

Land at Five Aills  
Filkins  
Lechlade  
West Oxfordshire



**Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Oxford Archaeology**

7th October 2002

**Client Name: Brierley Homes Ltd**

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

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1379

Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: W2001/0119

NGR: SP 2358 0405

**Client Name:** Brierley Homes Ltd

**Client Ref No:**

**Document Title:** Land at Five Alls, Filkins, Lechlade, West Oxfordshire

**Document Type:** Watching Brief

**Issue Number:** 1

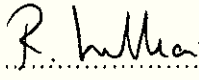
National Grid Reference: NGR SP 2358 0405  
Planning Reference: W2001/0119

OA Job Number: 1379  
Site Code: FIFA 02  
Invoice Code: FIFAWB  
Receiving Museum  
Museum Accession No: 2002.135

Prepared by: James Mumford  
Position: Supervisor  
Date: 08th October 2002

Checked by: Jon Hiller  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 08th October 2002

Approved by: Robert Williams  
Position: Director, Head of Business and Operations  
Date: 08th October 2002

Signed.....

Document File Location U:\wbREPORTS\Oxfordshire\FIFA.doc  
Graphics File Location Server 10(W):/oaupubs 1/All drawings\*FIFAWB\*Land at Five Alls, Filkins\*AH\*07.10.02

Illustrated by Amy Hemingway

**Disclaimer:**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology**

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2002

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

**Land at Five Alls, Filkins, Lechlade, West Oxfordshire*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*****CONTENTS**

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Location and scope of work .....	1
1.2 Geology and topography .....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	2
2.1 Aims .....	2
2.2 Methodology.....	2
3 Results .....	2
3.1 Description of deposits.....	2
3.2 Finds .....	3
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains .....	3
4 Discussion And Conclusions.....	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory .....	5
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references.....	5
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	6

**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Fig. 1 OS Site location map
- Fig. 2 Site plan
- Fig. 3 Sections 1 and 2
- Fig. 4 Sections 3 - 6

## SUMMARY

*From July to September 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land at Five Alls, Filkins, Lechlade, West Oxfordshire (NGR SP 2358 0405). The work was commissioned by Brierley Homes Ltd in advance of the construction of two new semi-detached houses and a garage. The watching brief revealed a number of post-medieval rubbish pits and two stone-lined wells.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 From July to September 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Land at Five Alls, Filkins, Lechlade, West Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Brierley Homes Ltd in respect of a planning application for two semi-detached houses and garage (Planning Application No. W2002/0119).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Hugh Coddington Deputy County Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2002).

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on limestone cornbrash at 84 m above OD. The site is situated north of the Five Alls pub, on the NW side of the main street.

#### 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 The development area is in the historic core of Filkins, and is first mentioned in the Eynsham Abbey Cartulary in 1173 AD. Medieval pottery of 12th/13th-century date was recovered during construction of the Carter Institute to the north-east of this development site. The pottery dates correspond well with the documentary evidence, though the settlement may have older origins.
- 1.3.3 To the south of the development site is the church of St. Peter with apparently Norman masonry in the earliest part of the structure, while between the church and the development site is a pond that is thought to have formed part of a moat (OCAS 2001).

## 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 site was first cleared and levelled. Once marked out the foundations were excavated in two phases, using a mini digger with a 0.9 m wide toothed bucket. Once the foundations were laid and set the service trench was excavated and pipes connected. The final phase was the excavation of the garage foundations.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features 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).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

#### *Foundation trench of dwellings*

- 3.1.1 The excavation of the foundations exposed a number of features which had been sealed below a dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (1) with patches of demolition material from the site clearance. The first feature was a large pit (3) with sloping sides rounding to a flat base. This was seen only in section of the trench and measured 4 m long and 0.68 m in depth and contained two fills. The lower fill was a silting up layer of dark reddish brown silty clay (4) which was overlain by a dark yellowish silty clay (5) with limestone fragments filling in the feature. At the south west end of the feature it had been cut by a modern posthole (6) with vertical sides and flat base and filled with a dark brown silty clay (7) with limestone packing (Figs 2 & 3, section 1).
- 3.1.2 In the south west end of the site a modern feature (8) relating to the garage was exposed and this cut into a large sub circular pit (10) with near vertical sides rounding to a flat base. It measured 1.7 x 0.95 x 1.2 m and contained a fill of dark brown silty clay (11) with lenses of dark grey and reddish brown, which represented a series of material dumped into the pit (Figs 2 & 3, section 2).
- 3.1.3 In the centre of the two houses on the line of the dividing wall the top of a stone lined well (21), which had been filled in by dark brown silty clay (22) and capped with two scaffolding poles was uncovered (Fig. 2).

