

Battle Bourne Flood  
Alleviation Scheme, Old  
Windsor



Archaeological Watching Brief  
Report

October 2012

Client: Environment Agency



Issue: 1  
OA Job No: 5337  
NGR: SU 981 754





Client Name: Environment Agency

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Battle Bourne Flood Alleviation Scheme, Old Windsor

Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Issue/Version Number: 1

Grid Reference: SU 981 754

Planning Reference:

Invoice Code: OLWIBBWB


OA Job Number: 5337

Site Code: OLWIBB12

Receiving Museum: Reading Museum

Museum Accession No.:

Event No.:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Ian Cook Project Supervisor	Ken Welsh Senior Project Manager	Ken Welsh Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location: X:\Windsor\_Battle Bourne\_FAS\002Reports

Graphics File Location:

Illustrated by: Markus Dylewski

**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 2012

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





# Battle Bourne Flood Alleviation Scheme, Old Windsor

## *Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

*Written by Ian Cook*

*and illustrated by Markus Dylewski*

### **Table of Contents**

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1 Scope of work.....	2
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	2
<b>2 Project Aims and Methodology.....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Aims.....	2
2.2 Methodology.....	3
<b>3 Results.....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Lead Trench for Sheet Piling .....	3
3.2 Battle Bourne Flood Relief Channel Diversion.....	3
3.3 Soak-aways.....	4
3.4 Finds.....	4
3.5 Environmental remains.....	4
<b>4 Discussion and conclusions.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Appendix B. Bibliography and reference.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix C. Summary of Site Details.....</b>	<b>7</b>

### **List of Figures**

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Site Plan



## Summary

*Between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Battle Bourne Embankment, Old Windsor, Berkshire at the request of the Environment Agency. The work was carried out as a requirement of the Conditions in the Environment Action Plan and Scheduled Monument Consent. The Watching Brief did not reveal any significant archaeological features although a drainage ditch containing 19th century pottery was observed during the excavation of the Battle Bourne flood relief ditch diversion. The remains of a modern soak away were recorded at the bottom of the existing flood relief ditch after vegetation had been cleared away and the sides had been shaped.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Battle Bourne Embankment, Old Windsor, Berkshire. The work was carried out at the request of the Environment Agency as a requirement of the Conditions in the Environment Action Plan and Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief focused on groundworks associated with the Battle Bourne realignment. Minor excavations were monitored to evaluate the preservation of any archaeological deposits.

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site (Fig. 1) is located at Battle Bourne, Old Windsor, Berkshire. It is centred upon SU 981 754.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the site is First Terrace Shepperton Gravels, River Terrace Deposits and is 19 m OD

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (cited in NEAS 2012) identified a total of 55 heritage sites including the Kingsbury scheduled monument (SAM79) which comprises the remains of a medieval palace.
- 1.3.2 Artefacts have been recovered from adjacent fields and a Saxon "Great Ditch" is recorded (NEAS 2012).
- 1.3.3 The desk-based assessment concluded that there was a high risk of encountering significant archaeology during intrusive work.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief were:
- To preserve by record any archaeological deposits, structures or features encountered during the course of any ground intrusions;
  - To seek to establish the extent, nature, and date of any archaeological deposits, structures and features encountered within the scope of the ground intrusions;



- To secure the analysis, conservation, and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site;
- To disseminate results through the production of a unpublished client (grey literature) report;
- To fulfil the conditions relating to the Scheduled Monument Consent;.
- To record any heritage assets disturbed by the delivery of the flood alleviation scheme;
- To conserve any archaeological records and discoveries; and
- To issue a report of the findings in relation to the above points.

## 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the course of the groundworks. The presence/absence of archaeological features was noted.
- 2.2.2 A photographic record was made of the sheet piling lead trench and the Battle Bourne ditch realignment and, where observed, archaeological features were recorded and photographed following procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Lead Trench for Sheet Piling

- 3.1.1 A trench was excavated along the existing flood relief defences (Fig. 2) for the insertion of new steel sheet piling to update and replace the existing flood defences. Part of this trench ran close to the Kingsbury scheduled monument (SAM79) which comprises the remains of a Medieval palace. This trench followed the coarse of the New Cut river channel and the existing Battle Bourne flood relief ditch. For the majority of the course the trench was excavated into the existing raised banks to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.5m. A brown silt made ground deposit overlain by approximately 0.15 m of topsoil was recorded. Towards the western end, the trench was excavated along the edge of agricultural fields to a depth of 0.2m into plough soil and onto a brown silty subsoil. No archaeological features were encountered during these works.

### 3.2 Battle Bourne Flood Relief Channel Diversion

- 3.2.1 A stretch of the Battle Bourne channel was diverted towards the west of the site in order that sheet piling would not impact on nearby tree roots (Fig. 2). The diversion channel was 23m long, 1m wide and 1.1m deep. A ditch was observed during the excavation of the channel diversion, orientated NNE to SSW containing a single mid grey silty clay fill. A complete stoneware pot dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this feature. The ditch was probably a drainage channel or field boundary ditch.
- 3.2.2 During the clearance of vegetation from the existing channel where it ran alongside Southlea Road, a roughly-built modern brick soak away (107) was observed towards the bottom of the ditch. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill.



### 3.3 Soakaways

- 3.3.1 Three new soakaways (Fig.2) were excavated along the course of the new flood relief defences at the edge of the agricultural fields. They were approximately 2.4m by 1m and 2m deep. The soakaways were excavated onto natural river gravels in order to allow for drainage. They were dug through silty/clay alluvial deposits which were overlain by 0.10 m to 0.15 m of topsoil. No archaeological features were encountered during the course of these excavations

### 3.4 Finds

- 3.4.1 A complete stoneware pot, a decayed metal object and glass were recovered from the fill of ditch [105]. The glass and metal finds are of 19th century or later date.
- 3.4.2 The pot is a single brown saltglaze stoneware ginger beer bottle with threaded top. It is stamped with the Ashby Staines Brewery Ltd trademark stamp, which includes an image of a monument. The shoulder is stamped Ashby Staines. The threaded top indicates a date of 1880-1925.

### 3.5 Environmental remains

- 3.5.1 No features suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were present and no samples were taken.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 No remains pre-dating the 19th century or associated with the Kingsbury Scheduled Monument (SAM79) were observed during the excavation of the sheet piling trench although a ditch was observed during the diversion of the Battle Bourne flood relief ditch which produced a late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A modern soak-away was observed during vegetation clearance of the existing flood relief ditch at the western end of the site near to Southlea Road.
- 4.1.2 The absence of archaeological features does not necessarily indicate a lack of activity in this area since the impact of the works on levels at which archaeological features might be expected to occur was limited and the majority of the works took place within made ground associated with the existing flood defences.





## APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth m	Width m	Length m	Comments	Finds	Date
100	Layer	0.2	-	-	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	0.2	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	0.25	-	-	Drift Geology	-	-
103	Layer	0.35	-	-	Natural	-	-
104	Fill	0.52	1.5	4.5	Ditch Fill	Pot, Metal, Glass	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> Century
105	Cut	0.52	1.5	4.5	Ditch	-	-
106	Layer	-	-	-	Made Ground	-	-
107	Structure	-	1.3	1.65	Soak-away	-	Modern
108	Fill	-	1.2	1.4	Fill of soak-away	-	Modern
109	Cut	-	1.3	1.65	Cut for soak-away	-	Modern



## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCE

NEAS 2012, *Battle Bourne Flood Alleviation Scheme. Archaeological Project Management-Project Approach to Delivery.*

OA 2012, *Battle Bourne Flood Alleviation Scheme; Method Statement for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

