly modern: the fill (108 a mid grey/brown clay) contained a quantity of 19th/20th- century finds. There was a small posthole (110) cut into the top of 108 which was filled with a light to medium very greyish brown clay (109). In the small area to the south-east of, and cut by 107 was layer 111, a pale, very greyish brown clay, mottled with streaks and flecks of orange brown. Seen in the side of 107 this layer also produced 19th/20th-century finds to a depth of 1 m below the present ground surface but also continued down below this level; its considerable depth suggesting that it was also part of the modern disturbance. The only other feature in Trench 1 was a small irregular posthole 105 in the north-west corner, cut into the top of the natural and sealed by the subsoil 103. It was filled with a light to medium brown loamy clay (106).

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned east-west, its length was 10 m and its width was 1.55 m. It was excavated using a JCB digger down to the top of the natural, which was reached at a general depth of 0.40 m below the present ground surface. The layers removed by machine were the topsoil (201), a medium grey/brown silty clay loam and the subsoil (209) a very pale brown clay. Apart from two modern land drains (202) which runs east-west (though slightly obliquely to the trench) through the south-west corner, and 204, which runs east-west next to the northern edge of the excavation, the only feature in this trench was an irregular disturbance (208) at the east end.

Only part of this feature was within the area of excavation. It was filled with a mid orange brown clay (206), which produced 18th/19th-century pottery. The land drains (202 and 204) and feature 208 were cut from the top of the subsoil (209), but drain 204 was dug into the top of 208.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned north-south, its length was 10 m and its width was 1.55 m. The trench was excavated using a JCB digger down to the top of the natural (306 and 312) which only existed in a few small areas, reached at a general depth of 0.45 m below the present ground surface. Natural (306 and 312) was fairly disturbed at this level giving a 'dirty' appearance. There were two layers which were found throughout the trench, the topsoil (301) a mid to dark grey/brown silty clay loam, and below this was the subsoil (307) a pale brown slightly silty clay. There were two modern land drains (304 and 319), running east - west through the trench. Both drains were cut from the top of the subsoil 307.

Below the subsoil in the southern half of the trench was layer 310, a mid to dark grey/brown silty clay; it was unclear whether this was the fill of a shallow feature or a depression (309). It contained 18th/19th-century pottery. Immediately to the north of and overlaid by 309 was a shallow linear feature 302 (at least 4 m long and 0.25 m wide, 0.06 m deep), only part of which is within the area of excavation. It ran parallel to the western edge of the trench and was filled with a light brown silty clay (303). To the east of and cut by 302 was a small spread of a mid grey/brown clay (308), which contained small pieces of limestone and was partially overlaid by the clay layer 310.

Also underlying 310 (though having no stratigraphic relationship with 308) was a layer of pale grey silty clay, mottled with mid to dark orange flecks (314). This was overlying a crude cobbled surface (313), 0.70 m below the present ground surface. The cobbles were angular and subangular pieces of limestone, average size 0.12 m x 0.08 m x 0.035 m. The stones were slightly worn and were bonded with a pale bluish grey, slightly sandy clay, mottled with dark orange flecks of iron panning. Built into the cobbled surface were two small drainage gullies (317 and 318) made of pitched stones 0.20 m apart running to the north-east from the south-west.

Two small sondages were excavated through the cobbled surface and showed it to be directly overlying the natural (321), which here was a 'very clean' pale bluish grey slightly silty clay, mottled with mid orange flecks of iron panning. The only other feature in this trench was a small (diameter 0.24 m) but moderately deep (0.32 m) posthole (316) near the northern end of the trench, cut into the top of the natural and sealed by the subsoil 307. It was filled with a medium brown slightly loamy clay (315).

Environmental

There were no deposits suitable for environmental sampling.

Conclusions

Trenches 1 and 2 show that there are few, if any, significant archaeological deposits existing in the area of the proposed dwelling or garden; however, the cobbled surface in Trench 3 would appear to be late medieval in date and is possibly related to the medieval village of Flecknoe. This would suggest that similar archaeological deposits survive in the lower lying part of the site which is in the area proposed for the driveway.

