

Lincombe Lodge
Fox Lane
Boars Hill
Sunningwell
Oxfordshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



October 2006

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**Lincombe Lodge,
Fox Lane, Boars Hill, Sunningwell, Oxfordshire**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In October 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Lincombe Lodge, Fox Lane, Boars Hill, Sunningwell, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 4921 0154). The work was commissioned by J.A. Pye (Oxford) in advance of the demolition of the existing lodge building and the construction of a new building containing 8 flats. The watching brief revealed no significant archaeology within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In October 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Lincombe Lodge, Fox Lane, Boars Hill, Sunningwell Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 4921 0154). The work was commissioned by J.A. Pye (Oxford) in respect of a planning application for the demolition of the existing lodge building and to construct a new building containing 8 flats (Planning Application No.SUN/7291/5).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC 2006) requiring that a watching brief be maintained on all intrusive groundworks, and OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2006).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development site is located on level ground on the south side of Fox Lane, Boars Hill, approximately 100 m south-west of the junction with Lincombe Lane (Fig. 1). The site is currently residential with a garden area. The underlying geology of the area is Lower Greensand, and the site lies at approximately 127 m OD. The development site covers an area of 0.314 ha.

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, 2006) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 A single burial was found within very close proximity of Lincombe Lodge in 1892. This contained two carinated and pedestalled beakers that probably date to the first century AD. Whether this was a single burial or part of a larger cemetery is not known. Just to the east a number of Romano-British kilns have been found and excavated. These lay in a heavy spread of pottery, the bulk of which was greyware and consisted of both updraught and through draft type kilns. All of the kilns are thought to date to the first and second centuries AD (OCC, 2006).

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological deposits or features that may be disturbed or destroyed during the course of the groundworks.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of site visits during the excavation of any intrusive groundworks. These works included ground reduction, excavation of building foundations and the excavation of service trenches.
- 2.2.2 A plan showing the extent of any excavations and any archaeological features was maintained at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2) and any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The stratigraphy observed was similar throughout the site and a general description can be applied across the site.
- 3.1.2 The natural sand, a light yellow-brown sand (3) was encountered at a depth of 0.6 m below the original ground level (Fig. 3, Section 1). This layer could be seen to be in excess of 1 m deep within the excavated sections, with occasional outcrops of coarse sandstone observed at the base of the section.
- 3.1.3 Overlying this was a 0.3 m deep layer of red-brown silty sand (2), a layer of subsoil, possibly a colluvial deposit or a possible layer of earlier worked soil. No dating evidence or artefacts were recovered from this layer suggesting it is more likely to be a layer of colluvium. This was overlaid by a 0.3 m deep layer of dark brown silt loam (1), a layer of modern garden soil. Construction debris from the now demolished building was observed within this layer but no other dating evidence.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Modern construction debris was observed within Layer 1 and was recorded but not retained, no other artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

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

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief showed that no archaeological deposits or features were encountered below either the layer of modern worked garden soil, or the layer of possible earlier worked soil, despite the potential for the site indicated within the archaeological and historical background. There is the possibility that later cultivation may have destroyed any such features, however the lack of truncated deeper features, or of residual finds recovered, would mitigate against this, suggesting that this area may have been predominately farmland prior to construction of the original lodge building.

APPENDICES**APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.35 m	Garden soil	Brick	C20th
2	Layer	0.3 m	Colluvium ? Earlier worked soil ?	-	-
3	Layer	> 1.0 m	Natural sand	-	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OCC, 2006 *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation: Lincombe lodge, Fox Lane, Boars Hill, Sunningwell*

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluations*

OA, 2006 *Lincombe lodge, Fox Lane, Boars Hill, Sunningwell, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Lincombe Lodge, Fox lane, Boars Hill, Oxfordshire

Site code: OXLCBL 06

Grid reference: SP 492 015

Type of watching brief: Machine excavation of building foundations and ground reduction

Date and duration of project: 2/10/06 to 6/10/06, 1 week

Area of site: 0.314 hectare

Summary of results: No significant archaeology was encountered during the course of the watching brief.

