

Salters Lane Winchester Hampshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

18th November 2003

Client: Banner Homes

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1928

Planning Ref N^o: 03/00033/FUL

NGR: SU 4610 3100

Client Name: Banner Homes

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Salters Lane, Winchester, Hampshire

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: NGR SU 4610 3100

Planning Reference: 03/00033/FUL

OA Job Number: 1928

Site Code: WINCM AY167

Invoice Code: AY167WB

Receiving Museum: Winchester City Museum

Museum Accession No: WINCM AY 167

Prepared by: James Mumford
Position: Supervisor
Date: 19th November 2003

Checked by: Jon Hiller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 19th November 2003

Approved by: Nick Shepherd
Position: Head of Fieldwork
Date: 28th November 2003

Signed.....



Document File Location U:/OAU/wbREPORTS/Hampshire/WINCM AY167.doc

Graphics File Location Server 10:/oapubs 1/All drawings*WINCM*Slaters
Lane, Winchester*JM*11.10.03

Illustrated by Julia Moxham

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 2003

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Salters Lane, Winchester, Hampshire

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.....	3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	4
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References	4
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	4

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Map of Winchester showing site.
Fig. 3 Site plan showing features and Sections 1 and 2

Cover Plate: View along boundary ditch.

SUMMARY

From September to November 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Salters Lane, Winchester, Hampshire (NGR SU 4610 3100). The work was commissioned by Banner Homes in advance of new housing development. The watching brief revealed one boundary ditch and plough marks in the chalk.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 From September to November 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Salters Lane, Winchester, Hampshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Banner Homes in respect of a planning application for new housing development (Planning Application No. 03/00033/FUL.).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Winchester Museums Service through its representative, Tracy Matthews after the conclusions from a archaeological desk-based assessment (OA 2002) of the archaeological potential of the development site.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies c 90 m above OD and is situated on the slope of a spur of the chalk downlands; an area of high ground. The underlying geology is upper Cretaceous Chalk. The chalk downlands fall away to the east towards a valley, within which the floodplain of the River Itchen and City of Winchester are located. The site is bounded by Salters Lane to the west and residential housing to the north, south and east.

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 2003) and is reproduced below. The site lies approximately 1 km to the north-west of the historic core of Winchester.
- 1.3.2 The first evidence of activity within the vicinity of the development site dates to the Neolithic (4500-2400 BC) and comprises a flint end scraper and flint flake found c 750 m to the south of the site. A Bronze Age beaker inhumation burial has been located c 550 m north-east of the site and Bronze Age ring ditches lie c 400 – 800 m south-west of the site. Possible Bronze Age 'Celtic' field systems and trackways are known c 400 m south-west of the site and on Teg Down, c. 1.2 km south of the site. A Bronze Age hoard and a Bronze Age socketed axe were discovered near the site.
- 1.3.3 During the Middle Iron Age a hillfort was constructed over the Early Iron Age unfortified settlement on St. Catherine's Hill, c. 3.7 km to the south-east of the site (SAM No. 31165). Oram's Arbour, one of the largest defended enclosures in the

south of England, was also established situated c 1.7 km south-east of the development site.

- 1.3.4 In the Roman Period (43BC - AD410) the foundation of *Venta Belgarum* (meaning the market place of the Belgae) represents the first proper urban settlement at Winchester that eventually grew to become the fifth largest town in Roman Britain, being a cantonal capital. A large cinerary urn & 4 small vases have been found c. 1.1 km to the south-east of the site, possibly associated with a roadside cemetery. A complex of possible field boundaries and/or lynchets lie c 750 m to the south of the site, most likely associated with Scheduled remains of the Iron Age / Romano-British farmstead on Teg Down. A Roman Road passes just north of the development site.
- 1.3.5 This development site lies within the historic parish of *Weeke*, which is first recorded in the early 7th century when it is granted to the church of Winchester by King Cinegils of Wessex. Winchester's growing importance was confirmed during the 9th and 10th centuries when Alfred made Winchester the first capital of England. A new street grid was designed orientated on the gates leading into the Roman town.
- 1.3.6 Nearby is the church of St. Matthew, which contains fabric from the 12th century. The proposed development site lies outside the focus of the medieval town, which remained concentrated around the area of the Roman and Saxon city.

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 stripped and a haw road built. Then the site was stripped of topsoil and subsoil onto the chalk. Once this was undertaken, the foundations were excavated and poured with concrete. This was carried out with a 360° machine with a ditching and toothed bucket. The works were carried out under archaeological observation (Fig. 2).
- 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* (OAU 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The ground works exposed the natural of solid chalk with flint nodules (1). This had been cut by a series of plough marks and a linear feature (2). This feature (2) was an old field boundary ditch with a shallow concave profile and measured 30 m x 2.9 m x 0.6 m. It was filled with a dark reddish brown silty clay (3) (Figs 3 and 4, section 1). This was sealed below a subsoil/plough soil of a 0.15 m thick light reddish brown silty clay loam (4). This also sealed a number of tree rootholes filled by a light yellowish brown silty clay with chalk fragments. This was sealed below a 0.17 m very dark grey brown silty clay loam (5) topsoil.