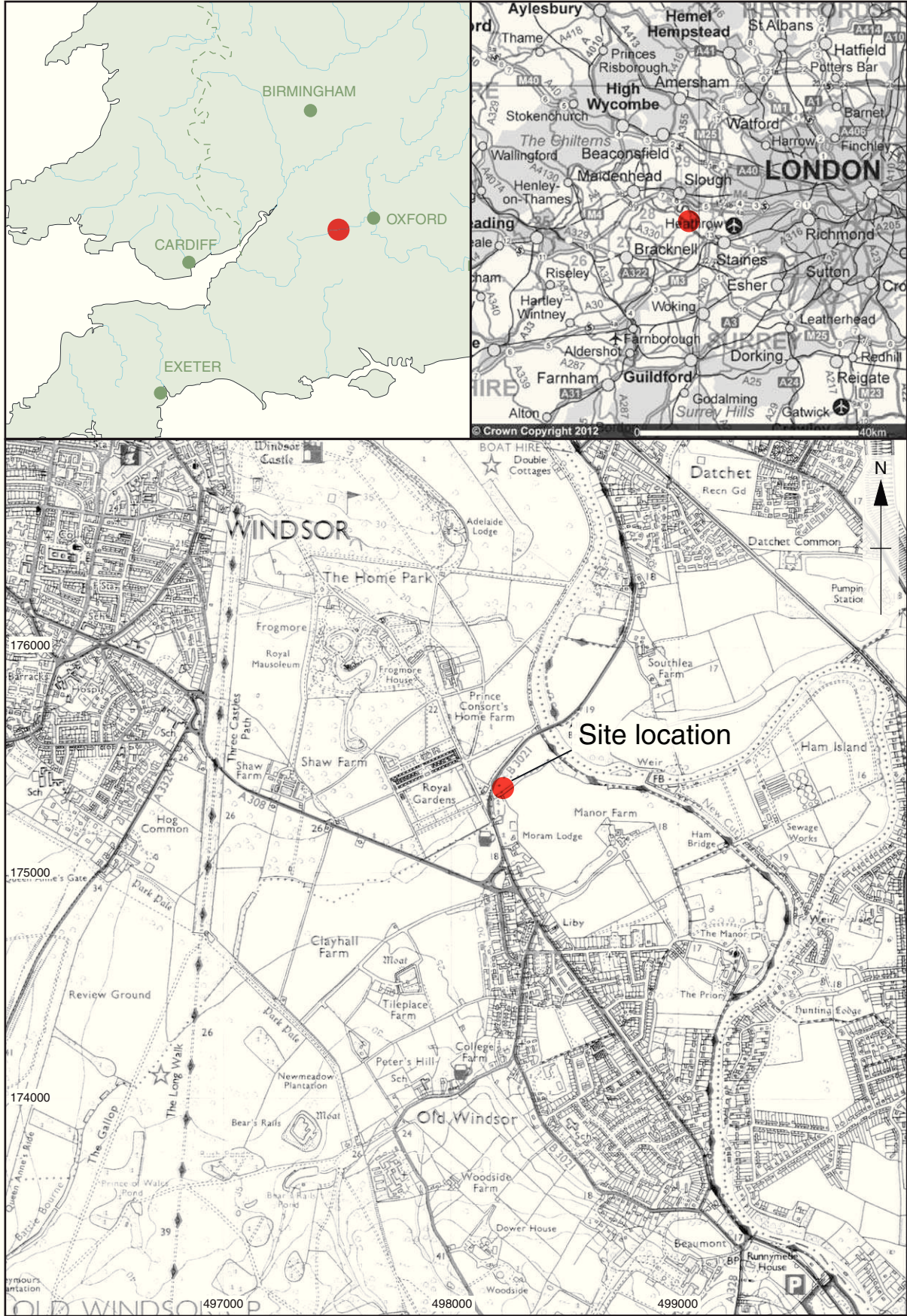
OAU 1992, *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson).



