



Land to the Rear of Building 70, BMW Mini Plant, Oxford Archaeological Controlled Strip Report

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Prepared by: Stuart Foreman (Senior Project Manager)
Checked by: Edward Biddulph (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)
Signature:



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OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com

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Chief Executive Officer
Ken Welsh, BSc, MCIFA
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
Registered Charity, No: 285627
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

**Land to the Rear of Building 70,
BMW Mini Plant, Oxford,
Archaeological Controlled Strip Report
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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by David Lock Associates, on behalf of BMW UK Manufacturing Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief (controlled strip) in relation the development of a new vehicular test track and associated works on land to the rear of Building 70 within the BMW plant at Garsington Road, Oxford.

The controlled strip produced useful information regarding late Iron Age and/or early Roman activity along the line of the Dorchester-Alchester Roman road, located on the Corallian ridge to the south-west of Oxford. This part of the city is recognised for its nationally important Roman pottery industry, evidence for which has been found in the past at dispersed locations broadly along the line of the Roman road. The current small-scale excavation did not produce any direct evidence for the pottery industry but has revealed evidence for a ditched enclosure of probable early Roman date, at least 50m long, on a parallel NNW-SSE alignment to the nearby Roman road, as well as two other settlement features – a pit and possible ditch – that are probably broadly contemporary.

While no evidence for buildings or other structures was found, the charred plant remains, pottery and animal bone recovered from these features are suggestive of detritus from hearth fires from domestic contexts. The late Iron Age or early Roman settlement that produced the charred material is unlikely to lie very far from the controlled strip.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by David Pinches. Survey and digitising were carried out by Marjaana Kohtomaki. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by David Lock Associates, on behalf of BMW UK Manufacturing Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief (controlled strip) in relation the development of a new vehicular test track and associated works on land to the rear of Building 70 within the BMW plant at Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 5NL.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: 22/00769/FUL). A brief was set by David Radford (Oxford City Council Archaeologist, CCA) detailing the local authority's requirements for archaeological work necessary to discharge the planning condition (OA 2022, appendix K). This report describes how OA implemented those requirements and presents the results of the excavation. It has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation and watching brief (CIfA 2020a and b).
- 1.1.3 The development footprint is 0.53Ha in extent including the footprint of the test track itself and an adjacent drainage swale. The planning condition refers to a 'controlled strip of the swale area under archaeological control'.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies within a former grass-covered sports field situated just inside the eastern boundary of the City of Oxford, to the south-west of the village of Horspath. The site is bounded by Horspath Road to the north and an existing vehicle test track and sports pitches to the east. Roman Way lies 270m to the west.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 74m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.3 A small, broadly north-south aligned watercourse runs along the eastern side of the existing test track, which will be landscaped as part of the swale construction works.
- 1.2.4 According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology across the site is the Wheatley Limestone Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed c 157 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. This bedrock forms part of the Corallian ridge, which is cut through by the River Thames 4km to the south-west of the site. No superficial deposits are mapped on the BGS (BGS nd).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 As no desk-based assessment has been completed for this site, the following archaeological and historical background is based on recent research carried out by OA for the neighbouring Horspath Cemetery site (OA 2021). The study area for this background comprises a 1km search area centred c 500m to the north-east of the site. The nature of the archaeological resource within the site and the surrounding study area is discussed by period below. A controlled strip and archaeological watching brief

are considered necessary for this site because of the potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeology, and the following background section is focused predominantly on those periods. The locations of previous archaeological events are shown on Figure 2 and non-designated heritage assets are shown on Figure 3. Further details of sites within a 1-km radius are provided in Appendix B.

Previous archaeological investigations

1.3.2 No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the development site itself. However, a large number of previous investigations have taken place in the near vicinity. The Oxfordshire historic environment record (OHER) and the Oxford City historic environment record (OCHER) record a total of 33 previous investigations within an approximate 1km radius of the site, comprising one heritage building assessment (OA 30), one fieldwalking survey (OA 23), three geophysical surveys (OA 18, OA 45, OA 46), four excavations (OA 21, OA 27, OA 37, OA 44), nine watching briefs (OA 16, OA 17, OA 19, OA 20, OA 24, OA 25, OA 28, OA 29, OA 31), and 15 evaluations (OA 22, OA 26, OA 32–OA 36, OA 38–OA 43, OA 47, OA 48). Where relevant, the results of these investigations are discussed by period in the sections below.

1.3.3 No significant archaeological remains were encountered during a number of the previous evaluations (OA 34, OA 35, OA 36, OA 40, OA 41, OA 42) and watching briefs (OA 20, OA 24, OA 28, OA 29).

Prehistoric period (500,000 BP – AD 43)

1.3.4 No heritage assets of prehistoric date have been recorded within the site boundary, although a small number of earlier prehistoric finds have been recorded in the wider vicinity, providing evidence of a background presence within the landscape during the earlier prehistoric period. A Neolithic flint burin/engraver (OA 49) was found on the surface of a field c 500m to the north of the site, south of Brasenose Wood, while further prehistoric worked flints were discovered in two pits (OA 51) approximately 1km north-east of the site. In addition, a fieldwalking survey (OA 23) was carried out in 2001 as part of an evaluation undertaken in advance of the development of the Centre for Sporting Excellence (OA 2001), directly east of the site. The survey recovered a range of finds of varying dates, although no concentrations of material were identified. Recovered finds include three flint flakes of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date (OA 79), as well as later finds (see below).

1.3.5 An evaluation (OA 33) carried out in 1995 at the site of the Rover Vehicle Quality Building, directly south-west of the site, revealed a ditch of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date, containing pottery, animal bones and flints, in addition to overlying medieval/post-medieval ploughsoils (OA 80; Keevill and Durden 1997). The subsequent open-area excavation (OA 21) fully recorded the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditch but did not reveal any further prehistoric remains, although three post-medieval ditches were recorded (Keevill and Durden 1997). No archaeological features were identified during an evaluation (OA 32) at the adjacent Paint Shop Building, but

Roman–medieval/post-medieval ploughsoils were recorded (Keevill and Durden 1997).

- 1.3.6 Following the fieldwalking survey (OA 23) at the Centre for Sporting Excellence, a phase of open-area excavation (OA 44; SA 2018) revealed evidence of generally later prehistoric activity (OA 81). Two pits of early Bronze Age date with evidence of *in situ* burning were located within the centre of a later enclosure of probable late Iron Age date, which was also the focus of other late Iron Age activity, perhaps indicating that the area held some significance over a long period of time (*ibid.*). Evidence of more substantial late Iron Age–early Roman occupation activity was revealed by the excavations, comprising a probable trackway, a penannular ditch suggestive of a roundhouse, and other curvilinear and rectilinear ditches that delineated enclosures and a coaxial field system. A small quantity of residual middle Iron Age pottery hints at activity in the vicinity during this period. An inhumation burial of possible late Iron Age date was also excavated on the edge of the settlement area.
- 1.3.7 An archaeological evaluation (OA 26, OA 38) was carried out in 2002 at Eastfield House, c 800m north-west of the site. The investigation of five trenches revealed evidence of Iron Age–Roman activity in the form of two ditches that may have constituted boundaries and contained pottery and animal bone (OA 82; TVAS 2002). Subsequent excavation (OA 37) in 2003 recorded residual Bronze Age pottery and a pit dating to the 2nd–1st century BC (OA 82), together with more extensive remains of a Roman field system (Challis 2005).
- 1.3.8 An isolated gold coin of Iron Age date (OA 50) was found in a field, c 600m north of the site, in the early 20th century.

Romano-British period (AD 43 – 410)

- 1.3.9 The Roman settlement pattern of the wider Oxfordshire landscape is considered to have perpetuated late Iron Age territorial groupings, with the city of Oxford having remained on the periphery between the major towns at Silchester, Cirencester and St Albans (Dodd 2003, 11). During the Roman period, small towns were established at Alchester to the north-east of Oxford and Dorchester-on-Thames to the south-east, which were connected by a Roman road that ran through the eastern edge of modern Oxford (Margary route 160b; Margary 1973; Dodd 2003, 11). The site is located c 250m east of this roughly N–S aligned route (OA 78, OA 92). Uncovered during gas works in c 1960, two adjacent metalled road surfaces (OA 91), although undated, were recorded on the line of the Roman road c 550m south-west of the site (Case and Sturdy 1960). The western surface was c 4.6m wide and at a higher level than the eastern surface, which was c 10.7m wide. The two surfaces were spaced c 1.5m apart and comprised limestone gravel and rubble (*ibid.*).
- 1.3.10 The remains of Roman burial activity have been recorded along the line of the Roman road. Two separate skeletons of possible Roman date and pottery sherds of 3rd/4th-century AD date (OA 86) were reportedly found c 80m west of the Roman road and c 200m west of the site. Two skeletons of possible Roman date (OA 55) were also found at a quarry site immediately east of the road, c 350m north-west of the site. Another

grave (OA 85) in proximity to the road was recorded in the 1940s during archaeological monitoring of removal works associated with the railway line, c 450m south-west of the site; a further six graves had supposedly been destroyed prior to recording but may hint at the location of a small Roman roadside cemetery.