Roadway Improvements

- 3.1.2 The improvement to Salter Lane consisted of widening the roadway by 1.8 m and cutting 0.15 m into the road surface and grading the bank back. This cut into the natural chalk (1), which was sealed below a 0.6 m thick light brown silty clay with a lot of chalk (4). This layer was heavily disturbed by tree roots and was sealed below a 0.17 m thick layer of dark grey brown silty clay loam (5) topsoil.
- 3.1.3 Where the 0.4 m deep trenches for the kerbs of the new entrance way were excavated, a 0.22 m thick layer of compact chalk with patches of mid brown silty clay (6) was observed, which was sealed below a 0.12 m thick layer of stone chippings (7) and 0.08 m tarmac (8) (Figs 3 and 4, section 2).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief only revealed a field boundary ditch of unknown date crossing east to west. A series of plough marks were also observed cutting into the chalk, again undated, which were cut by a series of tree root holes from when the site was an open area. The limited depth of ground works along Salters Lane and the Stockbridge Road for the new entranceway improvements did not reveal any archaeological deposits relating to the nearby Roman road or any later road improvements.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Cont ext</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Find</i> s
1	Natural				Chalk	
2	Cut	0.60 m	2.90 m	30 m	ditch	
3	Fill				Fill of ditch	
4	Layer	0.16 m - 0.60 m			Subsoil/ploughsoil	
5	Layer	0.17 m			Topsoil	
6	Layer	0.22 m			road make up	
7	Layer	0.12 m			Stone chippings	
8	Layer	0.08 m			Tarmac	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OAU 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition August 1992)

OA 2002 *Land at Salters, Stockbridge Road, Winchester* Desktop Assessment

OA 2003 *Land at Salters, Stockbridge Road, Winchester, Hampshire* Written Scheme of Investigation

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Salters Lane, Winchester, Hampshire

Site code: WINCM AY 167

Grid reference: NGR SU 4610 3100

Type of watching brief: Ground works for new housing development.

Date and duration of project: A total of 10 site visits from the 1/9/2003 to the 5/11/2003.

Area of site: 150 m x 150 m

Summary of results: . The watching brief revealed one undated boundary ditch and plough marks in the chalk

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Winchester Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: WINCM AY 167

0 500 m

1:12500

Figure 1: Site location

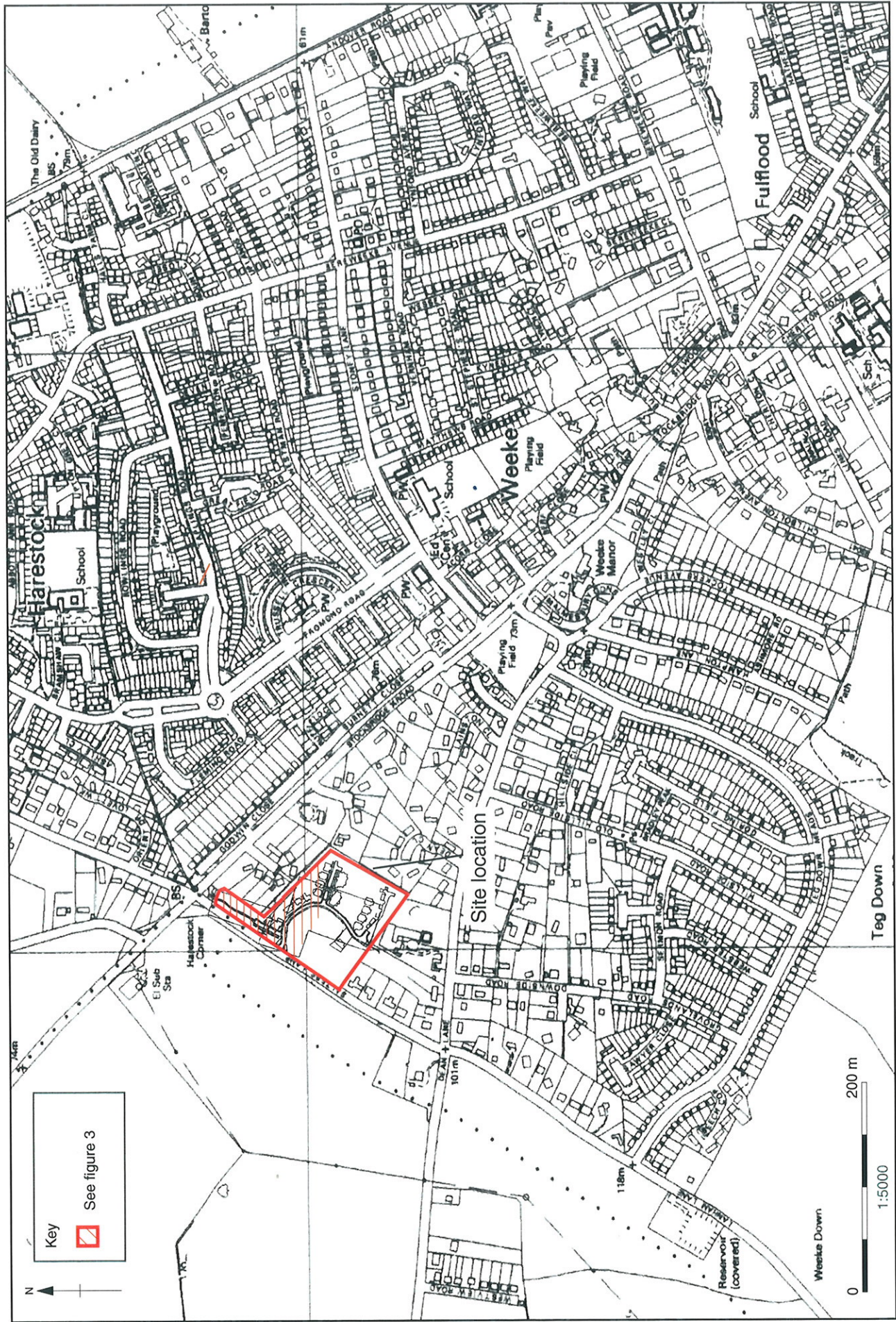


Figure 2: Map of Winchester showing site.

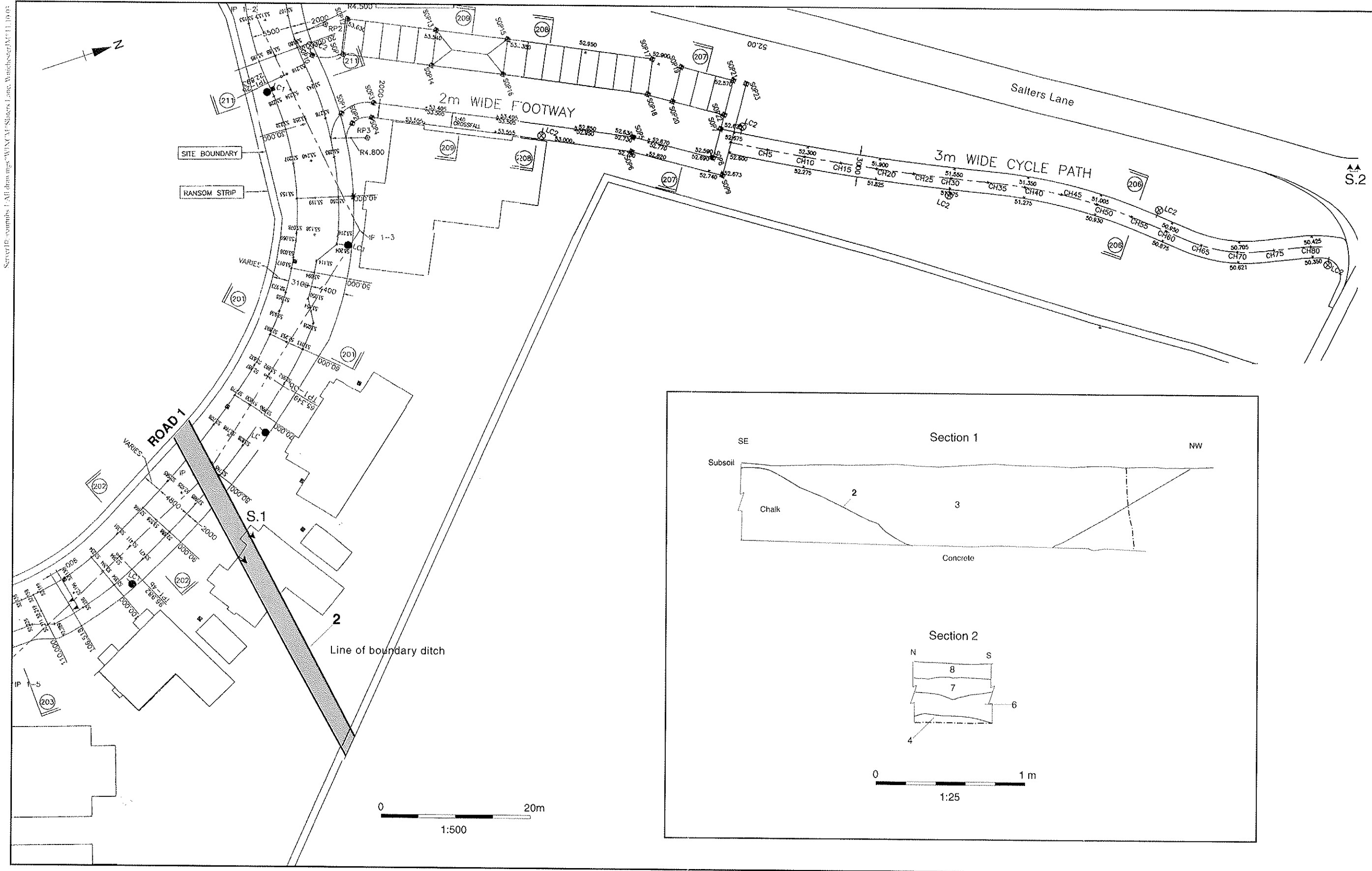
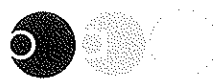


Figure 3: Site plan showing features and sections 1 and 2



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

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