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Battle Bourne Flood Alleviation Scheme, Old Windsor
Site code:	OLWIBB12
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR SU 981 754
Type of watching brief:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Date and duration of project:	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2012 to 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012
Summary of results:	No significant archaeological features encountered during the course of these works, although a post-Medieval ditch was observed during the excavation of the diversion channel of the Battle Bourne flood relief ditch.
Location of archive:	Archive currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES



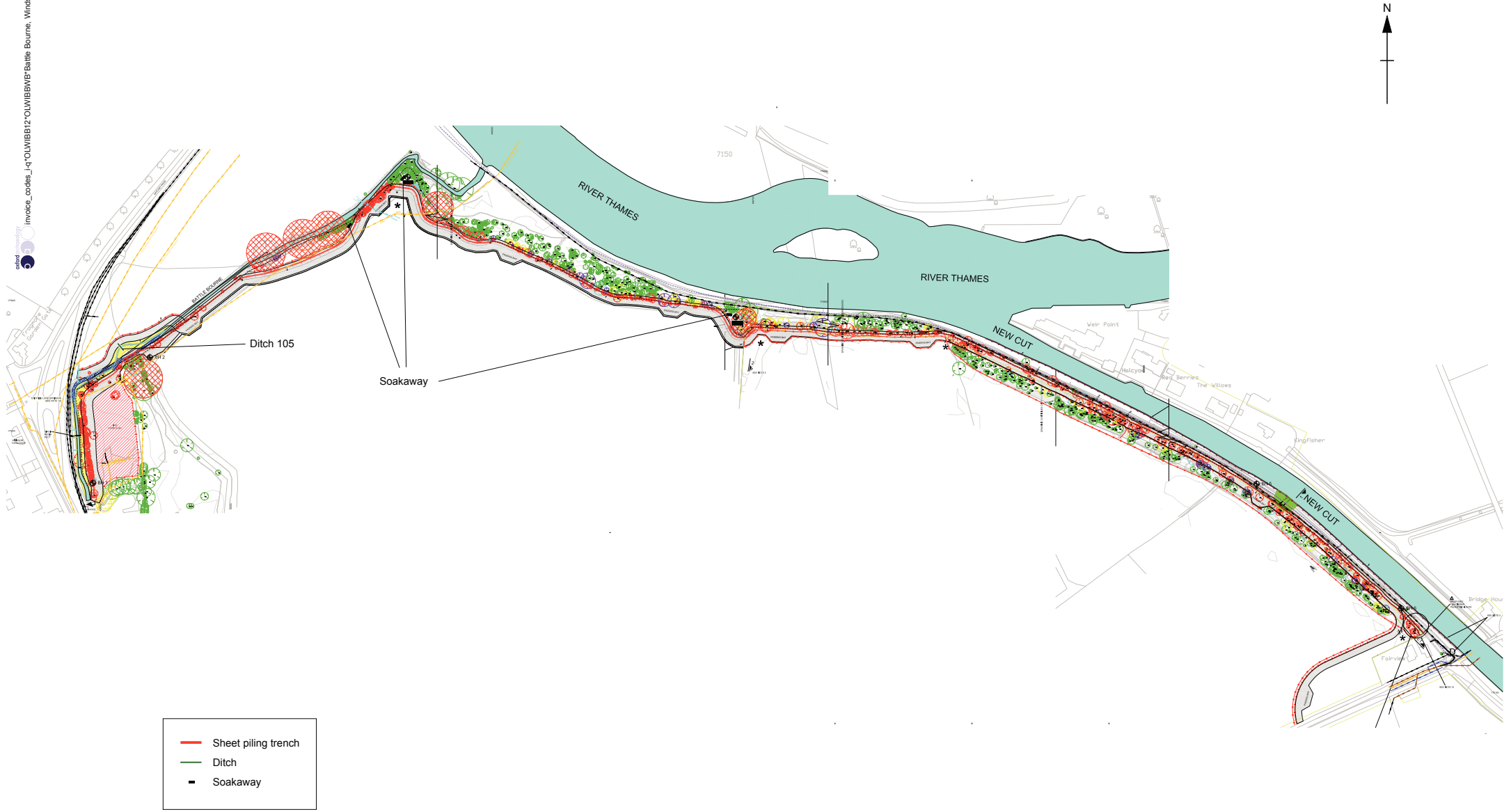


Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 2001. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10000569

Figure 1: Site location







Not to scale

Figure 2: Site plan and location of ditch 105







**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](mailto: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 850 500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599  
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



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

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*