- 1.3.11 The 2001 fieldwalking survey (OA 23) completed at the site of the Centre for Sporting Excellence, south of Oxford Road, recovered pottery sherds of Roman date, all of probable Oxford fabrics (OA 79; OA 2001). Trial-trench evaluation (OA 47) of the north-west corner of the site (Area A) in 2002 revealed a number of archaeological features, including an E–W aligned ditch dated to the 1st century AD that may have constituted a boundary feature (OA 83; OA 2002a). The evaluation also investigated several undated features, including linear features, an isolated posthole and a shallow pit, some of which may have been associated with Roman activity (OA 83; *ibid.*). A second phase of trial trenching (OA 47) across the remainder of the site (Area B) did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the modern era (OA 2002b). A further programme of trial trenching (OA 43) was carried out across the area in 2017 and established the presence of a series of ditches, pits and postholes of late Iron Age–2nd-century AD date (SA 2017). Subsequent excavations (OA 44) further investigated the late Iron Age–Roman rural occupation site (OA 81; SA 2018). At least three phases of early Roman field system were identified, demonstrating the gradual expansion of agricultural activity at the site (*ibid.*). A rectilinear enclosure (OA 96), 100m west of the site, was recorded during a survey of aerial photographs (OA 2021). This was almost certainly related to the late Iron Age/Roman settlement excavated in the vicinity.
- 1.3.12 Further evidence of Roman agricultural activity (OA 82), comprising a network of ditches, was encountered during an evaluation (OA 26, OA 38; TVAS 2002) and subsequent excavation (OA 37) in 2002–3 at Eastfield House, c 800m north-west of the site (Challis 2005). Potentially first established in the 2nd/1st century BC (see above), activity at the site appears to have continued throughout the Roman period, during which time the layout of the agricultural field system underwent a number of alterations. Located less than 200m to the west of the line of the Roman road between Alchester and Dorchester, it is possible that the Roman field system was associated with a nearby roadside settlement (*ibid.*, 101).
- 1.3.13 A number of isolated finds of Roman date have also been recorded within the wider study area, providing additional evidence of Roman activity within the vicinity of the site. A coin of Probus (OA 56) was found approximately 840m to the south-east. Late Roman pottery (OA 87) was also found on Horspath Road near the Eastern Bypass in the west of the study area. The location of a possible Roman settlement site (OA 57) may also be suggested by the recovery of late Roman pottery and coins from a field c 520m north of the site.
- 1.3.14 Two possible Roman kiln sites have been recorded in the vicinity. The first (OA 88) was recorded at the former Slade Hospital site, located 940m to the north-west of the site. A programme of archaeological monitoring (OA 27) was carried out during the development of the site (JMHS 2000). While no cut features were identified, a significant amount of Roman pottery, at least one waster, fragments of kiln furniture

and large pieces of slag were retrieved, indicating that pottery manufacture and perhaps also metalworking were undertaken at or near to the site (ibid.). The second kiln site was initially identified as Roman surface finds of pottery and kiln waste (OA 49) recovered from a field south of Brasenose Wood. Twentieth-century ploughing of the same field also revealed a number of charcoal-rich deposits and stone scatters in the centre and east of the area (OA 54). Archaeological investigation of the central stone area revealed the remains of stone walls two courses high, while the excavation of one of the burnt deposits was identified as a kiln stokehole, from which an abundance of Roman pottery was also recovered. In 2014 a gradiometer survey (OA 18) of the field detected a number of strong anomalies, including two rectilinear and linear anomalies probably relating to enclosures or field systems of possible Roman date (OA 52; Stratascan 2014). Several curvilinear and discrete anomalies were also identified by the survey, with one discrete anomaly likely to be related to the possible kiln site previously investigated within the field (ibid.). A rectilinear enclosure was also observed in this locality during a survey of aerial photographs (OA 52; NMR 13546.411. March 1990; OA 2021).

Medieval period (AD 410 – 1550)

- 1.3.15 Very little evidence of early medieval activity has been recorded within the study area. Approximately 850m south-east of the site is the recorded location of an inhumation burial with a bronze object found in c 1847 and may have been early medieval in date (OA 58).
- 1.3.16 Roman to medieval ploughsoils and pottery were recorded during an evaluation (OA 32) of the Rover Paint Shop Building site, 700m to the south-west of the site, suggesting that the area had been under cultivation for a considerable length of time (Keevill and Durden 1997, 99). A programme of archaeological monitoring (OA 25) was also undertaken during construction works in 1996, which confirmed the results of the previous evaluation, but did not reveal any features (Keevill and Durden 1997).
- 1.3.17 At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), the estate in Horspath was recorded as comprising 5½ hides, which was held by Roger d'Ivry, situated within the Bullingdon Hundred that belonged to the royal manor of Headington (Lobel 1957a; 1957b; Open Domesday nd). From an early date the Horspath estate appears to have been divided into two manors, Upper and Lower (or Church) Horspath. St Frideswide's cartulary states that the priory received tithes from two villages in 1122, with other records dating between the 13th and 14th centuries continue to refer to the two Horspath estates (Lobel 1957a; Pym 2018, 6–8). The location of Lower Horspath coincides with the present modern village, while the site of Upper Horspath is uncertain, though it may have been located on higher ground further to the east towards the parish boundary (Lobel 1957a; Pym 2018, 9–13).
- 1.3.18 During the later medieval period, it is probable that the site and much of the area surrounding the site would have been open fields constituting the agricultural hinterland of Horspath Manor. Limited known heritage assets of medieval date have been recorded within the study area, probably reflecting the largely agricultural nature

of the landscape. Earthworks identified by the LiDAR data are suggestive of medieval/early post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

1.3.19 A small assemblage of medieval pottery (OA 79) was recovered during the fieldwalking survey (OA 23) at the site of the Centre for Sporting Excellence, immediately to the east of the site (OA 2001). Subsequent excavations (OA 44) in 2017 uncovered the remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation in the form of plough furrows across the area (OA 81), demonstrating the agricultural nature of land use during the medieval period (SA 2018). Given the location of these remains directly to the south of the site, it is probable that the site was utilised for similar agricultural purposes.

Post-medieval period (AD 1550 – 1900)

1.3.20 The overall layout of the site appears to have remained largely the same throughout much of the post-medieval period. The 1847 tithe map of the parish of Horspath shows that the site was formed of a number of complete fields/land parcels, with the south-west of the site possibly having extended into neighbouring fields.¹

1.3.21 The OHER and OCHER record a number of heritage assets of post-medieval date that further demonstrate the largely rural character of the landscape.

1.4 Aims and objectives

1.4.1 The objectives as stated in the brief were to identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the ground works, paying particular regard to the potential for prehistoric and Roman remains.

1.4.2 If applicable the fieldwork report should refer to the city, county and regional period-based resource assessments and research agendas available on the web:

Solent-Thames Regional Research Framework:

- <http://oxfordarchaeology.com/aboutus/our-archive/news-archive/301-solent-thames-research-framework-for-the-historic-environment>

Oxford Archaeological Plan:

- <http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/OxfordArchaeologicalPlan.htm>

1.4.3 The specific aims and objectives of the work were:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To relate the features identified to the results of previous investigations in the surrounding area.

¹ <https://www.oxfordshirehistory.org.uk/public/maps/tithe/zoomified/zoom.htm?Horspath>

1.5 Fieldwork methodology

- 1.5.1 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and Oxford City Council brief (OA 2022), which refer to Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (2014a) Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation. The scope of works and method were defined in the brief and WSI as follows:
- 1.5.2 *The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (ClfA 2020).*
- 1.5.3 *A 'controlled strip' is a type of 'watching brief' which incorporates most of the recording methods and standards applicable to formal 'excavation'. As in a standard watching brief the archaeological work in this case was carried out as a preliminary stage in the construction project, with plant and other attendances provided by the construction contractor. Unlike a standard watching brief, the archaeological site supervisor had control over the depth and method of mechanical excavation, rather than simply observing the excavation.*
- 1.5.4 The work was completed in a 1-week programme (29/08/2022 to 02/09/2022).
- 1.5.5 No contingencies for further work were required as the range and quantity of archaeology found was broadly as expected.
- 1.5.6 The excavation footprint was mechanically stripped using a wide, toothless ditching bucket to a depth at which any archaeological features could be mapped and investigated by hand excavation, in this case c 700mm below ground level. The comparatively thick soil sequence is probably explained by colluvium and/or alluvium accumulated in the valley of the small stream which lies adjacent to the site to the east.
- 1.5.7 The controlled strip was limited to the deepest part of the new drainage swale. The sides of the swale will be battered at a shallow angle of slope and no features could be seen in plan in the battered parts.
- 1.5.8 As per the brief and WSI, while the work was technically a watching brief, recording standards were the same as for a formal excavation. Features were recorded in plan at an appropriate scale and accurately located in relation to the National Grid. The archaeological features were mapped using GPS survey. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records. Sections were drawn through all significant cut features and levelled to ordnance datum.
- 1.5.9 The primary photographic archive comprises digital photographs, which will be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service as part of the permanent digital archive. Digital imaging guidelines require that only cameras of ten mega pixel specification (or greater) should be used. OA site digital cameras have a minimum specification of 12

mega pixels. Digital Image capture and file storage will be compliant with Historic England's guidelines (2015c).

1.5.10 No human remains were found.

1.5.11 All stratified finds were collected by context.

2 STRATIGRAPHY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The controlled strip revealed two ditches (1007/1012 and 1004) and a single large pit (1009) (Fig. 4). The features were exposed following the removal by machine of approximately, on average, 700mm of overburden. This comparatively thick soil sequence comprised 0.20m topsoil (1000), 0.28m of reddish-brown clay-silt plough-disturbed subsoil (1001). These ploughsoils overlay a 0.12m thick yellowish brown silty sand subsoil layer (1002), which was interpreted as an alluvial deposit associated with the small watercourse to the east.
- 2.1.2 All three archaeological features were sealed by alluvial layer 1002 and cut into layer 1003 (Fig. 6, section 3). Layer 1003 was a light yellowish brown silty sand, which was interpreted either as the weathered upper surface of the limestone bedrock or a lower alluvial layer associated with the small watercourse to the east. The layer contained manganese and iron flecks suggestive of alluvial deposition. Underlying these Holocene soils was the weathered limestone bedrock (1014).

2.2 Phase 1: Late Iron Age/early Romano-British

Ditch 1007/ 1012

- 2.2.1 This NNW-SSE aligned ditch extended for a distance of 50m within the excavation area, from a clearly defined terminal at the north-west end to the eastern edge of excavation (Fig. 4; Plates 1–2). Two sections were hand-excavated (cuts 1007 and 1012; Fig. 6, sections 2 and 4 respectively), the northernmost being the terminal end (cut 1012). Of these only cut 1007 (fill 1008) produced artefactual dating evidence, in the form of a small group (six sherds) of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery.
- 2.2.2 The ditch profile was similarly shallow and flat-based in both of the excavated sections, cut 1007 being 0.12m deep and 0.7m wide, and cut 1012 being 0.12m deep and 0.94m wide (Fig. 6, sections 2 and 4). The single fills of cuts 1007 and 1012 were very similar, yellowish brown sandy silts (fills 1008 and 1013 respectively).
- 2.2.3 As the feature survived to a very shallow depth and no visible charred material was present in the fills, no soil samples were recovered.

Pit 1009

- 2.2.4 This 2.2m long, 0.6m wide, 0.4m deep pit was partially revealed near the southern end of the controlled strip (Fig. 4, Plate 4). The pit profile was wide and flat-bottomed (Fig. 6, section 3). The fills include an upper dark brownish-grey sandy silt (1011) and a lower light yellowish brown silty sand (1010), the latter probably formed by weathering of the pit sides. Upper fill 1011 produced 3 sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery while fill 1010 produced a single sherd. Soil sample 2 from fill 1011 probably represents general domestic waste from a late Iron Age or early Roman occupation area. Fragments of two possible nails (iron) were recovered from soil sample 2 (fill 1011). Neither of them can be dated with any confidence but one was

thought more likely to be of medieval or later date on morphological grounds. If so, it is likely to be intrusive within the pit fill.

2.3 Undated

Ditch 1004

- 2.3.1 This ditch was a NW-SE aligned wide, shallow ditch with a flattish base, located in the southern part of the controlled strip (Fig. 4; Fig. 6, section 1; Plate 3). It was 1.18m wide and 0.32m deep and extended for a distance of 8m across the excavation area. No artefacts were recovered from either of the two fills (1005 and 1006). Fill 1005 was a light yellowish brown silty sand initial fill, which was probably formed by erosion from the feature sides. The upper fill (1006, soil sample 1) was a very dark brownish-black deposit, rich in wood charcoal, which appears to represent a dump of hearth debris, probably from a domestic fire.

3 ARTEFACTS

3.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

3.1.1 Fifteen sherds of pottery, weighing 47g, were recorded. Fabrics were assigned standard Oxford Archaeology codes (Booth nd). The following fabrics were identified:

- E30 Sandy fabric
- E40 Shelly fabric
- E80 Grog-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, fabric SOB GT)

3.1.2 A catalogue of the pottery is provided in Table 1.

Context	Sample	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Comments	Date
1008	-	6	9	E30	Sherds from single vessel. Possible rim of bucket- or barrel-shaped jar, but too fragmented to confirm.	LIA/ER
1010	-	1	5	E40	Body sherd	LIA/ER
1011	2	3	12	E80	Body sherds from separate vessels. One sherd from vessel shoulder, another with possible cordon.	LIA/ER
1011	-	5	21	E40	Body sherds from single vessel	LIA/ER
	Total	15	47			

Table 1: Pottery by context

3.1.3 The range of fabrics is consistent with a late Iron Age or early Roman date (c 50 BC–AD 100). The absence of pottery that must date after AD 43 might suggest that deposition was confined to the late Iron Age, but given the size of the assemblage, the possibility of deposition after AD 43 is equally likely, especially as ditch 1007 lay parallel to the nearby Dorchester to Alchester Roman road, potentially having been dug with reference to it. No forms were identified, but sherds in fabric E30 from context 1008 (fill of ditch 1007) may represent a jar rim, and the shoulder of a vessel, probably a jar, was recorded in fabric E80 in context 1011 (along with 1010 a fill of pit 1009).

3.1.4 With an overall mean sherd weight (weight / no. sherds) of just 3g, the assemblage was very fragmented. This suggests that the pottery had undergone multiple episodes redeposition, for example through agricultural processes or management of domestic waste, prior to final, probably incidental, deposition in the features from which it was recovered.

3.2 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

- 3.2.1 A single piece of stone was retained from context 1006. This were examined by eye for signs of working or use. The stone is a burnt / reddened and heat cracked fragment of sandstone weighing 13g, which is otherwise unworked.

3.3 Metal

By Anni Byard

- 3.3.1 Two probable nail fragments were recovered from sample 2 taken from context 1011. Both fragments are from the tips or lower shanks of nails. The larger example is broadly wedge-shaped but has suffered damage. It is likely to be of medieval to modern date. The second nail fragment consists of a small section of tip / shank. Its date is uncertain.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

4.1 Environmental samples

By *Richard Palmer*

Introduction

- 4.1.1 Two bulk samples, of 30L and 40L respectively, were taken from the fills of ditch 1004 (sample 1) and pit 1009 (sample 2).
- 4.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and residues in a 500µm mesh, both were dried in a heated room. The residue fractions (ie the material which did not float) were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.
- 4.1.3 Nomenclature for identified species follows (Stace 2010) and cereal grain and chaff identifications are made with reference to Jacomet (2006).

Results

- 4.1.4 The details of the samples and the flots are presented in Table X. Soil colour was determined using Munsell Soil Colour Chart and soil texture described using published guidelines (Historic England 2015).

Ditch 1004 (undated)

- 4.1.5 Sample 1 produced a 50ml charcoal-rich flot, a proportion of which is identifiable and includes diffuse porous wood. Identifications of apple/hawthorn type (Maloideae) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) were made, both short-lived species offering potential for radiocarbon dating. Bone and burnt stone were recovered from the residue. It seems likely that the material represents a dump of hearth debris, probably from a domestic fire. The context is currently undated. The other features in this area seem to be of early Roman date, but this ditch is on a different alignment from the adjacent Roman ditch and otherwise undated on artefactual or stratigraphic grounds.

Pit 1009 (late Iron Age or early Roman)

- 4.1.6 Sample 2, which has been dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, produced a 90ml flot in which charred grain was particularly common and includes both spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and oat (*Avena* sp.), the former identification made from spelt recovered glumes. Oat florets were occasionally present but the best-preserved example lacks the floret base so it is not possible to determine if the oat is a wild (*A. fatua*) or domestic (*A. sativa*) type. Small legumes, likely to be vetches, were also recovered along with some charred hazel nutshell fragments (*Corylus avellana*) and a small assemblage of charred weed seeds. Many of the weed seeds are in good condition and include charred goosefoots seeds (Amaranthaceae) as well as cleavers

(*Galium aparine*), spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) dock (*Rumex* sp.) and legume (Fabaceae). Bone, pottery and iron artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Discussion

4.1.7 The samples are indicative of the disposal of domestic waste from a nearby area of occupation. While sample 1 could derive from a fire or hearth, the material in sample 2 is probably general domestic waste from a late Iron Age or early Roman occupation activity area. The grain condition in sample 2 was highly variable with some specimens in good condition whilst others were highly fragmented. The high level of fragmentation leaves some uncertainty in determining whether any grain morphologies indicate the presence of barley in the assemblage. It is also uncertain whether any of the grain had been disposed of due to sprouting.

4.1.8 The assemblage of uncultivated plant seeds in sample 2 includes several species considered to be common arable weeds or crop contaminants. Dock seeds are especially common and spike rush may indicate the cultivation of damp, more marginal soils. The presence of charred goosefoots may be significant as some species, including fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and Good King Henry (*Blitum bonus-henricus*) can be eaten as a leafy vegetable and has been interpreted as a prehistoric foodstuff (Mueller-Bieniek *et al.* 2020). In this case the low number of specimens means that reliable interpretation is not possible, although the charring does mean that they are not likely to be modern intrusions. The burrowing mollusc *Ceciliodies acicula* was seen rarely in both samples but is not quantified as it is probably intrusive and indicative of some level of bioturbation.

4.1.9 The flots are of some scientific interest and should be retained and deposited with the final archive.

Sample no.	Context no.	Feature	Area/Trench	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Molluscs	Notes
1	1006	1004			38	50	++++					+	7.5YR 2.5/2 sandy silt loam.
2	1011	1009		LIA/ER	40	90	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	+	7.5YR 3/3 sandy silt loam. Weeds include: <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Eleocharis</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. and Fabaceae.

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), +=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+)

Legumes and nutshell are recorded under other charred.

Table 2: Assessment of bulk flots

4.2 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

- 4.2.1 Twenty-one fragments of bone (89g) were collected by hand from the controlled strip, while a further 54 fragments (24g) were recovered from the environmental sample residues.
- 4.2.2 Context 1006 (sample 1, from undated ditch 1004) contained no specimens identifiable to species.
- 4.2.3 Context 1011, spot dated as late Iron Age/early Roman, contained a single hand-retrieved fragment of large mammal long bone, in good condition; the 10-4mm residue from associated soil sample 2 contained a right coronoid process from a perinatal sheep/goat mandible, a worn right maxillary sheep/goat dp4, a pig mandibular premolar and a pig left fifth metacarpal.
- 4.2.4 Context 1013 contained bone in moderate condition comprising the proximal half of a left cattle metatarsal (proximal breadth = 40.7mm), as well as two fragments of distal condyle which are likely to be from the same specimen, and two fragments of large mammal long bone.
- 4.2.5 The bone has no research potential and may be discarded.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The controlled strip was carried out under archaeological supervision and with a toothless ditching bucket as per the WSI, in good conditions for archaeological visibility. The site was undertaken in hot, dry conditions, but this did not materially affect feature visibility. The archaeological features were easy to see against the natural geology.

5.2 Phasing

Late Iron Age and early Roman

- 5.2.1 The controlled strip revealed two features that are tentatively dated by small groups of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery found in the fills (Ditch 1007/1012 and Pit 1009).
- 5.2.2 The NNW-SSE aligned ditch (Ditch 1007/1012) was exposed for a distance of 50m within the excavation. As the ditch lies parallel to the nearby Dorchester-Alchester Roman Road, an early Roman date seems most likely for this feature, assuming that it was laid out with reference to the Roman road, either at the same time or soon after (Fig. 5). The line of the Roman road is followed by the modern 'Roman Way', located 283m to the west of ditch 1007/1012.

Pit 1009 is of uncertain original function, although it seems to have been used as a rubbish pit in later life. Charred plant remains from the fill probably derive from dumps of domestic waste and do not necessarily reflect the original function of the pit. The charred plant remains suggests that a domestic settlement of late Iron Age or Early Roman date probably lay nearby. Two iron fragments, probably nails, were recovered from fill 1011, one of which is undatable and the other was thought most likely to be of medieval or later date on morphological grounds. If so, it is probably intrusive.

Undated

- 5.2.3 Ditch 1004 is undated on present evidence and therefore of less significance than the more securely dated late Iron Age and Roman features, even though it contained a rich deposit of charred plant remains, probably derived from a domestic hearth. None of the charred material is particularly diagnostic of date, although the charcoal could potentially be radiocarbon dated if the feature is considered significant enough. The ditch is not on the same alignment as the nearby Roman road and is not otherwise datable on present evidence. The ditch appeared at the same level in the soil sequence as the early Roman features so appears broadly contemporary with them on stratigraphic grounds.

5.3 Controlled strip objectives and results

- 5.3.1 Although only a small area, the controlled strip has, as expected, produced useful information regarding late Iron Age and/or early Roman activity along the line of the Dorchester-Alchester Roman Road, located to the south-west of Oxford on the Corallian Ridge. In the Oxford City Archaeological Research Agenda (OCC nd), this part

of the city is recognised for its nationally important Roman pottery industry, evidence for which has been found in the past at dispersed locations broadly along the line of the Roman Road (See section 1.3 above and Figures 2-3). Evidence has been found as far south as Dorchester and as far north as Otmoor. The current excavation did not produce any direct evidence for the pottery industry, but has revealed evidence for a ditched enclosure of probable early Roman date, at least 50m long, on a parallel NNW-SSE alignment to the Roman road (ditch 1007/1012), as well as two other settlement features that are probably broadly contemporary (pit 1009 and possibly ditch 1004).

- 5.3.2 While no evidence for buildings was found, the charred plant remains, pottery and animal bone recovered from these features are suggestive of detritus from hearth fires from domestic contexts. The late Iron Age or early Roman settlement that produced the charred material is unlikely to lie very far from the controlled strip.
- 5.3.3 No evidence for human burials was found, in spite of the roadside location and multiple sites in the surrounding area which have produced burials.

5.4 Significance

- 5.4.1 The remains discovered are of moderate regional significance as they contribute to understanding of Roman settlement in this part of the Corallian ridge near Oxford, but do not provide any direct evidence for the nationally important Roman pottery industry for which this area is mainly known.

5.5 Publication

- 5.5.1 It is expected that the controlled strip results will be satisfied by the completion of this archive report for the Oxford UAD & HER, publication of a summary note in the regional journal South Midlands Archaeology and deposition of the archive (see below).

5.6 OASIS

- 5.6.1 Once the final report has been accepted OA will complete an OASIS fieldwork summary form and submit it to the Archaeology Data Service. The form and guidance for its completion can be found at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/first.html>.

5.7 Archiving, retention and disposal

- 5.7.1 The metal and stone finds and the animal bone may be discarded. The pottery has the potential to inform future research through re-examination and thus it is recommended that the pottery is retained.
- 5.7.2 A Transfer of Title Letter will be signed by the landowner (BMW UK Ltd) signing over ownership of the finds recovered to Oxfordshire County Museum. The procedures and requirements for the deposit of archaeological archives with Oxfordshire County Museum will be followed and are available from the Collections and Information Manager (Oxfordshire County Museums 2014). A storage grant will be provided to the museum in accordance with their requirements.

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APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context Number	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Context type	Fill of	Interpretive Category	Section numbers	Comments	Phase
1000		0.22	layer	1000	Topsoil		Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy silt	
1001		0.28	layer	1001	Subsoil		Mid greyish brown. Friable. Sandy clay silt	
1002		0.2	layer	1002	Alluvial Layer I infilling small stream valley		Possible alluvial silty sand. Appears as mixed horizon overlying clean natural. Mid yellowish brown (diffuses to mid greyish brown moving North) sandy silt	
1003			layer	1003	Natural		Clean sandy silt. Possibly high energy alluvial deposition. Light yellowish brown friable sandy silt, diffuse transition to mid brownish grey to the north. Flecks of degraded limestone and localised concentrations of manganese	
1004	1.16	0.31	cut		Ditch	1	NW-SE aligned ditch containing 2 fills	Undated ditch on different alignment to probable Early Roman ditch 1007
1005			fill	1004	Secondary Fill		Likely initial edge collapse and silting of ditch, diffuse contact with overlying fill. Mid yellowish brown, friable, silty sand. No finds	Undated
1006			fill	1004	Deliberate Backfill		Deliberate backfill of black silty material. A very dark brown/black, friable, sandy silt. No finds	Undated
1007	0.70	0.15	cut		Ditch	2	A NNE-SSW shallow gully. Curved sides and rounded base	The pottery is spot-dated to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period. The ditch lies

Context Number	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Context type	Fill of	Interpretive Category	Section numbers	Comments	Phase
								parallel to the nearby Dorchester-Alchester Roman Road so an early Roman date seems most likely.
1008			fill	1007	Secondary Fill		Single fill of gully, fill is a mid yellowish brown, friable, silty sand.	6 sherds Late Iron Age or Early Roman pot
1009	0.60	0.40	cut		Pit	3	Pit partially observed in Southern area of site, function uncertain. Not excavated to base as it would exceed safe working depth against the section. Length 2.20m	Late Iron Age or Early Roman
1010			fill	1009	Secondary Fill		Likely initial edge collapse and silting of pit. Fill is a light yellowish brown, friable, silty sand. With striations of dark brownish grey. No finds recovered	1 sherd Late Iron Age or Early Roman pot
1011			fill	1009	Deliberate Backfill		Backfill of dark silty material containing small fragments of limestone and frequent very degraded, shelly pot. Fill is dark brownish grey, friable, sandy silt. Fragments of shelly probable PH pot recovered.	8 sherds Late Iron Age or Early Roman pot
1012			cut		Ditch	4	Rounded terminal of NNW-SSE aligned gully.	No dating evidence from this section. Cut 1007 of the same ditch produced Late Iron Age or Early Roman pot. The ditch lies parallel to the nearby Dorchester-Alchester Roman Road so an early

Context Number	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Context type	Fill of	Interpretive Category	Section numbers	Comments	Phase
								Roman date seems most likely.
1013			fill	1012	Secondary Fill		Fill is a light yellowish brown, friable, sandy silt, fill contained single highly fragmented large mammal metapodial.	No finds
1014			layer	1014	Natural		Degraded limestone gravel observed at the N end of the site light brownish yellow, friable, clay sand frequent fragmented limestone chunks.	No finds
1015			layer	1015	Other Layer		Modern made ground overlying the southern area of site.	

APPENDIX B GAZETTEER OF KNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN A 1KM RADIUS

Abbreviations

B	Listed Building	SM	Scheduled Monument	Col	Certificate of Immunity	ELE	Element
RPG	Registered Park and Garden	RB	Registered Battlefield	CA	Conservation Area	MON	Monument
WHS	World Heritage Sites	LP	LiDAR plot	FS	Findspot	LND	Landscape
WB	Watching Brief	EV	Evaluation	EX	Excavation	GS	Geophysical survey

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
1	n/a	n/a	1047462	LB	CHURCH OF ST GILES	II*	Medieval	457141	204879	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047462
2	n/a	n/a	1047459	LB	RECTORY FARMHOUSE	II	Post medieval	457340	205039	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047459
3	n/a	n/a	1047460	LB	OUTBUILDING APPROXIMATELY 10 METRES TO REAR OF RECTORY FARMHOUSE	II	Post medieval	457352	205031	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047460
4	n/a	n/a	1047461	LB	MANOR COTTAGE	II	Post medieval	457255	204983	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047461
5	n/a	n/a	1047463	LB	18, MANOR FARM ROAD	II	Post medieval	457079	204970	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047463
6	n/a	n/a	1047464	LB	MANOR FARMHOUSE AND ATTACHED FARM BUILDINGS	II	Post medieval	457081	205030	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047464
7	n/a	n/a	1047465	LB	37 AND 39 (LANTERN COTTAGE)	II	Post medieval	457022	205010	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1047465
8	n/a	n/a	1181941	LB	BANKSIDE COTTAGE	II	Post medieval	457183	204656	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1181941
9	n/a	n/a	1284773	LB	2, SPRING LANE	II	Post medieval	457096	204992	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1284773
10	n/a	n/a	1369268	LB	CROFT COTTAGE	II	Post medieval	457271	205225	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1369268
11	n/a	n/a	1369288	LB	PROSPECT FARMHOUSE	II	Post medieval	457456	205104	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1369288
12	n/a	n/a	1369289	LB	MANOR HOUSE	II	Post medieval	457234	204955	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1369289
13	n/a	n/a	1369290	LB	THE OLD MALTHOUSE	II	Post medieval	457114	204869	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1369290

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
14	n/a	n/a	1369291	LB	COWHOUSE AND ATTACHED FARM BUILDING APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES NORTH-WEST OF MANOR FARMHOUSE	II	Post medieval	457060	205051	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1369291
15	n/a	n/a	1369292	LB	LIPSCOMBS	II	Post medieval	457106	205042	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1369292
16	EOX1373	Oxfordshire	n/a	WB	St Giles Church, Horspath; Oxford Archaeological Unit	n/a	n/a	457132	204864	
17	EOX541	Oxfordshire	n/a	WB	St Giles Church; Oxford Archaeological Unit	n/a	n/a	457131	204886	
18	EOX5729	Oxfordshire	n/a	GS	Oxford Road/Horspath Road; Stratascan	n/a	n/a	455959	204907	
19	EOX6699	Oxfordshire	n/a	WB	Watching brief at Yew Tree Cottage, Horspath; Ickniel Archaeology Ltd	n/a	n/a	457120	204850	
20	EOC6344	Oxford	n/a	WB	Watching brief at the BMW Lorry Park, Roman Way, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455915	204175	
21	EOX1307	Oxford	n/a	EX	Archaeological Work at the Rover Plant Site, Cowley, Oxford	n/a	n/a	456060	204010	
22	EOX1685	Oxford	n/a	EV	Brasenose Centre	n/a	n/a	455407	204857	
23	EOX1728	Oxford	n/a	FW	Surface Collection Survey at the Centre for Sporting Excellence	n/a	n/a	456350	204350	
24	EOX2556	Oxford	n/a	WB	Unipart Site, Oxford Road, Cowley	n/a	n/a	456830	204270	
25	EOX2832	Oxford	n/a	WB	Rover Paint Shop Building, Garsington Way, Cowley	n/a	n/a	455825	203876	
26	EOX2945	Oxford	n/a	EV	Eastfield House, Brasenose Driftway, Horspath	n/a	n/a	455519	204879	
27	EOX429	Oxford	n/a	EX	Site of former Slade Hospital	n/a	n/a	455520	205120	
28	EOX5691	Oxford	n/a	WB	Watching brief at the New Mini Plant, BMW Factory, Cowley, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455746	204364	
29	EOX5748	Oxford	n/a	WB	Watching brief at New Pallet Area east of Rover Integrated Logistics Centre, Watlington Road, Cowley, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455870	203738	

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
30	EOX5864	Oxford	n/a	BS	Heritage assessment of Brasenose Farm complex, Horspath Driftway, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455617	204983	
31	EOX6699	Oxfordshire	n/a	WB	Watching brief at Yew Tree Cottage, Horspath	n/a	n/a	457121	204847	
32	EOC6068	Oxford	n/a	EV	Paint Shop Building, Garsington Way, Cowley	n/a	n/a	455888	203954	
33	EOC6069	Oxford	n/a	EV	Rover VQ Building, Garsington Way, Oxford	n/a	n/a	456052	204054	
34	EOC6124	Oxford	n/a	EV	Evaluation at land adjacent to Homebase, Horspath Driftway, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455512	204920	
35	EOC6134	Oxford	n/a	EV	Rover Pallet Park, Cowley, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455843	203739	
36	EOC6157	Oxford	n/a	EV	Proposed Waste Management Site, MPRD Site, BMW Plant, Oxford	n/a	n/a	456063	203865	
37	EOC6163	Oxford	n/a	EX	Eastfield House, Brasenose Driftway, Horspath	n/a	n/a	455533	204886	
38	EOC6164	Oxford	n/a	EV	Eastfield House, Brasenose Driftway, Horspath	n/a	n/a	455515	204866	
39	EOC6230	Oxford	n/a	EV	Trial trenching at the former W.H.Smith Unit, 24 Peterley Road, Cowley, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455655	204737	
40	EOC6240	Oxford	n/a	EV	Evaluation at Brasenose Farmhouse, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455635	204962	
41	EOC6252	Oxford	n/a	EV	An Archaeological Evaluation at Shotover View, Craufurd Road, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455479	204670	
42	EOC6336	Oxford	n/a	EV	Evaluation at No 27 Brasenose Driftway, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455452	204870	
43	EOC6375	Oxford	n/a	EV	Evaluation at Oxford Road, Oxford	n/a	n/a	456399	204321	
44	EOC6376	Oxford	n/a	EX	Excavations at Oxford Road, Oxford	n/a	n/a	456355	204290	
45	EOC6412	Oxford	n/a	GS	Magnetometer Survey at Horspath Driftway, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455348	205119	

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
46	EOC6512	Oxford	n/a	GS	Geophysical survey near Brasenose Wood, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455703	205217	
47	EOC6513	Oxford	n/a	EV	Evaluation for Centre for Sporting Excellence, Oxford Road, Horspath	n/a	n/a	456289	204396	
48	EOX4307	Oxford	n/a	EV	Land at Brasenose Centre, Brasenose Driftway, Oxford	n/a	n/a	455420	204880	
49	MOX5500	Oxfordshire	n/a	FS	Neolithic/Romano British Surface Finds (S of Open Brasenose Wood)	n/a	Early Neolithic to Roman	456100	205050	
50	MOX5409	Oxfordshire	n/a	FS	Iron Age Gold Coin	n/a	Iron Age	456000	205000	
51	MOX5413	Oxfordshire	n/a	FS	Prehistoric Flint Implements	n/a	Later Prehistoric	456640	205670	
52	MOX26768	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Probable Enclosures or Field Systems and Other Discrete Anomalies. This includes part of a rectilinear enclosure shown on AP: NMR 13546.411.16 March 1990	n/a	Roman	456049	204989	
53	MOX5414	Oxfordshire	n/a	FS	Roman Jug	n/a	Roman	456160	205810	
54	MOX5482	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Roman Pottery Kiln, "Open Brasenose"	n/a	Roman	456033	205056	
55	MOX5761	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Possible Roman Skeletons	n/a	Roman	455830	204530	
56	MOX5762	Oxfordshire	n/a	FS	Roman Coin	n/a	Roman	457000	204000	
57	MOX5779	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Possible Roman Settlement	n/a	Roman	456200	204900	
58	MOX5816	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Anglo Saxon Inhumation	n/a	Early Medieval/Dark Age	457000	204000	
59	MOX5805	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	Manor House, Church Road	n/a	Medieval to Post Medieval	457234	204955	
60	MOX5806	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	Church of St Giles, Church Road	n/a	Medieval to Post Medieval	457141	204879	
61	MOX13077	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NO 2 SPRING LANE	n/a	Post Medieval	457087	204987	

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
62	MOX15850	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	MANOR FARMHOUSE AND ATTACHED FARM BUILDINGS, MANOR FARM ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval	457085	205054	
63	MOX16371	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NO 7 (BANKSIDE COTTAGE), THE GREEN	n/a	Post Medieval	457184	204651	
64	MOX17442	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	Rectory Farmhouse, Butts Road	n/a	Post Medieval	457340	205039	
65	MOX17811	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	PROSPECT FARMHOUSE, BUTTS ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval	457456	205104	
66	MOX17831	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	OUTBUILDING APPROXIMATELY 10 METRES TO REAR OF RECTORY FARMHOUSE	n/a	Post Medieval	457352	205031	
67	MOX17832	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NO 37 (LANTERN COTTAGE), MANOR FARM ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval	457018	205010	
68	MOX18134	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	COWHOUSE AND ATTACHED FARM BUILDING APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES NORTH WEST OF MANOR FARMHOUSE, MANOR FARM ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval	457052	205064	
69	MOX18157	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	MANOR COTTAGE, CHURCH ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval	457255	204983	
70	MOX18158	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NO 18 MANOR FARM ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval	457082	204968	
71	MOX5789	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Site of Post Medieval Clay Pit	n/a	Post Medieval	455797	204514	
72	MOX16780	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NO 27 & NO 29 (CROFT COTTAGE), BLENHEIM ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century	457271	205225	
73	MOX16788	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NOS 2 & 4 (THE OLD MALTHOUSE), MANOR ROAD	n/a	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century	457114	204869	
74	MOX17125	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	NO 3 (LIPSCOMBS), SPRING LANE	n/a	Post Medieval to Late 20th Century	457105	205045	
75	MOX5755	Oxfordshire	n/a	BLD	Horspath Methodist Chapel	n/a	Edwardian	457123	204708	
76	MOX5808	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Site of Horspath Halt Railway Station	n/a	Edwardian to Mid 20th Century	457190	204630	

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
77	MOX5486	Oxfordshire	n/a	MON	Undated Fishponds (S of Brasenose Wood)	n/a	Unknown	456200	205100	
78	MOX304	Oxfordshire	n/a	LIN	Alchester to Dorchester Roman Road	n/a	Roman	455778	207327	
79	MOX12805	Oxford	n/a	FS	Later Prehistoric through Post Medieval artefacts at the Centre for Sporting Excellence	n/a	Late Neolithic to Medieval	456350	204350	
80	MOX5813	Oxford	n/a	ELE	Bronze Age/Iron Age Ditch at Rover Site, Garsington Way	n/a	Early Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	456005	204005	
81	MOC27022	Oxford	n/a	MON	Early Bronze Age pits and Late Iron Age-Early Roman Settlement	n/a	Early Bronze Age to Post Medieval	456369	204365	
82	MOX12822	Oxford	n/a	MON	Roman and Iron Age settlement evidence at Eastfield House, Brasenose Driftway, Horspath	n/a	Middle Iron Age to Roman	455520	204860	
83	MOX23799	Oxford	n/a	MON	Roman ditch and other undated features, Oxford Road, Horspath	n/a	Roman	456354	204371	
84	MOX5761	Oxford	n/a	MON	Possible Roman Skeletons	n/a	Roman	455830	204530	
85	MOX5766	Oxford	n/a	MON	Romano British Cemetery	n/a	Roman	455870	203900	
86	MOX5774	Oxford	n/a	FS	Possible Roman Burials, c.380m SSE of Brasenose Farm	n/a	Roman	455700	204600	
87	MOX5795	Oxford	n/a	FS	Roman Pottery	n/a	Roman	455606	204824	
88	MOX8591	Oxford	n/a	FS	Possible Roman Kiln Site (Former Slade Hospital, Horspath)	n/a	Roman	455500	205100	
89	MOX5789	Oxford	n/a	MON	Site of Post Medieval Clay Pit	n/a	Post Medieval	455797	204514	
90	MOX5796	Oxford	n/a	MON	Site of Chapel of The Poplars, Cowley	n/a	Post Medieval	455437	204176	
91	MOX5800	Oxford	n/a	MON	Undated Metalled Road Surfaces, c.400m NW of Guydens Farm	n/a	Unknown	456000	203700	
92	MOC26953	Oxford	n/a	MON	The Alchester to Dorchester Roman Road	n/a	Undated	455746	204992	

OA No.	HER Ref.	HER	List Entry	Type	Description	Grade	Period	Easting	Northing	URL
93	n/a	n/a	n/a	MON	A small square complex shown on NMR APs dated 1940s and 1950s containing several small structures. May be agricultural relating to the mid 20th-century allotments to the south. Accessed by a track to the south. NMR 6815. 5052. Dec 1943/NMR 1061.3025. April 1950.	n/a	Modern	456404	204737	
94	n/a	n/a	n/a	MON	Several east-west structures and six circular structures shown on an AP dated 1943: NMR 6815. 5052. Dec 1943. Could be agricultural associated with allotment nearby (beehives?)	n/a	Undated	456444	204697	
95	n/a	n/a	n/a	MON	A north-south linear feature of two parallel lines – possibly a trackway. Unknown date. Shown on AP NMR 1061.3025. April 1950 and as a cropmark on NMR 3616. 3099. July 1945	n/a	Undated	456459	204556	
96	n/a	n/a	n/a	MON	Rectilinear enclosure shown on NMR 27816/01 dated 22ndy July 2013. Now destroyed by sports development.	n/a	Undated	456289	204177	

APPENDIX C

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Land to the Rear of Building 70, BMW Mini Plant, Oxford
Site code: OXCBMW22
Grid Reference SP 5614 0430
Type: Watching brief (controlled strip)
Date and duration: 29/08/2022 to 02/09/2022 (1 week)
Area of Site 1165m²
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: .
Summary of Results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by David Lock Associates, on behalf of BMW UK Manufacturing Ltd, to undertake a watching brief (controlled strip) in relation the development of a new vehicular test track and associated works on land to the rear of Building 70 within the BMW plant at Garsington Road, Oxford. The controlled strip produced useful information regarding late Iron Age and/or early Roman activity along the line of the Dorchester-Alchester Roman road. This part of the city is recognised for its nationally important Roman pottery industry, evidence for which has been found in the past at dispersed locations broadly along the line of the Roman road. The current small-scale excavation did not produce any direct evidence for the pottery industry but has revealed evidence for a ditched enclosure of probable early Roman date, at least 50m long, on a parallel NNW-SSE alignment to the nearby Roman road, as well as two other settlement features – a pit and possible ditch – that are probably broadly contemporary. While no evidence for buildings or other structures was found, the charred plant remains, pottery and animal bone recovered from these features are suggestive of detritus from hearth fires from domestic contexts.

Project Details

OASIS Number			
Project Name	Land to the Rear of Building 70, BMW Mini Plant, Oxford		
Start of Fieldwork	29/08/2022	End of Fieldwork	02/09/2022
Previous Work	N/A	Future Work	N/A

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	OXCBMW22	Planning App. No.	22/00769/FUL
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HER Number Related Numbers

Prompt
 Development Type
 Place in Planning Process

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Oxfordshire	Address (including Postcode) Land to the Rear of Building 70, BMW Mini Plant, Oxford OX4 2RL
District	Oxford City	
Parish	Horspath	
HER office	Oxford	
Size of Study Area	1165m ²	
National Grid Ref	SP 5614 0430	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology
Project Brief Originator	David Radford, Oxford City Council
Project Design Originator	Stuart Foreman, Oxford Archaeology
Project Manager	Stuart Foreman, Oxford Archaeology
Project Supervisor	David Pinches, Oxford Archaeology

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Oxford Archaeology	
Digital Archive	Oxford Archaeology	
Paper Archive	Oxford Archaeology	

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
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Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

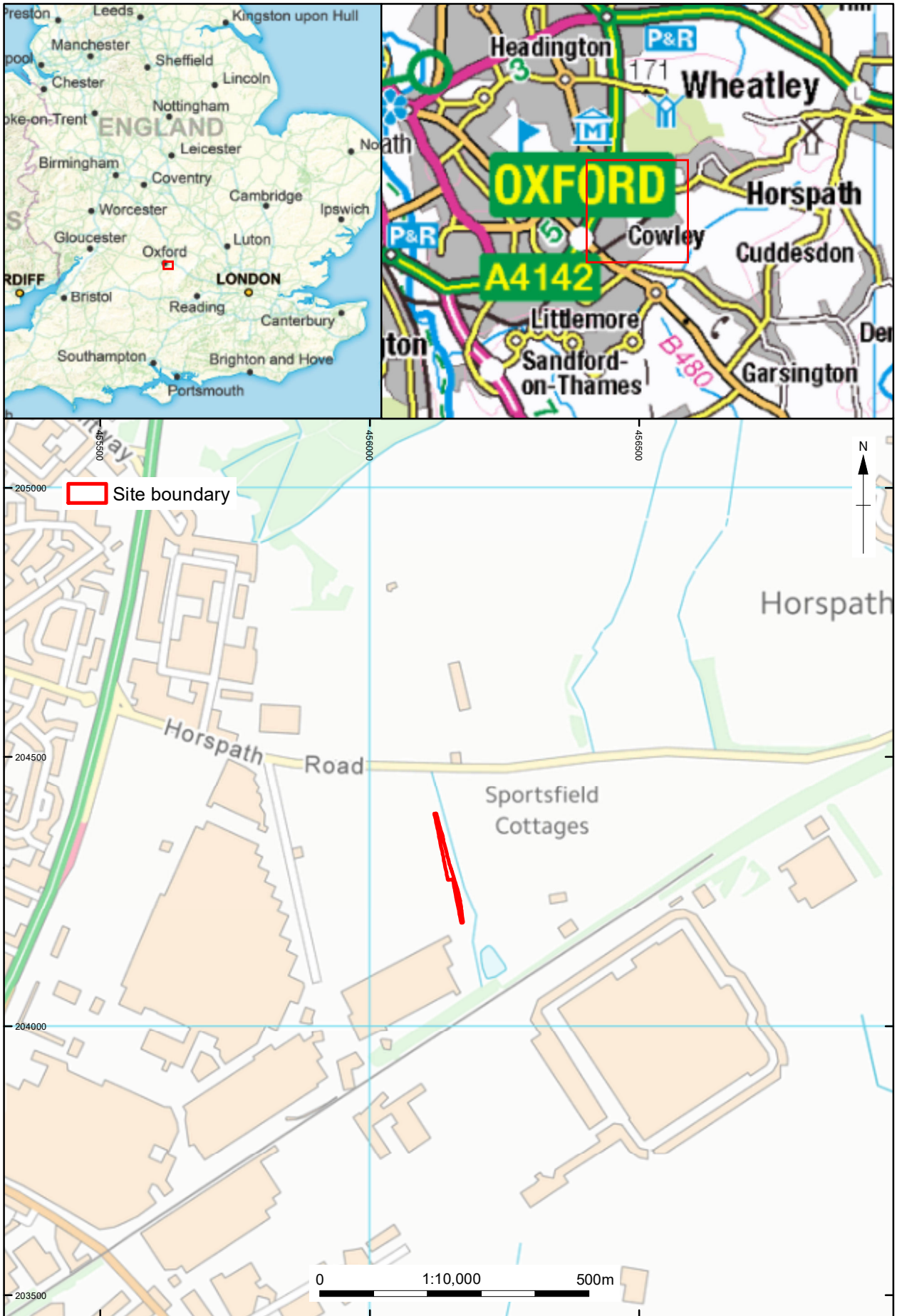
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GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments

X:\o\OXCBMW22_BMW_test_track\Geomatics\02_GIS Projects\Figures\24-11-2022_report figures\OXCBMW22_Figure1_Site Location.mxd*marjaana.kohtamaki*25/11/2022



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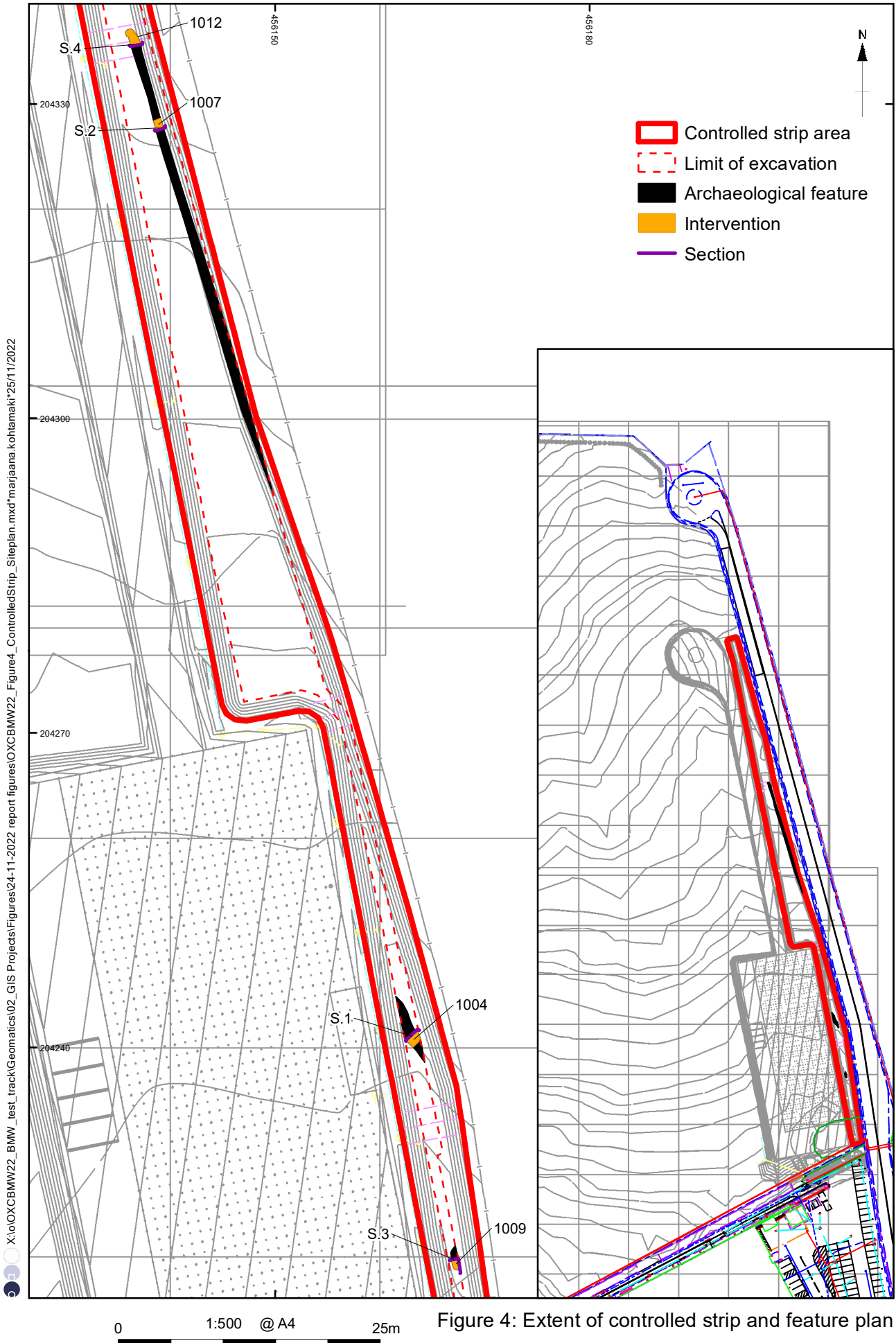
Figure 1: Site location



X:\o\OXC\BMW22_BMW_test_track\Geomatics\02_GIS Projects\Figures\24-11-2022 report figures\OXC\BMW22_Figure3_Heritage_Assets.mxd*marjaana.kohtamaki*02/12/2022

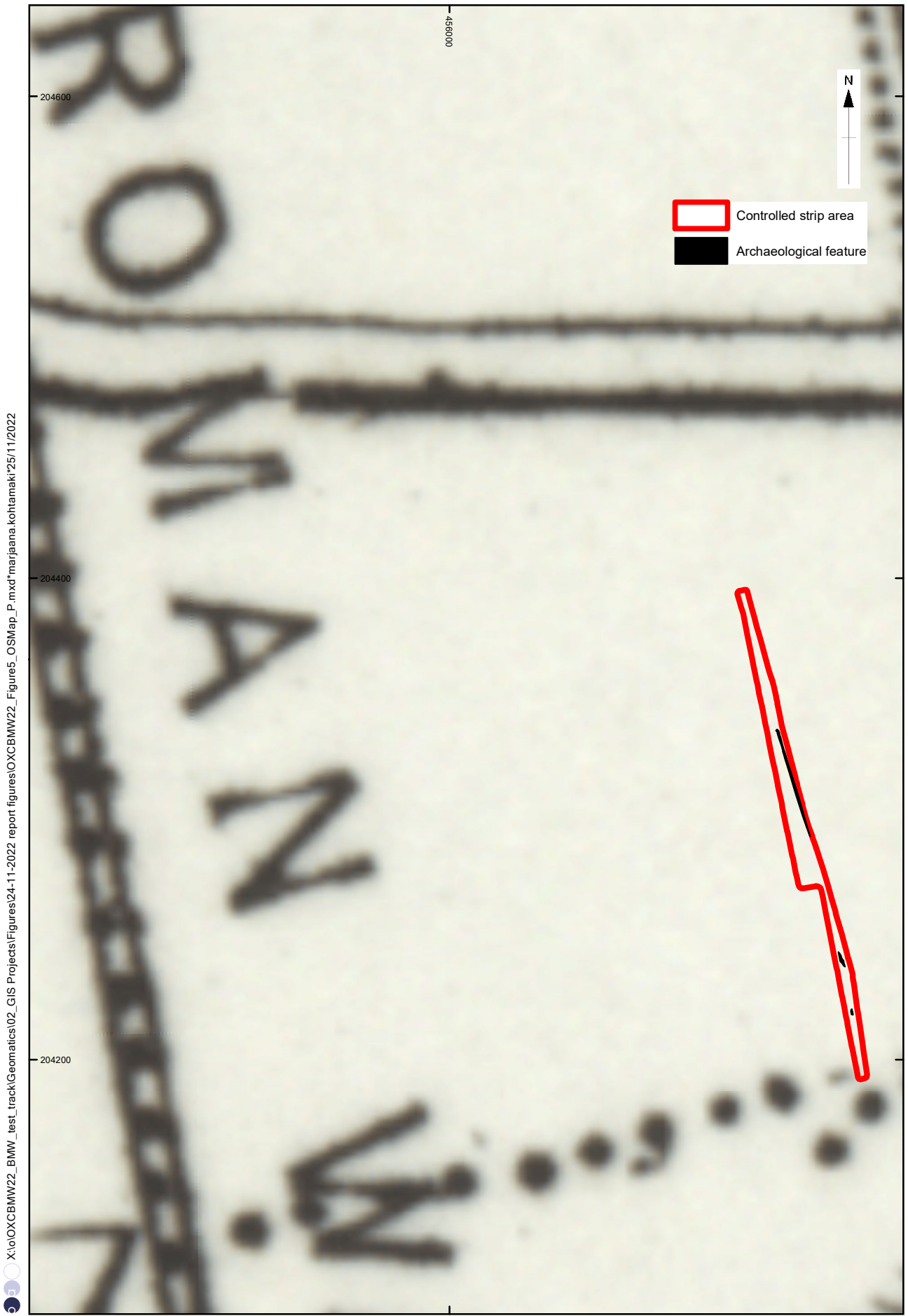
Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020.

Figure 3: Heritage assets in the vicinity of the site referred to in the text



X:\io\OXCBMW22_BMW_test_track\Geomatics\02_GIS Projects\Figures\24-11-2022 report figures\OXCBMW22_Figure4_ControlledStrip_Figure4.mxd*marjaana.kohtamaki*25/11/2022

Figure 4: Extent of controlled strip and feature plan



X:\OXCBMW22_BMW_test_track\Geomatics\02_GIS Projects\Figures\24-11-2022 report figures\OXCBMW22_Figures5_OSMAP_P.mxd\marjaana.kohlamaki\25/11/2022

0 1:2,200 @ A4 120m

Figure 5: Controlled strip overlaid on 1898-1913 OS Map showing that the ditch found runs parallel to the Alchester-Dorchester Roman Road (Margary 160b)

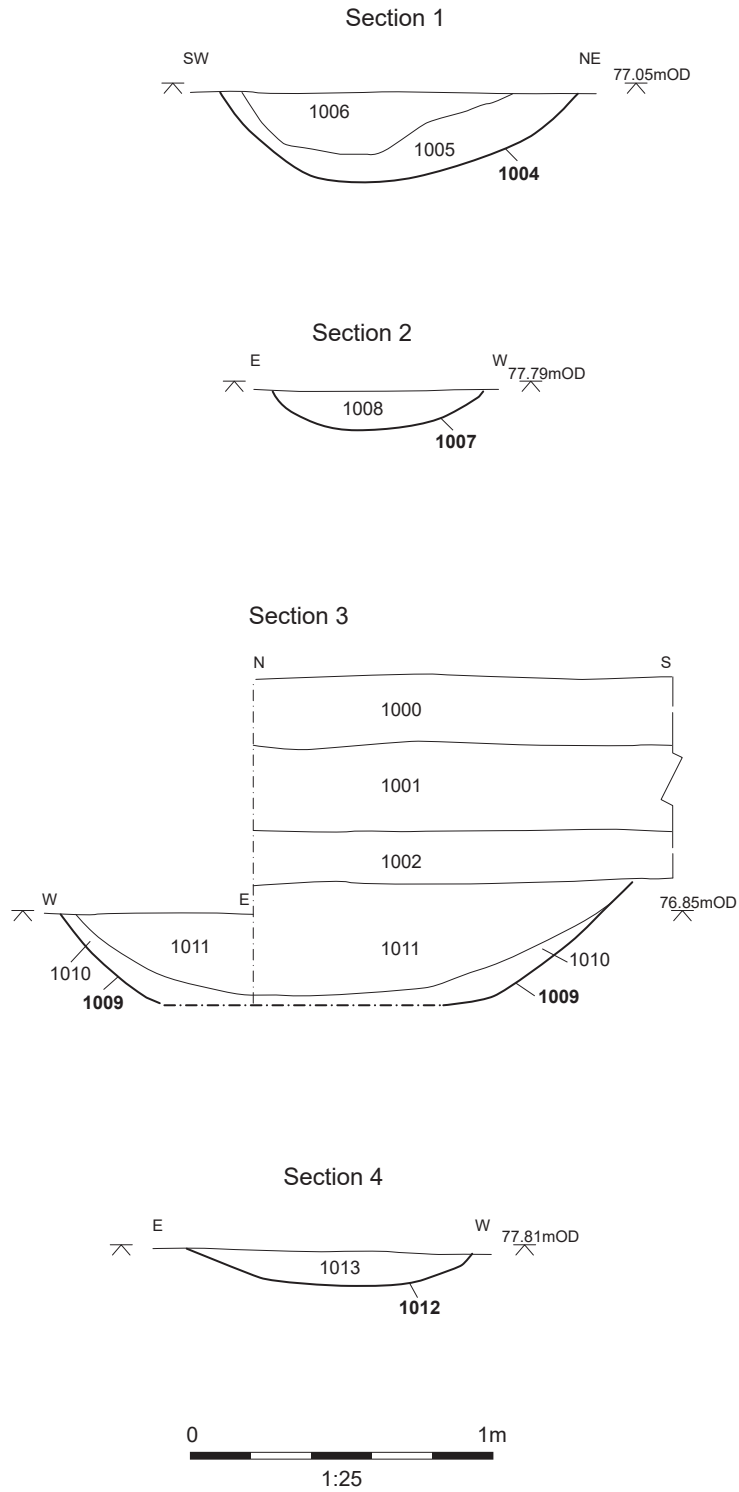


Figure 6: Sections 1 (ditch 1004), 2 (ditch 1007), 3 (pit 1009) and 4 (ditch terminal 1012)



Plate 1: Ditch 1007 (Section 2), view south



Plate 2: Ditch terminal 1012 (foreground), ditch cut 1007 (background) view south

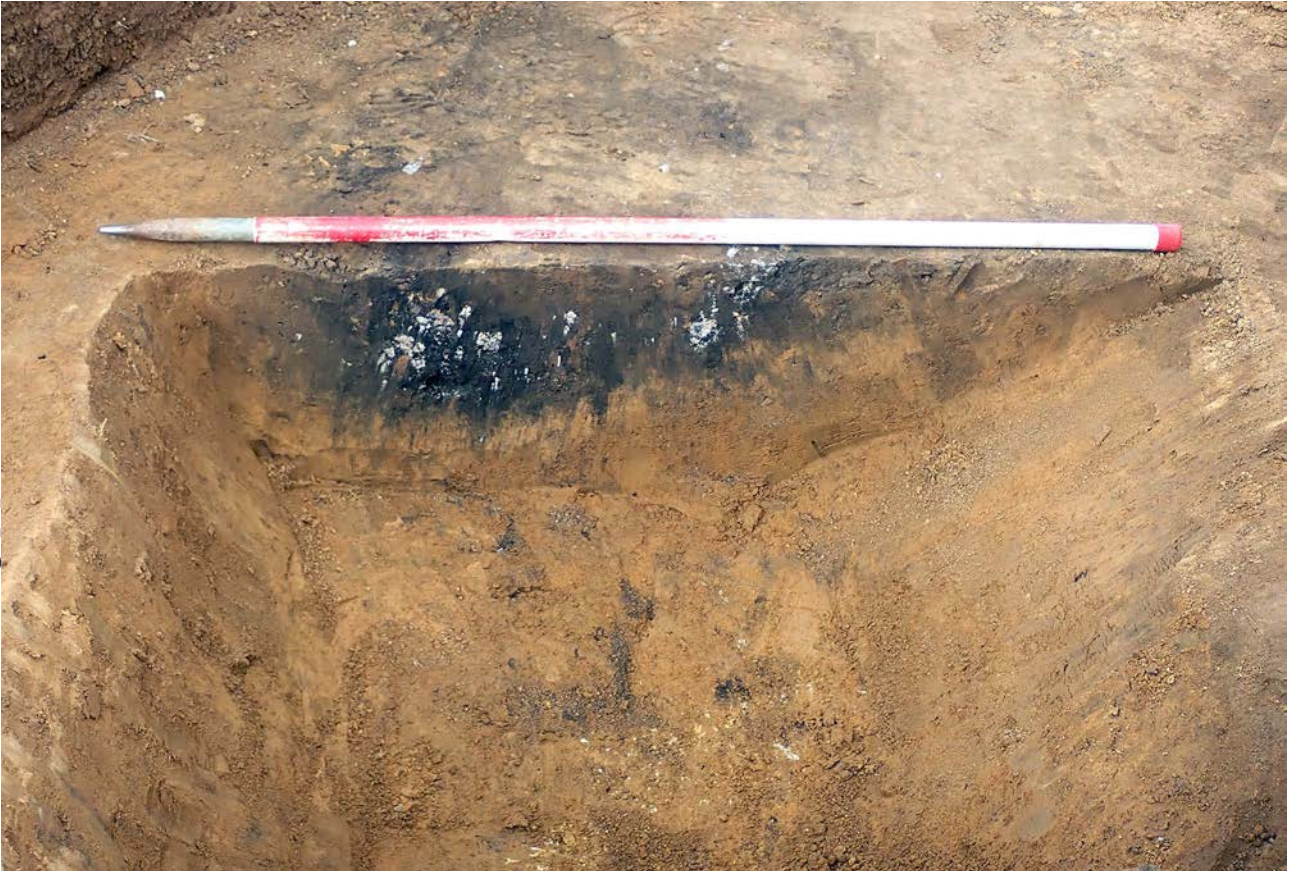


Plate 3: Ditch 1004, Section 1, view south-east facing



Plate 4: Section 3 (pit 1009), view north



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Chief Executive Officer
Ken Welsh, BSc, MCIFA
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