

**MONKSWOOD CLOSE, EYNHAM
OXFORDSHIRE**

NGR SP 4311 0890

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

{ARCHIVE REPORT}

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1 Introduction

In April 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook a watching brief at Monkswood Close farm, Eynsham during the extension of the farm in the form of a new bungalow (Planning Application W98/0784). The farm lies west of the Chil Brook. Excavation of foundation and service trenches was monitored during the watching brief.

2 Observations

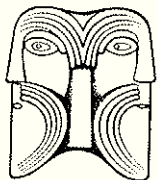
A former test pit here was seen. The test pit was 1m x 1m and up to 1.1 m deep. The sequence of deposits revealed here was natural gravel at the base sealed by brown stony clay loam with charcoal flecks; this lay beneath a 0.6 m thick layer of grey clay loam. The site was stripped by a small excavator. For the new extension, topsoil was 0.05 m thick and consisted of light brown silty clay with pebbles and brick fragments. Topsoil was deeper nearer the Chil Brook, up to 0.4 m. Modern finds including brick and glass were identified here - these were not retained.

The footing trenches were up to 1 m deep to the top of the natural gravel. A large sub-rectangular pit was seen in one of the trench lengths. The pit was 1.6 m deep. Pieces of red house-brick and 19th century or later glass were recovered from the base of the pit. The pit may represent a former small gravel quarry.

A second feature was observed in the trenches - a linear feature that extended east-west towards the Chil brook. The feature was undated and may represent a drainage feature associated with the farm.

3 Conclusions

No prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval features or finds were observed in the watching brief. A possible gravel quarry/pit appears to have been backfilled in the Victorian or later period, while the linear feature appears to have aided drainage at the farm at some time, though no dating evidence was recovered.



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

email: postmaster@oau-oxford.com www.oau-oxford.com



Director and Chief Executive: David Jennings B.A., M.I.F.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES