

# Home Close Winslow Buckinghamshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



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**Client: Porter Consulting and  
Management Services Ltd  
on behalf of Mr John Green**

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Illustrated by Markus Dylewski

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## **Home Close, Winslow**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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## ***Summary***

On April 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a single trench evaluation at Home Close, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 772275). The work was commissioned by Porter Consulting and Management Services Ltd on Behalf of Mr John Green, in advance of the construction of a two storey side extension and additional first floor extension. No archaeological features, or remains were revealed within the trench.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On April 27<sup>th</sup> 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA), carried out a single trench archaeological evaluation at Home Close, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 772 275) (Fig 1.). The works were commissioned by Porter Consulting and Management Service Ltd on the behalf of Mr John Green. The evaluation took place prior to construction work for a two storey and additional single storey extension to be built onto the private dwelling at Home Close.
- 1.1.2 In total a single trench measuring 12m x 1.6m with a depth of 1.1m was excavated within the proposed area of the extension.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located within the private grounds of the dwelling Home close, at the western side of Tennis Lane and South of Sheep Street. The trench was positioned on part of the lawn next to the current temporary shed and gravel driveway, and south of the current main access driveway
- 1.2.2 The site lies on underlying Kellaway and Oxford clay formations, consisting of different mudstones, siltstone and sandstone.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is compiled from a desk based assessment carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2006) the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service Brief (BCAS 2009) and the Winslow Conservation Area Plan (AVDC 2008). In addition an on-line search has been carried out using 'Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past' the ADS (archaeological data service), the BIAB (British and Irish Archaeological Biography) and the AIP (Archaeological Investigations Project) using 'Winslow' as a key search word. Bibliographic references from OA 2006 have been removed within the following text.

#### 1.3.2 Prehistoric

- 1.3.3 Evidence of prehistoric activity has been recovered from the local area, including an Acheulian flint flake dating from the Palaeolithic period retrieved c 250m to the north-west of the site at Elmfields gate and a Late Iron Age bronze torc possibly c 500m to the south west. Both of these artefacts were found in the 19th century somewhere in the vicinity of Winslow, unfortunately the exact location of the findspots is not known.
- 1.3.4 The nearest significant potential prehistoric site lies some 700m to the north west of Home Close. This is the site of a possible Bronze Age or Early Medieval (see below) burial mound. The SMR notes that the area in which the mound may have been located was quarried in the Post-Medieval period. No above ground remains of the mound have been recorded. Although the mound is suggested as being of Bronze Age origin in the SMR, this has not been proved through archaeological investigation. It is, however, likely to have been present by the Saxon period as it's presence as a visible feature of the landscape is inferred in a charter of c AD 792.

#### 1.3.5 Roman to Early Medieval (AD43 – 1066)

- 1.3.6 Two Roman roads run within 9km of Winslow. Akeman Street lies to the north and Watling Street to the south, heading towards London from the north west. There are also two known Roman military camps within the region. These would have served



troops on the move along the Roman roads. The finds spot of a 1st century AD Roman coin is noted as located c 200m west of the proposed development area. The coin was recorded as associated with a possible gravel trackway or surface. There is no known Roman settlement within the area, however there have a scatter of Roman pottery retrieved in the fields to the south of the site, suggesting possible small scale Roman activity nearby (HER05075).

- 1.3.7 The name Winslow, or as it has been variously spelt, Wineslai, Winneslawe, Wyneslowe, Winslawe, is almost certainly of Anglo-Saxon origin; the latter part of the word, “hloew” “hlaw” possibly referring to “a memorial heap or Barrow,” or “ a small hill or tract of ground gently rising”. As mentioned above there is a reference to a now levelled mound having stood within sight of the village. Winslow is first mentioned in a charter of c 792 when it is recorded that the Mercian King Offa, while staying at Winslow, drew up his plans for the founding of a monastery of St Albans. This indicates that by the late 8th century a settlement existed at Winslow, and was part of a royal estate or manor. It is thought that King Offa had a palace in the environs of Winslow, and a location has been proposed at Dene Hill to the east end of Sheep Street (HER 05117).

### **1.3.8 Later Medieval (AD1066-1550)**

- 1.3.9 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Winslow, as a manor held by the Abbott of St Albans, and was rated at fifteen Hides (a hide being as many acres as were sufficient for one plough to manage in a year; VCH 1925, 466). There were also five other hides, three servants, three ploughs and land enough for another plough in the demesne. Nineteen carucates of meadow and a wood were also recorded (*ibid*). All of this remained within the control of St Alban’s Monastery until the Dissolution, after which it returned to the Crown (*ibid*).
- 1.3.10 In 1235 the village was granted a market charter. It is likely that this event saw the creation of the nucleated settlement seen today. The charter for a market would have required the deliberate planning of regular plots of land. The long, narrow building plots on the east side of the High Street are the shape of typical Later Medieval burgage plots, now encompassed within the historic settlement of Winslow. Similar plots are also visible to the north of Sheep Street. Further east along Sheep Street is the medieval ‘shrunkn’ village of Shipton.

### **1.3.11 Post-Medieval Period (AD1550+)**

- 1.3.12 Extensive traces of ridge and furrow have been recorded around Winslow including within the field immediately to the south of Home close. These are likely to be of later Medieval or Post-Medieval in date.

## **2 EVALUATION BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aim of the evaluation**

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area, particularly regarding the Saxon, medieval or relating to the post-medieval activity.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of archaeological investigation.



## 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A Single 12m x 1.6m trench was excavated to provide a representative sample of the development area.
- 2.2.2 The trench was excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. The trench was then cleaned by hand.
- 2.2.3 A plan showing the extent and location of the excavations was prepared (Fig. 2), based on a plan hand-drawn at a scale of 1:50, a sample section of the the trench was drawn at a scale of 1:20. Black and white film as well as digital photography was taken. Recording followed procedures detailed within the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. Dave Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of Deposits

- 3.1.1 The stratigraphy observed within the trench can be seen within Figure 2. All the deposits were recorded and a general description can be seen from below.
- 3.1.2 The earliest deposit found was of the 'natural' geological horizon (context 003). This consisted of a sterile silt, clay, gravel formation. The gravel appears to be glacial tilt and is mostly rounded flint pebbles measuring approximately 2-5cm in size. The 'natural' horizon runs throughout the entire length of the trench and was found at a depth of approximately 1-1.1m
- 3.1.3 Overlying gravel 003 was a silt loam subsoil horizon (002). The subsoil was a light brown in colour and was found in the whole length of Trench 1. Subsoil was found at a depth of 0.1m and was approximately 0.9m in thickness. Overlying the subsoil horizon (002) was the modern topsoil (001) which was 0.1m in thickness, and ran the entire length of the trench.

### 3.2 Finds summary

- 3.2.1 No dating evidence or artefacts were recovered during the course of the evaluation.
- 3.2.2 No deposits were suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were revealed during the course of the evaluation.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 The single trench represents a large percentage of the proposed extension area and revealed no archaeological features or remains. The sterile nature of the soils and lack of artefacts from these layers implies this is indicative of the extension area as a whole.
- 4.1.2 There is no evidence of severe truncation on the site, although in this location there is a probability of historic plough action. Subsoil 002 appears too thick to be the result of in-situ post glacial accumulation and ploughing in this location (rural and not downslope) and may be imported or derived from local landscaping associated with the existing house.



## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

AVDC 2008, Winslow Conservation, Area Plan. Aylesbury Vale District Council

BCAS 2008, Home Close, Sheep Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Brief for an Archaeological investigation

IFA 1992 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations

O A 1992, Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

O A 2006, Land North of Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Desktop Assessment. 2927. Oxford Archaeology.

O A 2009, Home Close, Winslow, Buckinghamshire. Written Scheme of Investigation Oxford Archaeology.



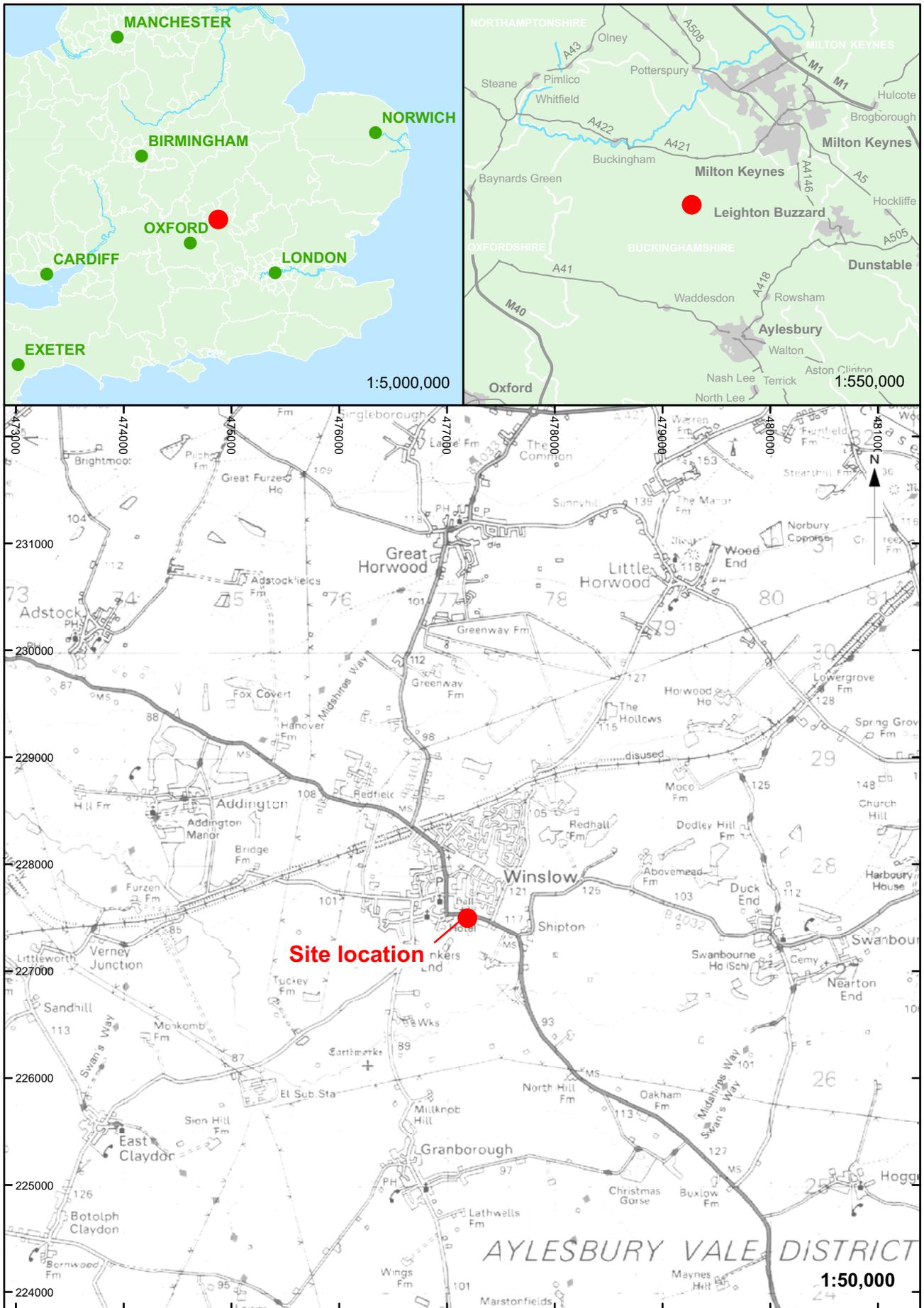
**APPENDIX B Table of Contexts**

| Context Number | Type  | Depth    | Comments              | Finds | Date |
|----------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| OO1            | Layer | 0-0.1m   | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| OO2            | Layer | 0.1-1m   | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| OO3            | Layer | 1m-1.1m> | Geological<br>Natural | -     | -    |



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Site name:</b>           | Home Close, Sheep Street, Winslow  |
| <b>Site code:</b>           | WINSS09  |
| <b>Grid reference:</b>      | NGR: SP772 275   |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Evaluation   |
| <b>Date and duration:</b>   | 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2009  |
| <b>Area of site:</b>        | 19.2m  |
| <b>Summary of results:</b>  | Single trench evaluation which revealed no archaeological features or remains.   |
| <b>Location of archive:</b> | The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum Service in due course. |



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Figure 1: Site location



- 1 110.80 mOD
- 2 109.62 mOD
- 3 109.57 mOD

Site boundary  
 Hedgerow

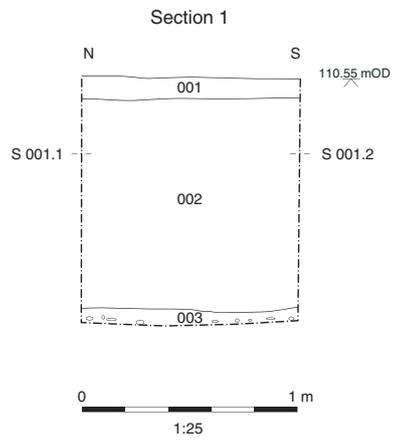


Figure 2: Trench location plan and sample section



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Section 1