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: OXCMS:2006.91

Server: /ouapshs1_i thru q*OXL.CBL06*OXL.CBLWP*Lincombe Lodge, Oxon*AH*19.10.06



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

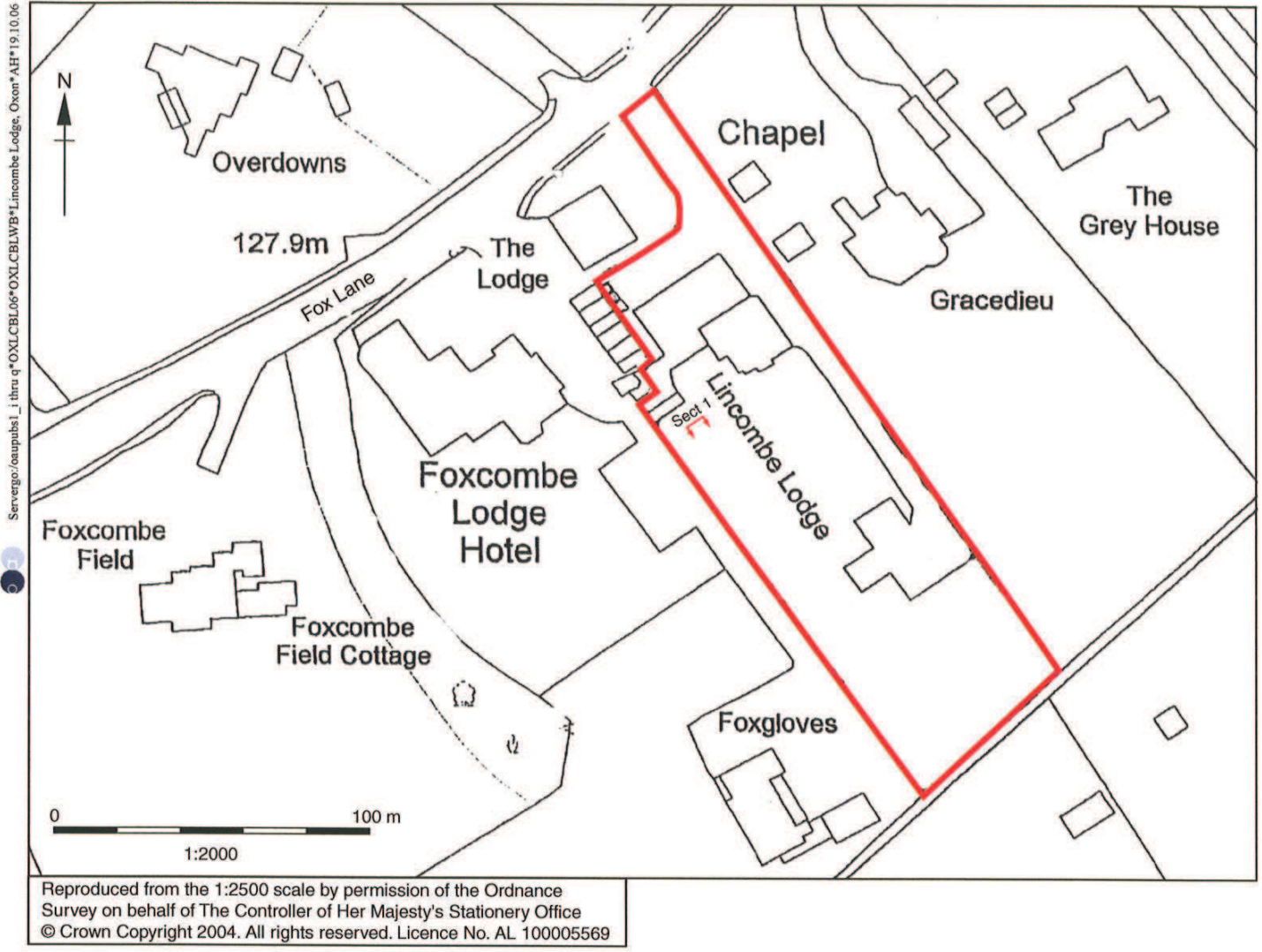


Figure 2: Site plan

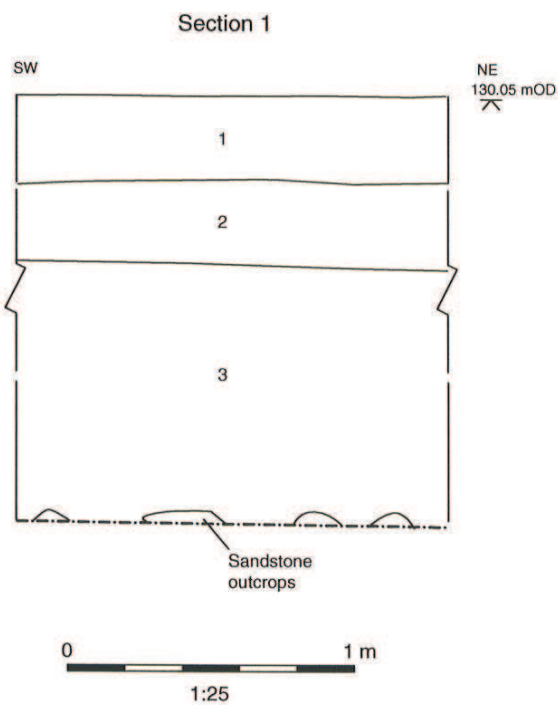


Figure 3: Section 1



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