### *Service Trench*

- 3.1.4 This ran from the pub's foul drain around the south side of the houses and along the east front to join the old pump station. It cut through a post medieval pit (12) seen only in section, which had sloping sides and a concave base (measuring 0.6 x 1.4 x 0.4 m). It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (13) (Figs 2 & 3, section 3). Also exposed was another stone-lined well (18) which was 0.9 m in diameter in a vertical sided cut (17). This had been back filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (19) with limestone fragments (Fig 2 & 3, section 5).
- 3.1.5 At the north end of the trench where it entered the pumping chamber, a cut (14) which was the continuation of pit (3) seen in the foundation trenches was observed with similar fills (15 & 16) (Fig 2 & 3, section 4)

### *Garage foundations*

- 3.1.6 These were excavated next to the west boundary of the site and were 0.6 m wide and 0.5 m deep. They cut through 0.12 m of gravel from the pub's old car park and into the 0.3 m thick topsoil (1) which overlay a subsoil of light reddish brown silty clay (23). This subsoil only appears in this part of the site suggesting that it was not disturbed except for garden cultivation (Fig. 2).

## 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 A number of finds were recovered from the watching brief and consisted of the following listed in context order:

Context 4	1 x butchered pig tibia
	1 x sherd of white glaze ware
Context 11	2 x Clay pipe stems
	4 x sherds of white glaze ware
	4 x sherds of 19 <sup>th</sup> century red ware
Context 13	1 x sherd of blue transfer ware
	2 x sherds of 18 <sup>th</sup> stone ware bottle
	2 x sherds of white glazed ware with painted decoration
Context 15	2 x 18 <sup>th</sup> century glass bottle bases
	2 x sherds of 18 <sup>th</sup> century glazed red ware

## 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No environmental samples were taken during the watching brief.

#### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The results from the watching brief revealed a number of post medieval rubbish pits, which probably relate to the pub. Also two stone-lined wells were located. It would appear that the western end of the site in the area of the garage had been cultivated as part of a garden. The rest of the site had been cleared and levelled to the top of the natural from construction and demolition of a garage which previously occupied the site.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.28 -- 0.4 m			Topsoil/Demolition layer	
2	Natural				Natural	
3	Cut	0.68 m	0.7 m	4 m	Large pit	
4	Fill				Pit fill	Bone and pottery
5	Fill				Pit fill	
6	Cut				Post hole	
7	Fill				Fill of post hole	
8	Cut	1 m	0.2 -- 4 m		Pit	
9	Fill				Pit fill	
10	Cut	1.2 m	0.95 m	1.7 m	Pit	
11	Fill				Pit fill	Clay pipes and Pottery
12	Cut	0.4 m	1.4 m	0.6 m	Pit	
13	Fill				Pit fill	Pottery
14	Cut	0.9 m	1.4 m	3.5 m	Large pit	
15	Fill				Pit fill	Glass and Pottery
16	Fill				Pit fill	
17	Cut	1.3 m	0.9 m	0.9 m	Cut for well	
18	Structure	1.3 m	0.9 m	0.9 m	Well lining	
19	Fill				Fill of well	
20	Cut	1 m	1.5 m	1.5 m	Cut for well	
21	Structure	1 m	1.5 m	1.5 m	Well lining	
22	Fill				Fill of well	
23	Layer				Subsoil	

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 1992 Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

OA 2002 *Land at Five Aills, Filkins, Lechlade, West Oxfordshire* Written Scheme of Investigation



**APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Land at Five Alls, Filkins, Lechlade, West Oxfordshire.

**Site code:** FIFA 02

**Grid reference:** NGR SP 2358 0405

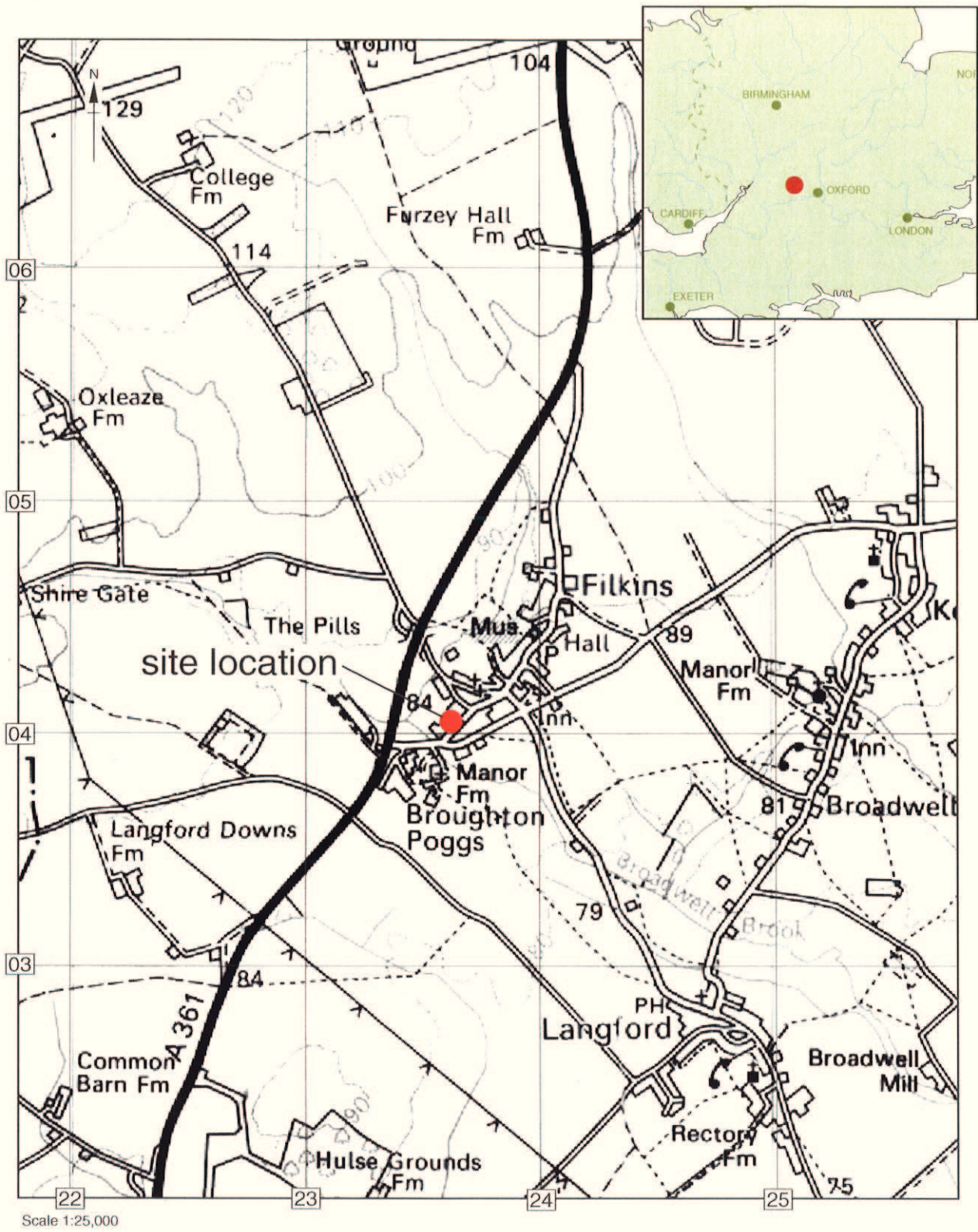
**Type of watching brief:** Ground work for the construction of two new semi-detached houses and garage.

**Date and duration of project:** A total of eight visits from the 03/07/2002 to 01/10/2002.

**Area of site:** 20 m x 45 m

**Summary of results:** A number of post-medieval rubbish pits and two stone-lined wells were recorded.

**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: 2002.135



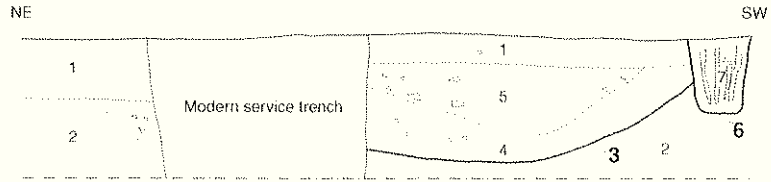
Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location



