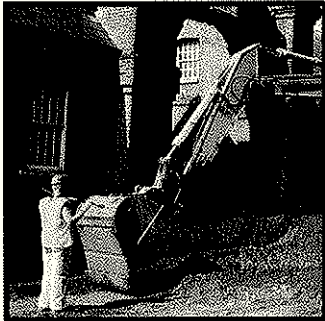


# 128 Abingdon Road Standlake Oxfordshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



**Oxford Archaeology**

4th February 2003

**Client Name: Mr S N Hillier**

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

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1347

Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: W2001/1985


NGR: SP 3923 0281

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**Client Ref No:** N/A  
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Date: 3rd February 2003

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## SUMMARY

*In May 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 128 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire. The work was commissioned by Mr S N Hillier in advance of the construction of a five-bedroom house and associated services. The watching brief revealed no evidence of archaeological activity.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In May 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 128 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 3923 0281). The work was commissioned by Mr S N Hillier in respect of a planning application for the construction of a five-bedroom house (Planning Application No. W2001/1985).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Hugh Coddington, Oxfordshire's Deputy County Archaeologist in line with PPG16 and Policy BE16 of the District Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief, which was approved by Hugh Coddington.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on first terrace river gravel, as identified by the British Geological Survey sheet 236 solid and drift edition (1:50,000), below fine loam at c 65 m OD. The site is located on the west side of the A415 Abingdon Road at Standlake and is NW of the crossroads between Abingdon Road, the High Street and Shifford Lane and is c 0.2 hectares in area (Fig. 2).

#### 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, 2002) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 This development site is located c. 100 m north of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 140), comprising a complex of cropmarks identified through aerial photography. Those visible include enclosures, ring ditches, hut circles, trackways and pits, all of possible prehistoric date.
- 1.3.3 An evaluation at 122 Abingdon Road identified medieval remains comprising linear features and postholes suggesting medieval activity in the locality (OA 1996), with properties fronting on to the Witney-Abingdon Road. There is a possibility that medieval deposits and overburden may conceal further prehistoric features.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present) that the works may remove or damage within the impacted area.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 All deposits were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where appropriate sections drawn at 1:20. All deposits were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D. Wilkinson, 1992).
- 2.2.2 Visits were made on three occasions to observe the excavation of building foundations and services. Observations were made on arisings from those excavations and on exposed sections through undisturbed deposits.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 Natural gravel (3) was revealed 0.25 m below ground level (bgl) within the foundation trenches for the new construction. The gravel was overlain by an orange brown clayey silt (2) layer which was in turn below a dark loam topsoil (1), an indicative section is provided in Figure 3.

### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the works.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No archaeologically significant deposits were observed during the works so it was unnecessary to sample for environmental material.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological evidence was revealed during the watching brief. Possible prehistoric and medieval features have been identified in the close proximity of the site. It is possible that archaeological remains within the development area have been truncated by ploughing, although a lack of any residual finds suggests that there was limited archaeological activity in the area.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	Layer	0.10	Topsoil
2	Layer	0.15	Subsoil
3	Layer		Natural

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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

OAU, 1996, *Land at 122 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxon. Archaeological Evaluation Report*

OA, 2002, *128 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxon. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** 128 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire

**Site code:** STLABR02

**Grid reference:** SP 3923 0281

**Type of watching brief:** Monitoring foundation trenches for the construction of a new house.

**Date and duration of project:** 14.05.02-22.05.02

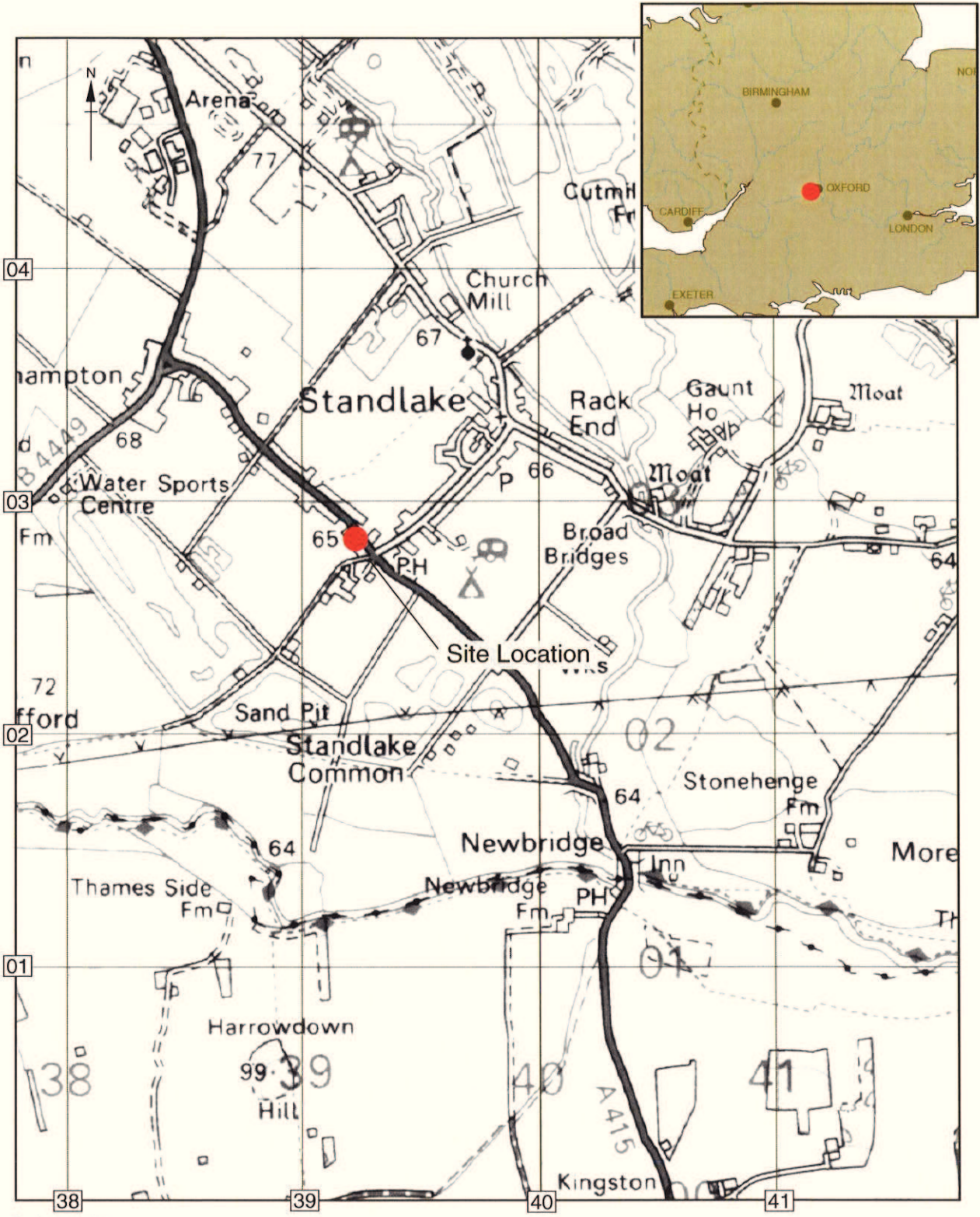
**Area of site:** 0.2 ha

**Summary of results:** A sequence of undisturbed natural deposits was observed.

**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, under the following accession number: 2002.108



Server:\0\W\OAU\pubs\R\lit\Z \*STLABR\*128 Abingdon Rd, Standlake \*RMS\*03.02.03