OAU

June 1992

APPENDIX

CNTX	TYPE	POTTERY	TILE AND OTHER FINDS
<i>Trench 1</i>			
101	Topsoil	9 sherds of 19/20th C 2 sherds of medieval	ink bottle 19/20th C 1 piece of glass 19/20th C
102	Layer		
103	Subsoil		
104	Layer (Natural)		
105	Post hole		
106	Fill [105]		
107	Feature		
108	Fill [107]	2 sherds of 19/20th C 5 sherds of medieval	1 piece of modern brick
109	Fill [110]		
110	Post hole		
111	Layer/Fill	2 sherds of medieval	3 pieces of modern brick
<i>Trench 2</i>			
201	Topsoil		
202	Feature		
203	Fill [202]		
204	Cut		
205	Fill [204]		
206	Fill [208]	1 sherd of post- medieval	1 piece of post-medieval tile
207	Layer (Natural)		

208	Feature		
209	Subsoil		
<i>Trench 3</i>			
301	Topsoil	5 sherds of post-medieval	1 piece of tile 19/20th C 1 clay pipe stem fragment
		2 sherds of medieval	
302	Feature		
303	Fill [202]		
304	Land drain		
305	Fill [304]		
306	Layer (Natural)		
307	Subsoil		
308	Layer		
309	Feature		
310	Fill [309]	4 sherds of post-medieval	1 piece of brick 1 clay pipe stem fragment
311	Layer	2 sherds of medieval	
312	Layer (Natural)		
313	Layer	1 sherd of medieval 1 sherd of late/post-medieval	
314	Layer	1 sherd of 14th C 2 sherds of late medieval or post-medieval date 3 other sherds	
315	Fill [316]		
316	Posthole		
317	Gully		
318	Gully		

- 319 Land drain
- 320 Fill
[319]
- 321 Layer
(Natural)

The Pottery Identification by Cathy Keevill

Only two deposits contained medieval/late medieval pottery which was not residual.

313 1 sherd of 15th-century date and 1 of late or immediately post-medieval date.

314 1 sherd of 14th-century date and 2 of late or immediately post-medieval date.

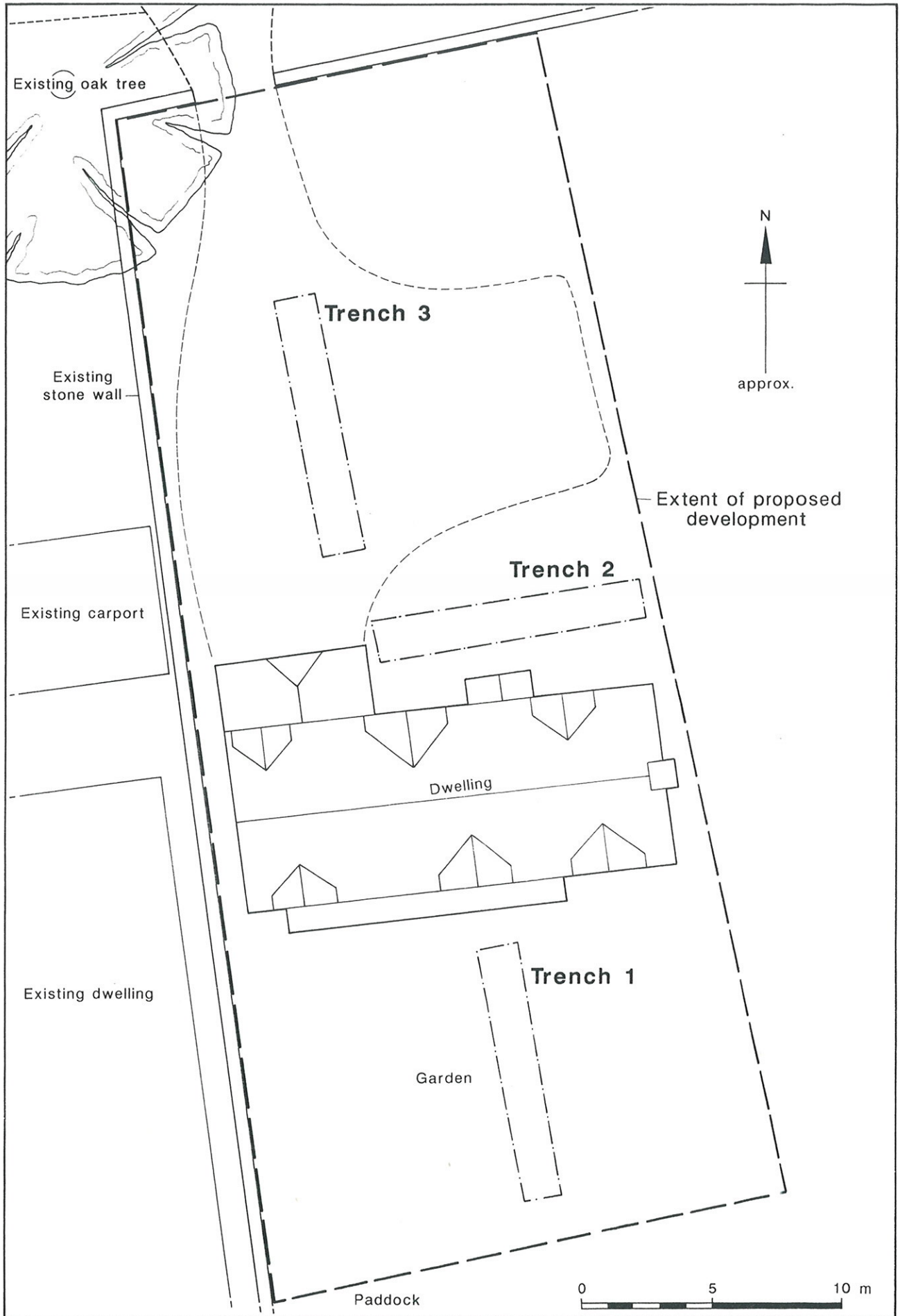
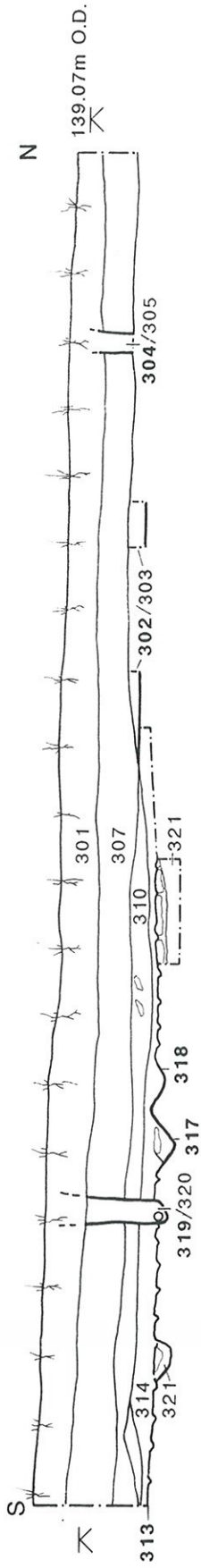


Fig. 1

Trench 3 Section



Trench 3 Plan



Cobbled surface

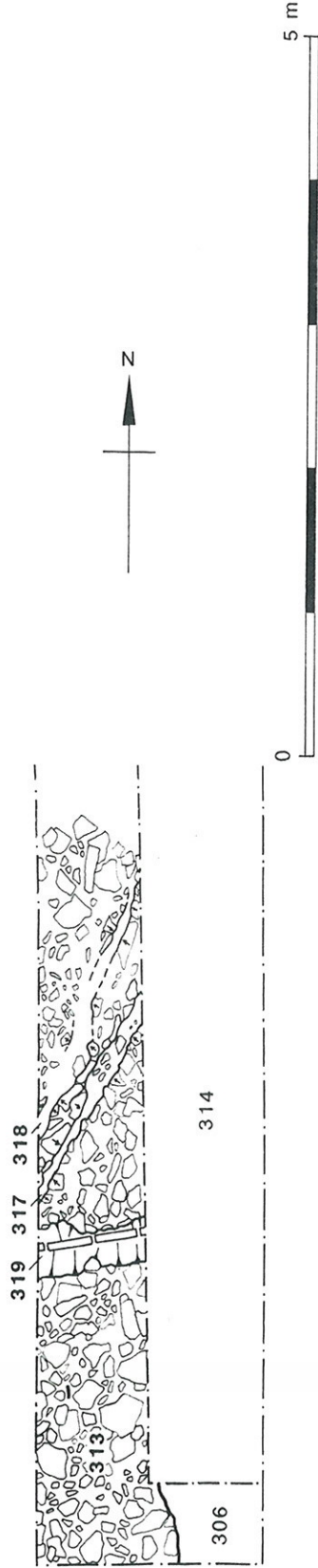


Fig. 2