Section 1



Section 2

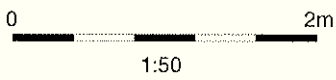
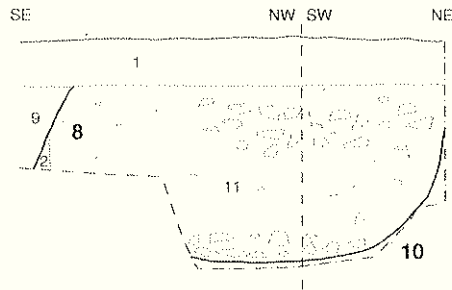
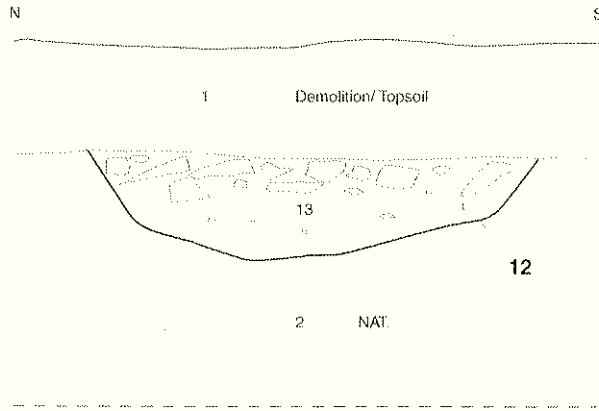
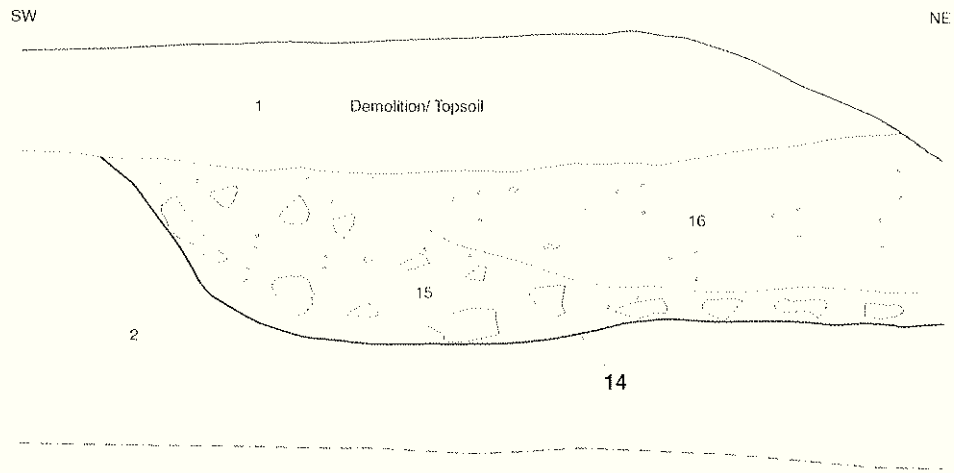


Figure 3: Sections 1 and 2

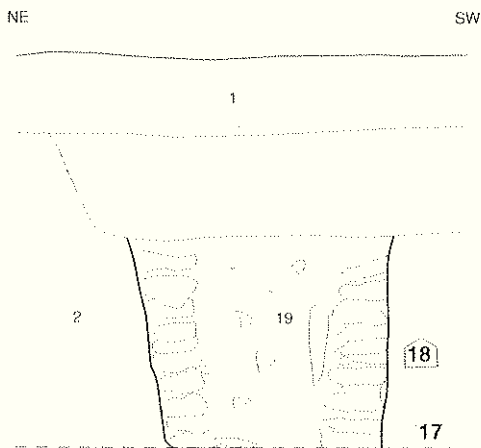
Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



Section 6

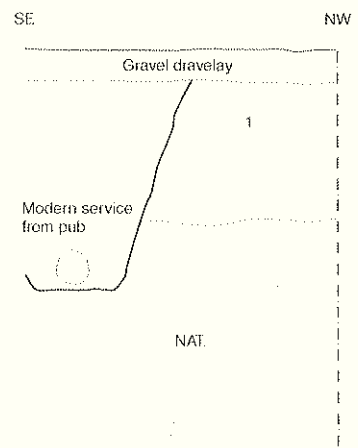


Figure 4: Sections 3-6



### **Oxford Archaeology**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)



### **Oxford Archaeology North**

Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 848666  
f: (0044) 01524 848606  
e: [lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627

**Registered Office:**

Oxford Archaeological Unit  
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES