Supermarine F.C.
South Marston
S w i n d o n

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology

June 2007

Scott Wilson

Client: Scott Wilson

Issue N^{O}: Draft
OA Job N^{O}: 3639
NGR: NGR SU 187 896

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client Name:	InsertScott Wilson
Client Ref No:	NA
Document Title:	Supermarine FC, Swindon Archaeological Evaluation Report
Document Type:	Evaluation
Issue Number:	Final Report (1)
National Grid Reference:	NGR SU 187 896
Planning Reference:	S/07/0525/RM
OA Job Number:	3639
Site Code:	SWIMG:B 2007.15
Invoice Code:	SWSUFCEV
Receiving Museum:	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Museum Accession No:	B: 2007.13
Prepared by:	Kate Brady
Position:	Project Officer PX
Date:	20th May 2007
Checked by:	Jim Mumford
Position:	Project Officer
Date:	24th May 2007
Approved by:	Tim Haines
Position:	Senior Project Manager
Date:	1st August 2008
Document File Location	X:\SWSUFCEV_Supermarine FC_Swindon_Eval\002Reports\Eval Report final ver ammended 010808.doc
Graphics File Location	\\Servergo\invoice codes r thru z\S_codes\SWSUFCEV*SWIMG:B 2007.15*SWSUFCEV*Supermarine FC, Swindon*MD*01.06.07
Illustrated by	Click here to selectMarkus Dylewski

Signed.....

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

Supermarine F.C, South Marston, Swindon, Wiltshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR: SU 187 896

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Supermarine Football Club, South Marston Swindon on behalf of Scott Wilson Ltd between 30th April and 2nd May 2007. The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological remains. Linear anomalies identified by an earlier geophysical survey were found to be modern land drains, and voids left by the removal of natural boulders during earlier levelling and landscaping of the site had been infilled by colluvium. This landscaping is likely to have removed any archaeological remains that may previously have existed on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

Between 30th April 2007 and 2nd May 2007 OA carried out a field evaluation on behalf of Scott Wilson Ltd (Consultants) in respect of a planning application for two new sports facilities (Planning Application No. S/07/0525/RM). A WSI was prepared by Scott Wilson Ltd and agreed with Alder King Ltd (The client) and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeological Officer for Wiltshire) .

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 The proposed development site is located in the grounds of the Supermarine Football Club, situated three miles to the north-east of Swindon (Figure 1). The site is centred on NGR: SU 187 896. The proposed development comprises two areas in the south east of the site area, one for an all weather football pitch (60 m X 40 m in area) and a smaller area to the south-west (50 m X 15 m in area), for a changing block. The land surrounding the development areas comprises grass football pitches to the north, south and west and mature hedging upon an earthen bank to the east.

1.1.2 The site is bounded to the south by the access road to the football grounds and to the east by the Highworth Road leading to Sevenhampton.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on the Upper Greensand solid geology and overlain by alluvial drift geology.

1.2.2 The site lies on a natural shallow slope (from north to south) that has previously been terraced for the construction of the sports pitches. The centre of the all weather pitch development area, is at a level of 122.8 m above OD. The site of the proposed all weather football pitch is at a higher level than the site of the proposed changing rooms, although there has been substantial landscaping undertaken in the past to level the area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been summarised in the WSI (Scott Wilson, 2007) the results of which are summarised and expanded below. The site itself has produced no significant archaeological evidence.

1.3.2 Large numbers of Neolithic worked flints have been found in two locations approximately 1 km from the site at Kingsdown Crematorium and at another site south-east of Kingsdown Farm.

1.3.3 An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Museum of London Archaeological Service (MOLAS) of Plots 10d, 10e and 10f off Viscount Way (in South Marston Park Industrial Estate directly to the south of the site) revealed Iron Age and Roman cut features in the north-western part of that area. An Iron Age hillfort is situated at Broad Blunsdon, approximately 2.5 km to the north west of the site. The site lies within a rich prehistoric landscape, which includes the prehistoric route known as The Ridgeway upon which hillforts such as Uffington and Liddington are situated. The Ridgeway runs nearest to the site at approximately 9 km to the south-east, just beyond Bishopstone.

