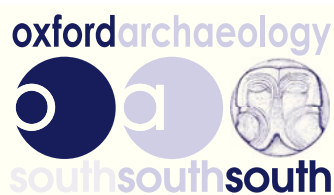


Lawn Upton House
Littlemore
Oxford



Archaeological
Watching Brief Report



December 2010

Client: Hives Planning

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 4824
NGR: SP 5374 0263



Client Name: Hives Planning
Client Ref No:
Document Title: Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford
Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: SP 5374 0263
Planning Reference: 04/02293/FUL
Invoice Code: LILUHWB
OA Job Number: 4824
Site Code: LILUH 10
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Museum Accession No.: OXCMS:2010.54

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Bryan Matthews Project officer	Nick Shepherd Regional manager	Nick Shepherd Regional manager	

Document File Location: X:\Lawn Upton House LILUHWB\Lawn Upton House WB report
Graphics File Location: Server1//L_codes/LILUHWB
Illustrated by: Julia Collins

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 Archaeological Unit Ltd 2010

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Bryan Matthews

and illustrated by Julia Collins

Table of Contents

Summary.....	2
1 Introduction.....	2
1.1 Scope of work.....	2
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	2
2 Project Aims and Methodology.....	3
2.1 Aims.....	3
2.2 General Aims and Objectives.....	3
2.3 Specific Aims and Objectives.....	3
2.4 Methodology.....	3
3 Results.....	4
3.1 Description of deposits.....	4
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	4
Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory.....	5
Appendix B. Bibliography and References.....	6
Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....	7

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of drainage trenches



Summary

In November 2010 Oxford Archaeology carried out a archaeological watching brief at Lawn Upton house, Littlemore, Oxford. The work was commissioned by Hives Planning on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Trust. The watching brief covered the initial connection of drainage works and the formation of an access road to proposed new buildings within the western side of the site. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), has been commissioned by Hives Planning on behalf of the Oxford Diocesan Trust to undertake a Watching Brief of the site of a proposed housing development at Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The work is being undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 04/02293/FUL).
- 1.1.3 This report details the results of the initial phase of the watching brief which covered the initial connection of drainage works and the formation of a access road within the western side of the site (Figure 2).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on NGR SP 5374 0263.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of c. 0.2 ha.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is sand and calcareous sandstone of the Corallian Formation (British Geological Survey, 1994).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within a landscape of extensive and dispersed Roman manufacturing activity relating to the nationally important local Roman pottery industry.
- 1.3.2 In 1995 an archaeological evaluation for a housing development at David Nicholls Close identified two small pits and a ditch along with a small amount of residual 12th-15th century pottery, and a piece of possible Roman kiln daub (TVAS, 1995). These features were located 56 m north of the maintenance depot site. Trenches directly north of the depot did not identify any significant archaeological remains. A subsequent watching brief failed to identify any further features (OA, 1996).
- 1.3.3 A watching brief was undertaken during the construction of buildings for John Henry Newman Primary School, directly east of the site (Tempus Reparatum, 1994), during which no significant archaeological features were identified.
- 1.3.4 A two phase evaluation was undertaken in 2002 and 2005 on the site of Speedwell First School to the west of the maintenance depot (JMHS, 2002; JMHS, 2005). A small quantity of Roman pottery and two undated gullies were discovered.



2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.2 General Aims and Objectives

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive. Should remains be found to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.3 Specific Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The specific aims and objectives of the watching brief are:

- (i) To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the ground works, paying particular regard to the potential for Roman and medieval activity.

2.4 Methodology

- 2.4.1 Oxford City Council has produced a *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford*, setting out the requirement and standards for the archaeological work (OCC 2010).
- 2.4.2 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it might meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2010).
- 2.4.3 The watching brief was conducted as a series of visits to monitor the excavation of drainage runs and construction of a new access road on the western side of the site.
- 2.4.4 The drainage trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator and were up to 1.8 m wide by 2 m deep. The position of the excavated trenches is shown on Figure 2.
- 2.4.5 The access road was found to have no archaeological impact, as it was constructed on levelled-up ground in a 'no-dig' zone immediately to the east of the drainage trenches.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The simple stratigraphical sequence was exposed within the excavated trenches and a general description can be applied throughout.
- 3.1.2 The underlying orange-yellow sand (103) was encountered at a depth of between 0.7 m and 0.9 m below the present ground level, at 8.75 m OD. This was overlain by a patchy fragmented natural sandstone (102) that was up to 0.2 m thick in places. The sand and fragmented stone were overlain by a 0.4 m layer of pale brown loam subsoil (101) and 0.3 m of dark brown loam topsoil(100).
- 3.1.3 No archaeological features or finds were seen.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The sand and fragmented sandstone observed are thought to be indicative of the underlying geology of the area and these are overlain by a relatively thick subsoil and the present topsoil. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.



APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth(m)	Width(m)	Length(m)	Comments	Finds	Date
100	Layer	0.3			Topsoil		
101	Layer	0.4			Subsoil		
102	Layer	0.2			Stony natural		
103	Layer	1.1			Natural sand		



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, 1994, Thame Sheet 237.

John Moore Heritage Services, 2002, *Phase 1 Archaeological Evaluation at Speedwell First School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

John Moore Heritage Services, 2005, *Phase 2 Archaeological Evaluation at Speedwell First School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

Oxford Archaeology, 1996, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at David Nicholls Close, Littlemore Oxford.*

Oxford Archaeology, 2010, *A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief at Lawn Upton School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

Oxford City Council, 2010, *Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford.*

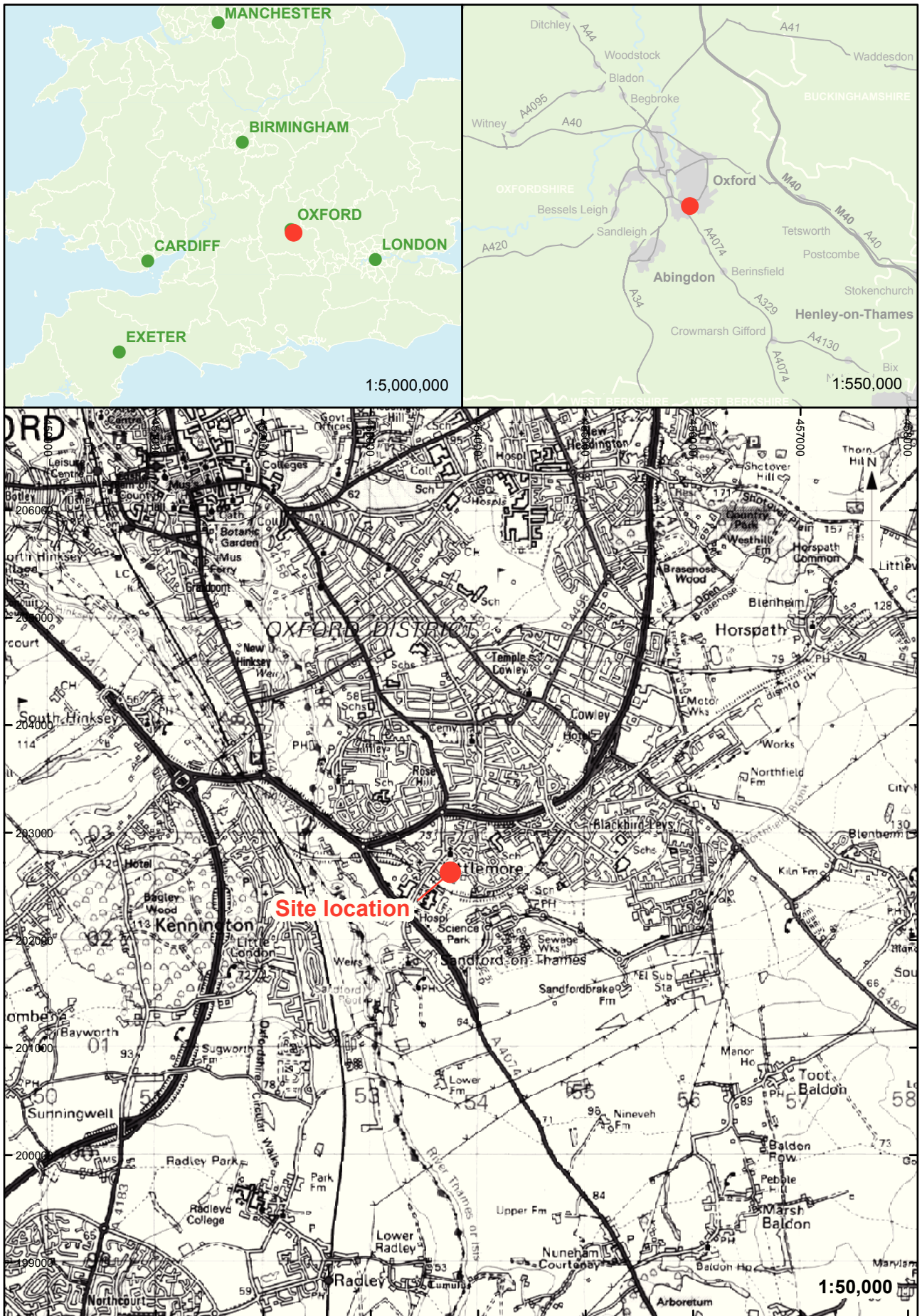
Tempus Reparatum, 1994, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at John Henry Newman Primary School, Littlemore, Oxford.*

Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 1995, *Archaeological Evaluation at David Nicholls Close, Littlemore, Oxford.*



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Lawn Upton House, Littlemore, Oxford
Site code:	LILUH 10
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR SP 5374 0263
Type of watching brief:	Drainage and foundation trenches
Date and duration of project:	15/11/10 - 22/11/10
Area of site:	0.2 Hectares
Summary of results:	No archaeological features or finds were found
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2010.54.



Reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (c) Crown Copyright. 1996 All rights reserved. License No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

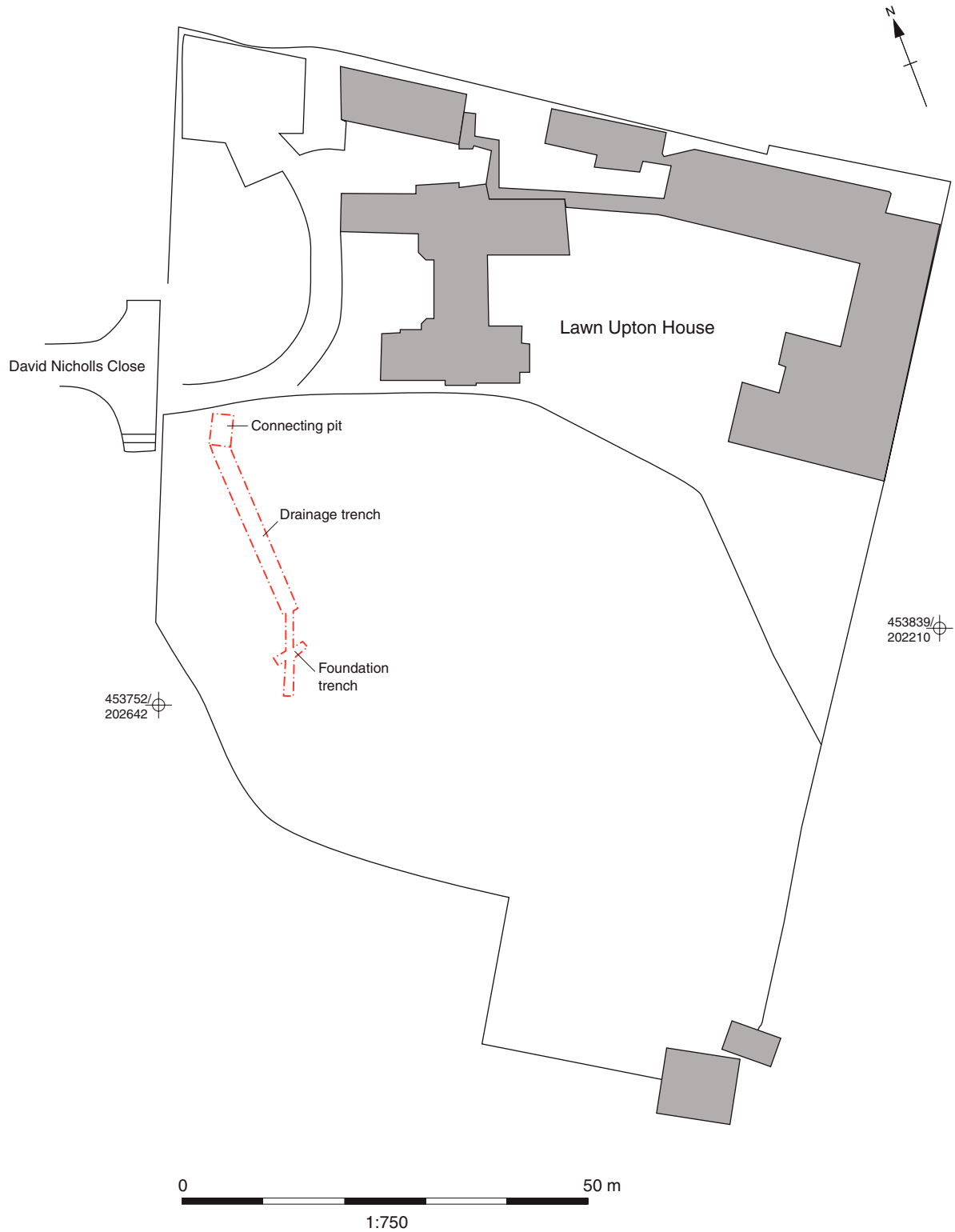


Figure 2: Location of drainage trenches



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@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oamed@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

OA Grand Ouest

7 Rue des Monderaines
ZI - Ouest
14650 Carpiquet
France

t: +33 (0) 249 88 01 01
f: +33 (0) 249 88 01 02
e: [info@oago.fr](mailto: info@oago.fr)
w: <http://oago.fr>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*

