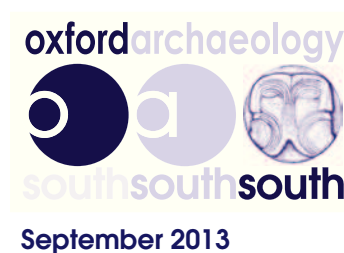


Ickniel Place Goring Oxfordshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report




Client: Leadbitter

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5762
NGR: SU 605815



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Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
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Icknield Place, Goring

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Written by Gary Evans

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Summary

In July 2013 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological watching brief during the demolition (and foundations grubbing) of buildings at Icknield Place Goring, followed by excavation of foundations trenches for the construction of a new sheltered accommodation building.

The watching brief revealed no evidence of activity, either in the form of archaeological features or residual finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Leadbitter to undertake a archaeological watching brief on the site of a proposed development (ref: P11/S0098) comprising redevelopment of sheltered accommodation with extra care apartments and associated communal facilities.

1.1.2 A condition was attached to planning permission for the development stating:

“Condition 14: The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological watching brief, to be maintained during the period of construction/during any groundworks taking place on the site. The watching brief shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and Policy CON 12 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

Condition 15: Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 14, no development shall commence on site without the appointed archaeologist being present. Once the watching brief has been completed its findings shall be reported to the Local Planning Authority, as agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, including all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and usable archive and a full report for publication.

Reason: To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and policy CON12 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.”

1.1.3 Oxford Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation as required by the conditions and this was approved by the archaeological planning advisor. A watching brief was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI.

1.1.4 This document is a report on the results of the watching brief.



1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Goring, east of the River Thames and is situated at the break of slope on the river terrace.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation, no superficial deposits are recorded on the BGS geology mapping site:
(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.htm>).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 This section was provided by Richard Oram Oxfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist with minor additions from OA.
- 1.3.2 The site is located approximately 50m east of the route of the Icknield Way (PRN 8929) a prehistoric and Roman route way recorded by the Victors as route 168c. This route was an important Roman thoroughfare, which heads roughly in NE to SW direction across NE escarpment of the Chilterns, following the Ridgeway in course. It is likely however that the Roman road follows the route of an earlier prehistoric trackway.
- 1.3.3 No settlement evidence has been positively recorded along this section of the trackway however a number of findspots indicate prehistoric and Roman settlement in the vicinity. Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery has been recorded 150m west of the site (PRN 2039) and a prehistoric flint tool has been recorded 100m north of the proposed development (PRN 27656). Two cropmarks directly across the Thames from the site (600m west) may represent Bronze Age round barrows (ADS - NMR_NATINV-1315966). A Roman coin has been recorded 430m to south east (PRN 26232) and a Roman glass bead was also recovered 420m to the north west of the application site (BERK-793E02). Little archaeological work has been carried out along the line of this important route and this development has the potential to encounter archaeological deposits related to the trackway and any prehistoric or Roman settlement.
- 1.3.4 It is likely that the site would have been truncated to some degree by the current buildings on the site but it is still possible that deposits may survive in less disturbed areas.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was:
To determine the existence or absence of archaeological remains and, shall archaeological remains be present, to assess their general nature and significance.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of intermittent site visits during those operations which had the potential to disturb or destroy archaeological deposits.
- 2.2.2 These operations included the grubbing out of existing foundations, topsoil stripping and ground reduction and the excavation of new foundation trenches.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The natural chalk geology (003) was overlain in areas across the site by a 'b' horizon red-brown silt or directly by loam topsoil.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were retrieved from the site

3.3 Environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief monitored exposure of the geology (potential archaeological horizon) across 20-25% of the site area during foundation excavations following monitoring during the grubbing up of existing foundations and general ground reduction works. No features were present at the potential archaeological horizon, No residual or disturbed artefacts were present in the overlying layers. In correspondence with the Archaeological Planning Advisor it was agreed that a reasonable confidence in the absence of archaeological remains within the construction site, had been achieved.

**APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Comments	Finds	Date
001	Layer	0.35m		Topsoil		
002	Layer	0.40 m		Ploughsoil/colluvium?		
003	Layer	-		Natural (soliflucted?) chalk with flint nodules		



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2013 Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief. Icknield Place Goring
Oxfordshire



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Icknield Place Goring
Site code:	GOICPL13
Grid reference:	SU 605 815
Type of watching brief:	Monitoring during foundation removal and trenching for new foundations.
Date and duration of project:	Intermittent visits during July 2013
Area of site:	c 0.5 ha
Summary of results:	No archaeological remains
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at Janus House and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service under the accession number OXCMS: 2013.36

Grubbing up of existing building foundations



The site after clearance



Foundation trenches



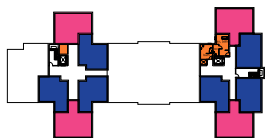
Foundation trenches



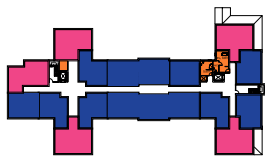
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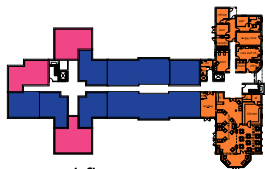
Figure 1: Site location



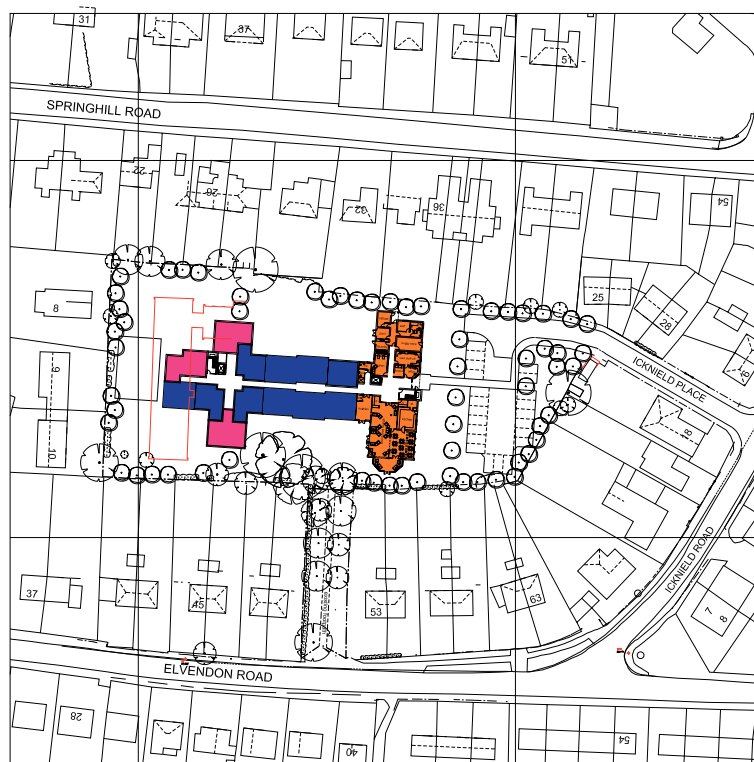
second floor



first floor



ground floor



Schedule:

1 bed flats - 28 no.
2 bed flats - 12 no.
22 car spaces



Icknield Place, Goring	Nov 10
	1:500
	270111
Site plan - Option 2	Pr31



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