1.3.4 A Roman Villa, excavated in 1969 lies 1 km to the west of the site, to the west of Stanton House. The Honda works site approximately 750 m to the south of the site revealed a series of Romano-British field drains or field boundaries (NMR).

1.3.5 The A419, situated approximately 1.5km to the west of the site follows the route of the Roman Ermin Street, which linked Gloucester, Cirencester and Silchester.

1.3.6 The place name South Marston is derived from the Old English *mersc*, meaning marsh, and *tun,* meaning farm or village. The area has been dominated by agricultural use until very recently. During the Second World War this area to the north-west of Swindon was developed for the production of military aircraft. Following the war the area has continued to be industrialised.

Evaluation Aims

1.3.7 The evaluation aims were laid out in the WSI (Scott Wilson, April 2007) and were as follows;

- To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered
- To determine the range, date, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present
- To characterise the crop marks and geophysical anomalies identified on the site
- To provide a factual and interpretative report on the archaeological remains identified in order to inform further archaeological mitigation design, where necessary

- To disseminate the results of the investigation through the deposition of an ordered archive at the appropriate local museum and the deposition of the fieldwork report at the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of fieldwork

2.1.1 The evaluation consisted of four trial trenches targeted on anomalies identified by a geophysical survey (appendix 2) . Trenches 1 and 2 were also targeted on crop marks.

2.1.2 Trench 1 measured 11 m x 1.6 m and was aligned NNW-SSE. Trench 2 measured 4.6 m x 1.6 m and was aligned N-S. Trench 3 measured 5 m x 1.6 m and was aligned E-W. Trench 4 measured 10 m x 1.6 m and was aligned NNE-SSW.

2.1.3 The overburden was removed in spits under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

2.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, no finds or environmental samples were retrieved. All trenches were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All trenches were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

2.3 Presentation of results

2.3.1 The report consists of detailed trench descriptions followed by a general discussion. As no finds or environmental evidence was recovered no such reports are included.

2.3.2 Illustrations are located at the end of the report and a context inventory and a copy of the geophysical survey report are included in the appendices.

3 RESULTS: GENERAL

3.1 Soils and ground conditions

3.1.1 The site is located on levelled ground, on a pre-existing grass pitch. The ground was dry during the work. The site had been levelled prior to the construction of the sports ground and evidence of the removal of large natural boulders stones during this process could be seen as voids that had been filled by colluvium. This previous landscaping is likely to have significantly truncated any archaeological remains that may have existed in the area of the sports ground.

3.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

3.2.1 In the area of the proposed all weather pitch the natural mid orange brown alluvial silt was overlain by a thick compact layer of redeposited light brown clay and stone rubble constituting a make up layer 0.85 m thick for the existing pitch. This was overlain by a dark brownish black silty clay loam topsoil with moderate gravel inclusions which formed the pitch turf. In the area of the proposed changing rooms, the natural alluvial silt was overlain by a layer of old cultivated topsoil, approximately 0.2 m deep, which was overlain by the hard standing of the current road way.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Description of deposits, by trench

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

4.1.1 Trench 1 was situated in the area of the proposed changing room block.

4.1.2 Archaeological features were not present in Trench 1. However, the northern two thirds of the trench were traversed by a large field drain of modern date (13) which had been constructed to divert water from the area of the sports pitches. These field drains (figure 2) consisted of two large parallel linear features which were identified by the geophysical survey (Appendix 2). This ditch cut through the old topsoil layer (12) and was overlain by the redeposited alluvial layers (15 and 16) to the south of the hard standing for the road way (10) which made up a bank alongside the road.

4.1.3 The average depth to the top of the natural was 0.3 m in the south of the trench (where the bank and underlying ditch was situated) and 0.1 m in the north of the trench. The natural alluvium was encountered at 120.32 m OD.