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

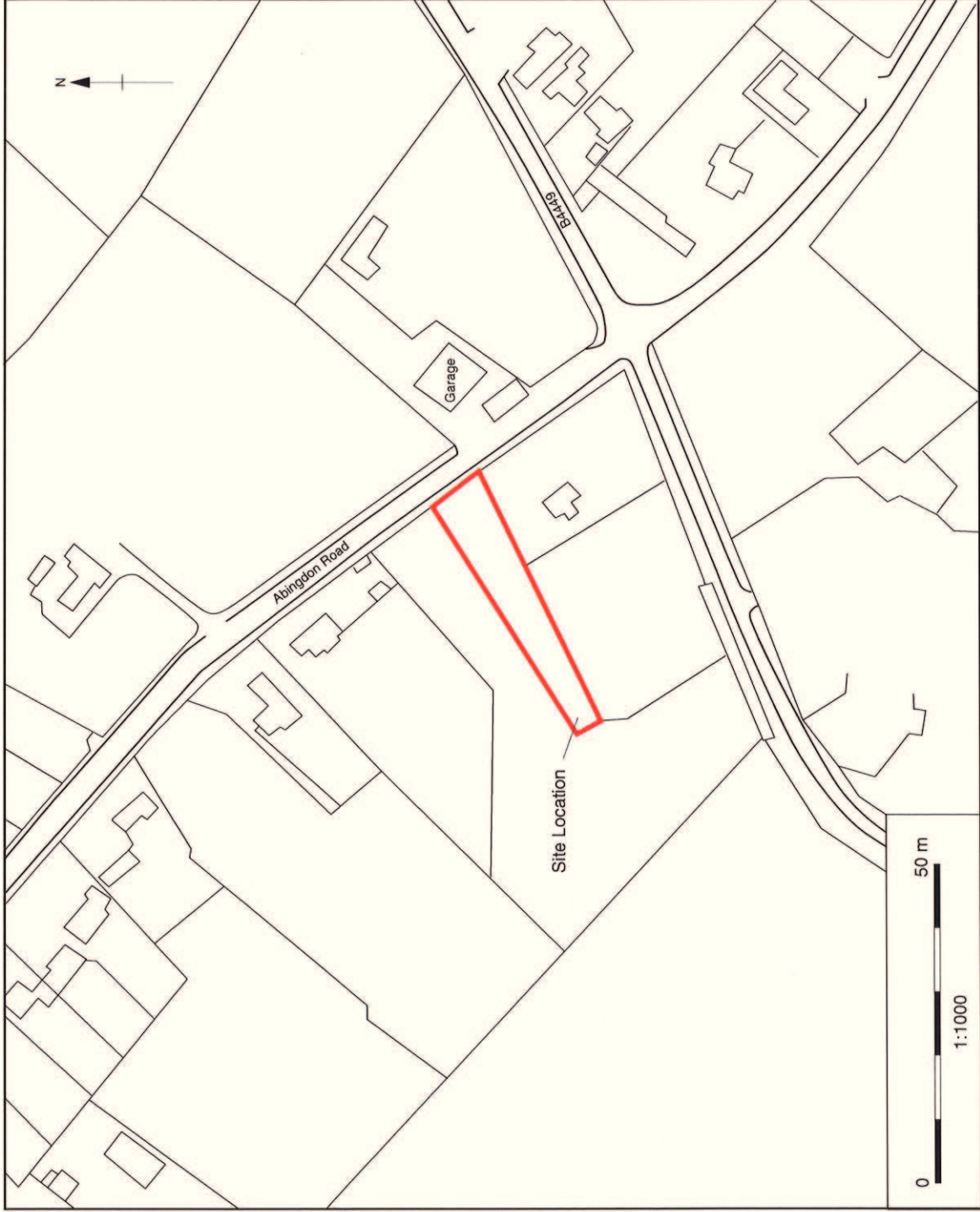


Figure 2: Site plan



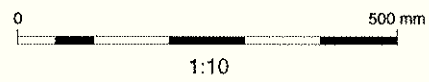
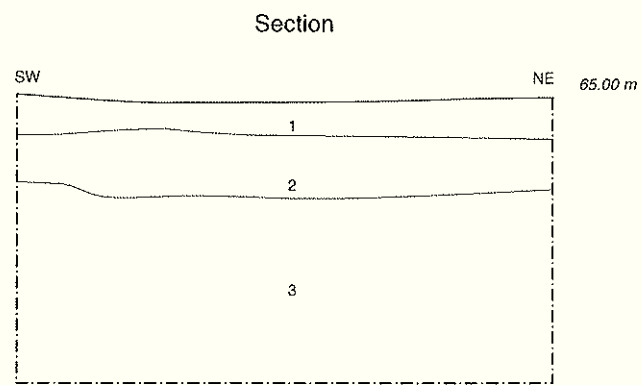

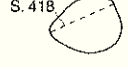




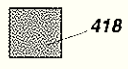




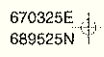


Figure 3: Sample Section

	Section line and number
	Interior section line and number
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
	Fill line and number
	Cut line and number
	Structure number
	Unclear boundary
	Stones
	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
	Levels
	Grid point



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