

Clattercote Priory Farm, Claydon, Oxfordshire.



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

February 2012

Client: ARM Buildings Ltd.



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Clattercote Priory Farm, Claydon, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Brian Dean

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Summary

On 6th February 2012 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned on behalf of ARM Buildings Ltd. to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed new weaner building on Clattercote Priory Farm, Claydon, Oxfordshire. A total area of 341.31m² was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.14m. The area encompassed the entirety of the footprint of the weaner building. No archaeological deposits were observed within the excavated area.

1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 The project was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2012) and the archaeological brief provided by Richard Oram, the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council (OCAS 2012).
- 1.1.2 The site was located c 1km south of Claydon and to the north of Cropredy (SP 4564 4902) to the west of the Oxford Canal (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 The underlying geology is shown as Lower Lias but the site is located near a band of alluvium.
- 1.1.4 The development is to be on an undeveloped area within a current working farm. It lies at approximately 109m OD
- 1.1.5 The scope of the project covered the observation of the excavation of the footprint of the weaner building comprising an area of 341.31m² (Fig 2). An archaeological watching brief was maintained until the full extent of the undisturbed geology was revealed to ensure any archaeological deposits would be exposed prior to full excavation to the buildings impact level of 1.68m.
- 1.1.6 A planning condition was attached due to the potential disturbance of archaeological deposits related to the proximity of a prehistoric enclosure, a deserted medieval village and the Gilbertine Priory (OCAS 2012)

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 A summary of Oxford Archaeology's general approach to excavation and recording was included in Appendix A of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 2.1.2 The area was excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under the observation of an archaeological supervisor.
- 2.1.3 Ground deposits were recorded via a scale drawing and in the form of written and photographic records.

3 DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS

- 3.1.1 The area under excavation had a marked downward slope from west to east.
- 3.1.2 The deposits consisted of a topsoil deposit of moderately compact dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent stone and rubble inclusions and ranged in thickness from 0.3m to 0.2m
- 3.1.3 Underlying this was a subsoil deposit of compact mid yellowish brown silty clay. This deposit was between 0.46m and 0.15m thick.



- 3.1.4 The underlying geology was a compact light yellow clay with occasional manganese inclusions.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The marked slope in the area's topography and the reduction in the thickness of the subsoil deposits suggests a degree of landscaping which may relate to either the construction of current farm buildings to the east or the construction of the railway line to the west.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological deposits were observed within the excavated area. No artefactual evidence was recovered from either the topsoil deposit or the subsoil deposit. The presence overall of a substantial subsoil deposit would suggest that any previous landscaping and/or construction had minimal impact upon the excavated area.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OCAS 2012 Clattercote Priory Farm, Lower Boddington Road, Claydon: A Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief

Oxford Archaeology 2012 Clattercote Priory Farm, Lower Boddington, Claydon. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief.



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Figure 1: Site location

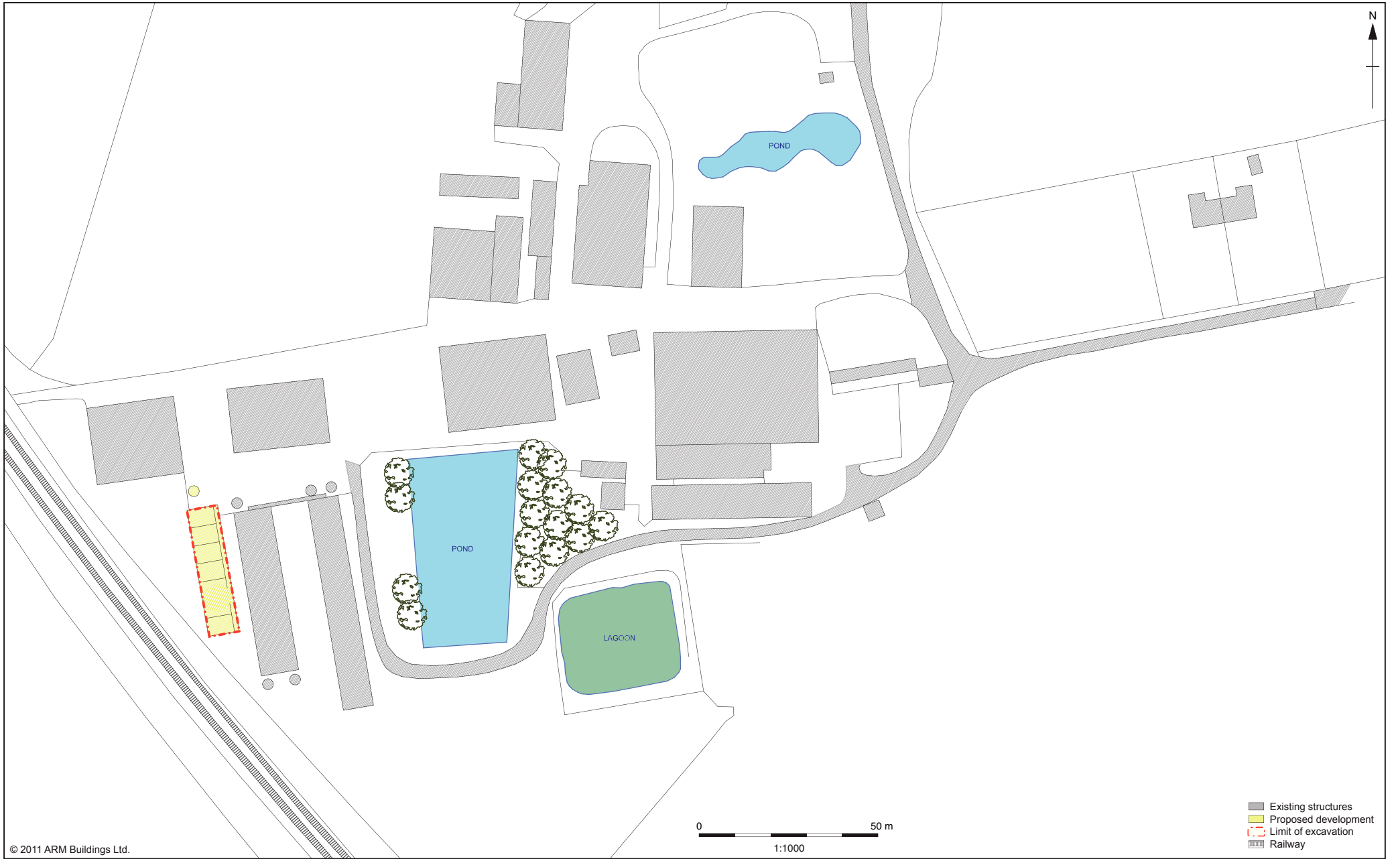


Figure 2: Trench location



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