Trench 2 (Fig.2)

4.1.4 Trench 2 was situated in the south-eastern corner of the area of the proposed all weather pitch.

4.1.5 Archaeological features were not present in Trench 2. However, the modern field drain identified in Trench 1 traversed the southern two thirds of Trench 2. The field drain was overlain by a mixed make up layer for the pitch (22) which was 0.75 m thick. This was overlain by the topsoil/ pitch turf (20).

4.1.6 The average depth to the top of the natural was 1 m. This natural alluvium was encountered at 121.78 m OD.

Trench 3 (Fig.2)

4.1.7 Trench 3 was situated in the centre of the area of the proposed all weather pitch.

4.1.8 Archaeological features were not present in Trench 3. However, the northernmost of the modern field drains (35) was seen in the far eastern end of the trench. The deposits within this trench consisted entirely of layers of made ground (31, 32, 33 and 34) 0.6 m thick and the topsoil of the pitch (30), 0.24 m thick. The natural alluvium

was not seen as it had been removed to a great depth during terracing in order to level of the site for the original construction of the pitches.

4.1.9 The depth of the trench was 0.8 m. The natural alluvium was not reached at the bottom of the trench which was at 122.13 m OD.

Trench 4 (Fig.2)

4.1.10 Trench 4 was situated at the western end of the area of the proposed all weather pitch.

4.1.11 Archaeological features were not present in Trench 4 but the trench was traversed by two modern land drains (44 and 49), which were cut through the pitch/ topsoil (40) which was 0.24 m thick. Two gravel and re-deposited alluvium make up layers were identified (45 and 48).

4.1.12 The depth to the natural alluvium was 0.5 m. This natural alluvium was reached at 122.37 m OD. A slot was machined into the far northern end of the trench, which revealed a layer of natural gravel (Upper Greensand geology) underneath the natural alluvium at 122.04 m OD.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 No finds were recovered from the evaluation.

4.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

4.3.1 There were no archaeological features identified by the evaluation and no environmental samples were taken.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered reliable and give a good indication of the remains on the site.

5.2 Overall interpretation and summary of results

5.2.1 The results of the evaluation provide clear evidence that no archaeological remains were extant in the areas of the site revealed by evaluation trenches 1 to 4. Due to previous intensive landscaping of the site, it is likely that any archaeological remains were destroyed. This is further suggested by the thinness of the drift geology (natural alluvium) in Trench 4. Up to 1 m of made ground existed within the trenches, and a significant amount of natural alluvium may have been removed by this levelling.

5.2.2 The terracing and levelling of the site has most likely removed all archaeological remains that may have been present. Only very substantial features such as very large boundary ditches or waterholes/ wells would have survived this degree of truncation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thick. (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*No./ wt*	*Date*
001								
	10	Layer		0.2	Hard standing of road way	-	-	-
	11	Layer			Natural Alluvium	-	-	-
	12	Layer		0.3	Old cultivated topsoil of site.	-	-	-
	13	Cut	1.1	0.55	Modern field drain, partly revealed.	-	-	-
	14	Fill		0.55	Backfill of modern field drain.	-	-	-
	15	Layer		0.5	Redeposited material making up bank on the side of the road way	-	-	-
	16	Layer		0.25-0.3	Topsoil on bank	-	-	-
002								
	20	Layer		0.26	Topsoil forming pitch/ turf	-	-	-
	21	Layer			Natural	-	-	-
	22	Layer		0.75	Ground make up for pitch	-	-	-
	23	Cut	0.8	0.5	Field drain	-	-	-
	24	Fill		0.5	Backfill of field drain	-	-	-
	25	Cut	0.25	0.4	Field drain	-	-	-
	26	Fill		0.4	Backfill of field drain	-	-	-
003								
	30	Layer		0.24	Topsoil	-	-	-
	31	Layer		0.28	Made ground	-	-	-
	32	Layer		0.32	Made ground	-	-	-
	33	Layer		0.1	Made ground	-	-	-
	34	Layer		0.1	Made ground	-	-	-
	35	Cut			Modern Land drain	-	-	-
004								

	40	Layer		0.24	Topsoil	-	-	-
	41	Layer		0.24	Natural	-	-	-
	42	Fill		0.14	Fill of modern land drain	-	-	-
	43	Fill		0.18	Fill of modern land drain	-	-	-
	44	Cut	0.14	0.24	Modern land drain, partially within the trench	-	-	-
	45	Layer		0.22	Made ground	-	-	-
	46	Layer		0.1	Subsoil beneath made ground	-	-	-
	47	Layer			Natural gravel	-	-	-
	48	Layer		0.15	Subsoil beneath made ground	-	-	-

APPENDIX 2 GEOPHYSICAL REPORT

SUPERMARINE FOOTBALL CLUB SOUTH MARSTON, SWINDON

Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey 2007

A.D.H. Bartlett
Surveyed by:

Bartlett-Clark Consultancy

25 Estate Yard, Cuckoo Lane,
North Leigh,
Oxfordshire OX8 6PS

for

Scott Wilson Ltd
The Crescent Centre
Temple Back
Bristol BS1 6EZ

SUPERMARINE FOOTBALL CLUB SOUTH MARSTON, SWINDON

Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey 2007

Introduction

This report describes findings from a magnetometer survey carried out to test for evidence of archaeological features or remains in advance of a proposed development at the Supermarine Football Club, South Marston, Swindon.

The survey was commissioned by the Scott Wilson Group plc on behalf of Alder King Ltd. Procedures and requirements to be followed during the course of the survey were set out in a specification document issued by Scott Wilson in March 2007 [1]. The two areas investigated by the survey represent the sites of a proposed all-weather football pitch, together with an adjacent club building to accommodate changing rooms. The all-weather pitch site was surveyed on 30 March 2007, and the club building site on 11 April. The initial data plots which were supplied to Scott Wilson following each phase of fieldwork are now included, with additional interpretative plans, in this report.

The Site

The survey areas are located within the football club grounds at South Marston, some 5km north east of Swindon (at approximately NGR SU 188896). The site of the proposed all-weather pitch is currently a grass football pitch. This is at a higher level than the adjacent changing room site, indicating that the site has previously been landscaped. The site, in its previous history, also formed part of the former Vickers airfield.

The survey coverage on the all-weather pitch site was constrained by existing boundaries to the west and south, and by a goal at the southern end of the adjacent pitch to the north. The actual survey area therefore differs slightly from the proposed area as indicated on figure 1 (where the proposed area is defined by the corner markers 1-8). The final extent of the survey amounts to some 36m x 70m. An additional 12m x 70m was surveyed on the changing room site to the south. Boundaries of the existing pitches, as determined by GPS measurements taken during the course of the survey, are shown on figures 2 and 4. These differ slightly from the background mapping, which is based on an architect's drawing, and shows the proposed rather than current site layout.

The geology of the site is Corallian Limestone, a band of which runs to the north of Swindon, and has provided favourable ground conditions for previous magnetometer surveys in the vicinity. Topsoil magnetic susceptibility values were tested during the course of the fieldwork. Readings in a range 26-43 (x 10^{-5}) SI were obtained. These relatively high values confirm that soil conditions at the site should be responsive to magnetometer surveying.

Evidence that the site may be of potential archaeological interest is provided by aerial photographs. Figure 1 is reproduced (with additions) from a plan supplied by Scott Wilson, and shows the cropmarks as indicated on a plan from the Wiltshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record. Two parallel linear features extend across the football club site from the west, where there is also a possible enclosure. It is suggested in the Specification that the cropmarks could be of Roman date.

Survey Procedure

The magnetometer survey followed standard procedures for work of this kind with readings collected along transects 1m apart using Bartington 1m fluxgate magnetometers. The results are shown as grey scale plots at 1:625 scale in figure 2, and as graphical (x-y trace) plots in figure 3. An interpretation of the findings is shown superimposed on figure 3, and is reproduced separately to provide a summary of the findings on the final plan (figure 4).

The survey plots show the magnetometer readings after standard treatments which include adjustment for irregularities in line spacing caused by variations in the instrument zero setting, and slight linear smoothing. Additional 2D low pass filtering has been applied to the grey scale plot to reduce background noise levels.

The survey grid was set out to cover as much ground as possible within the constraints of the site, and then tied to OS national grid co-ordinates by means of a sub-1m accuracy GPS system. OS co-ordinates of map locations can be read from the

AutoCAD (.dwg) version of the plans which can be supplied with this report. The background mapping which is included in these plans has also been located on the OS grid by means of GPS measurements taken during the survey.

The magnetometer survey was supplemented by a background magnetic susceptibility readings, as mentioned above. These were taken with a Bartington MS2 meter and field sensor loop.

Results

The plot of the larger (all-weather pitch) survey area shows a number of strong magnetic disturbances of clearly recent origin, but is not seriously obscured by magnetic interference. It does not therefore appear that the site has been built up for leveling or drainage purposes with imported rubble or other magnetic fill (as we have sometimes found to be the case with sports fields). The site could perhaps have been raised with clean imported topsoil, but the possibility remains that an original ground surface may survive.

Various non-archaeological magnetic disturbances are marked on figures 3 and 4 by blue cross hatching. They include interference from a fence to the south of the survey, a goal to the north, and a number of strong narrow peaks (as seen in the xy plot) indicating buried iron objects.

Other magnetic anomalies which could perhaps be of archaeological interest are outlined in red. These include a group of features at A (as labeled on figure 4), and some more isolated ones at B. These anomalies are of a strength and size which could indicate the presence of such features as silted pits, but it is unclear from the survey evidence alone whether they could be of archaeological origin, or whether they relate to more recent ground disturbances.

The survey from the changing room site also shows disturbances from adjacent boundaries (and a floodlight to the south). The centre of the survey crosses a gravel track, but the data here remains sufficiently undisturbed for an apparent linear magnetic anomaly to be visible. This is outlined in red at C. This feature corresponds well with the location of one of the cropmarks, and suggests that a surviving silted ditch crosses the survey at this point.

Conclusions

The survey perhaps produced a rather greater amount of interpretable data than would necessarily be expected from a confined and landscaped site near to modern obstructions. Some magnetic interference was recorded, particularly near the site boundaries, but a number of potentially significant features were also detected.

These include pit-like features of a kind which could indicate silted pits or comparable sub-surface features at A and B within the all-weather pitch site. Further investigation would be needed to establish whether these are of archaeological origin.

A linear feature was detected in the survey of the changing room site. This corresponds quite closely to one of the cropmarks. The survey does not provide any comparable evidence that the cropmark features extend into the all-weather pitch site.

Report by:

A.D.H. Bartlett BSc MPhil
Bartlett - Clark Consultancy
Specialists in Archaeogeophysics
25 Estate Yard
Cuckoo Lane
North Leigh
Oxfordshire OX29 6PW
01865 200864

27 April 2007

C. Oatley and P. Cottrell carried out the fieldwork for this survey.

APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

BGS, Geological Survey of England and Wales sheet 201

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluations*

MOLAS, 2005, Sites 10D, 10E and 10F, Viscount Way, South Marston Industrial Estate, Swindon. An Archaeological Assessment

National Monuments Record (NMR)

OAU, 1992 Fieldwork Manual (1st edition, August 1992 ed. D Wilkinson)

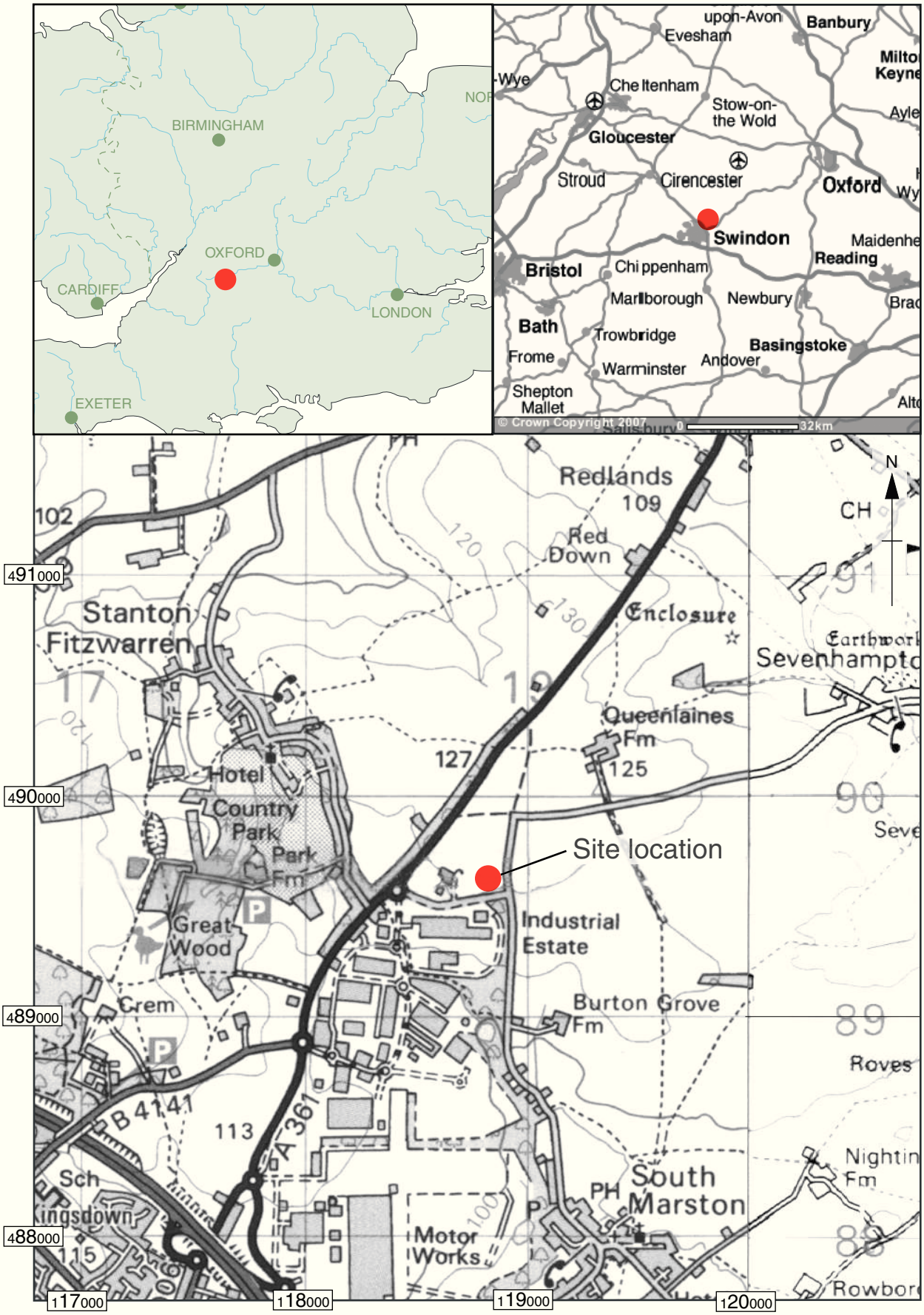
OA, 2005 Plot 11c South Marston Park, Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Prepared by OA for Michael Sparks Associates

Supermarine Football Club, South Marston, Swindon. Specification for Geophysical Survey. Prepared by Andy Mayes BA, Senior Archaeologist, Scott Wilson Group plc. March 2007.

Supermarine Football Club, South Marston, Swindon. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching. Scott Wilson Group plc. April 2007.

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Supermarine FC
Site code: SWIMG:B:2007.15
Grid reference: SU 187 896
Type of evaluation: Trial trenching
Date and duration of project: 30th April 2007 - 2nd May 2007 (3 Days)
Area of site: 60 m X 40 m (proposed all weather pitch) 50 m x 15 m (proposed changing block) 4 Trenches.
Summary of results: No archaeological features remained. Severe truncation by landscaping may have removed and archaeological remains.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with relevant Swindon Museum and Art Galleries in due course, under the following accession number **B:2007.13**.



Scale 1:25000

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Site plan and sections

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

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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, No: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, No: 285627

Registered Office:
Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES