

St Marys Church Cogges Oxfordshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

28th November 2003

client logo

Client: Andrew Townsend Architects

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2031

NGR: SP 3610 0971

St Mary's Church, Cogges, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
2 Project Aims and Methodology	2
2.1 Aims	2
2.2 Methodology	2
3 Results	2
3.1 Description of deposits	2
3.2 Finds	2
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains	2
4 Discussion and Conclusions	3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	4
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References	4
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details	4

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Site plan and Section 1

Cover Plate: View of church from the south-west.

SUMMARY

In November 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Cogges, Oxfordshire (NGR SP3610 0971). The work was commissioned by Andrew Townsend Architects in advance of a new drain and linear soakaway. The watching brief revealed a medieval construction layer sealing an earlier graveyard soil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In November 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Cogges, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Townsend Architects in respect of the excavation of a new drain and linear soakaway.
- 1.1.2 A archaeological record specification was set by Julian Munby, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Oxford (ODAC).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on 1st Terrace river gravel deposits at 81.71 m above OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the Archaeological Recording Specification for the project and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 St Mary's Church was originally a two-cell late Saxon foundation. The was rebuilt in the 12th century and enlarged in the 14th century when the north tower was added. It has an unusual position diagonally across the west end of the north aisle. The south doorway and two bays of the south aisle are 12th century work. The porch and chancel date from the 13th century. Both the north aisle and north chapel are 14th century.
- 1.3.3 The site of Cogges was held by the Arsic family from the late 11th to mid 13th centuries. In 1103 they granted land to Fecamp Abbey who established an alien priory. The monks used St Mary's church until the priory was dissolved in 1414. The 1340 north chapel contains effigies of the de Grey family to whom the manor had passed and may have been used as a chantry.
- 1.3.4 The site of Cogges manor and priory has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28177), the area of which includes St Mary's Church.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The trench was excavated by hand from the north east end of the chancel northwards, then westwards parallel to the north wall of the church. This was carried out under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The trench was 0.6 m wide and 0.5 m in depth. It cut into the top of an old graveyard soil (3) of a friable mid brown silty sand loam, of which only the upper 0.05m was revealed. This was sealed below a 0.25 m thick compact light grey brown silty sand loam (2), which contained a large number of fragments of stone roofing tile and building stone. The layer is thought to possibly be construction debris from the construction of the 14th century north chapel and nave. This layer had been cut by a 11.6 m x 0.3 x 0.4 m service trench for oil/gas pipe along the east to west length of the trench and by the existing French drain along the east wall of the north chapel. These were all sealed below the a 0.2 m thick dark brown silty sand loam (1) topsoil (Figs 2 and 3, section 1).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 A number of finds were recovered from layer (2) including 19 fragments of bone. These consisted of large vertebra and ribs, horse humerus and cattle scapula and femur. Also two pottery body sherds from coarseware vessels, dating to the 12th - 15th century. One sherd is fabric OXAC (Cotswold calcarous gravel - tempered ware), the other is fabric OXAQ (East Wilts sand and flint tempered ware) (Mellor 1994).

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed that an earlier (undated) graveyard soil was covered with a layer of material and debris around the north side of the north chapel and nave possibly from the construction in the 14th century. This had been cut by two modern features; a service trench and French drain.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.2 m			Topsoil	
2	Layer	0.25 m			Make up layer	Pottery and bone
3	Layer				Old graveyard soil	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Mellor M, 1994 *A Synthesis of Middle and Late Saxon, Medieval and early Post-Medieval Pottery in the Oxford Region Oxoniensia LIX* p17-217

Archdeaconry of Oxfordshire: Deanery of Witney *St Mary's Church, Cogges, Witney Archaeological Recording Specification*

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

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: St Mary's Church, Cogges, Oxfordshire

Site code: WICMA 03

Grid reference: NGR SP 3610 0971

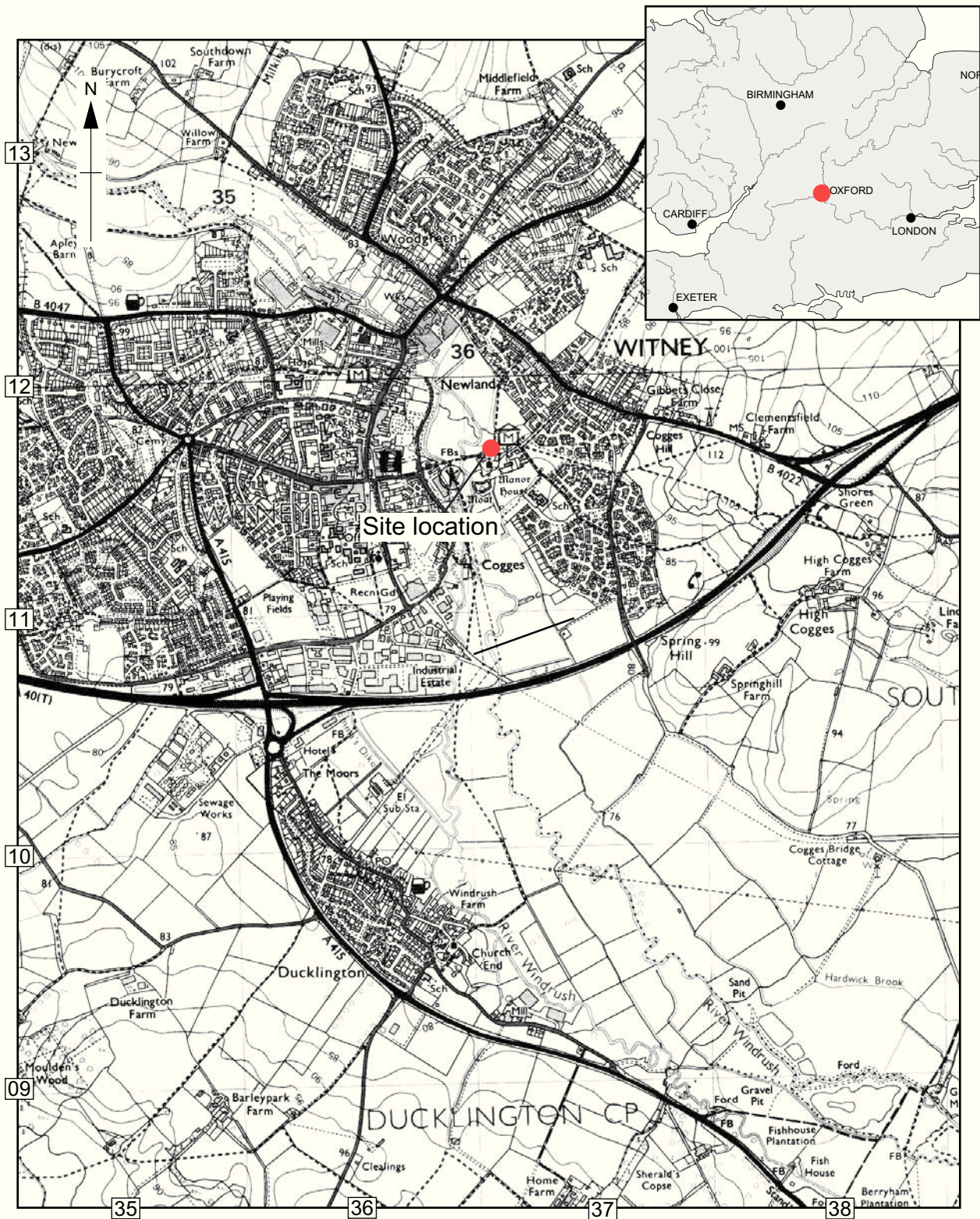
Type of watching brief: Excavation of new linear drain.

Date and duration of project: Three site visits from the 3/11/2003 to the 6/11/2003.

Area of site: 16 m x 0.6 m x 0.5 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed a medieval construction layer sealing an earlier graveyard soil.

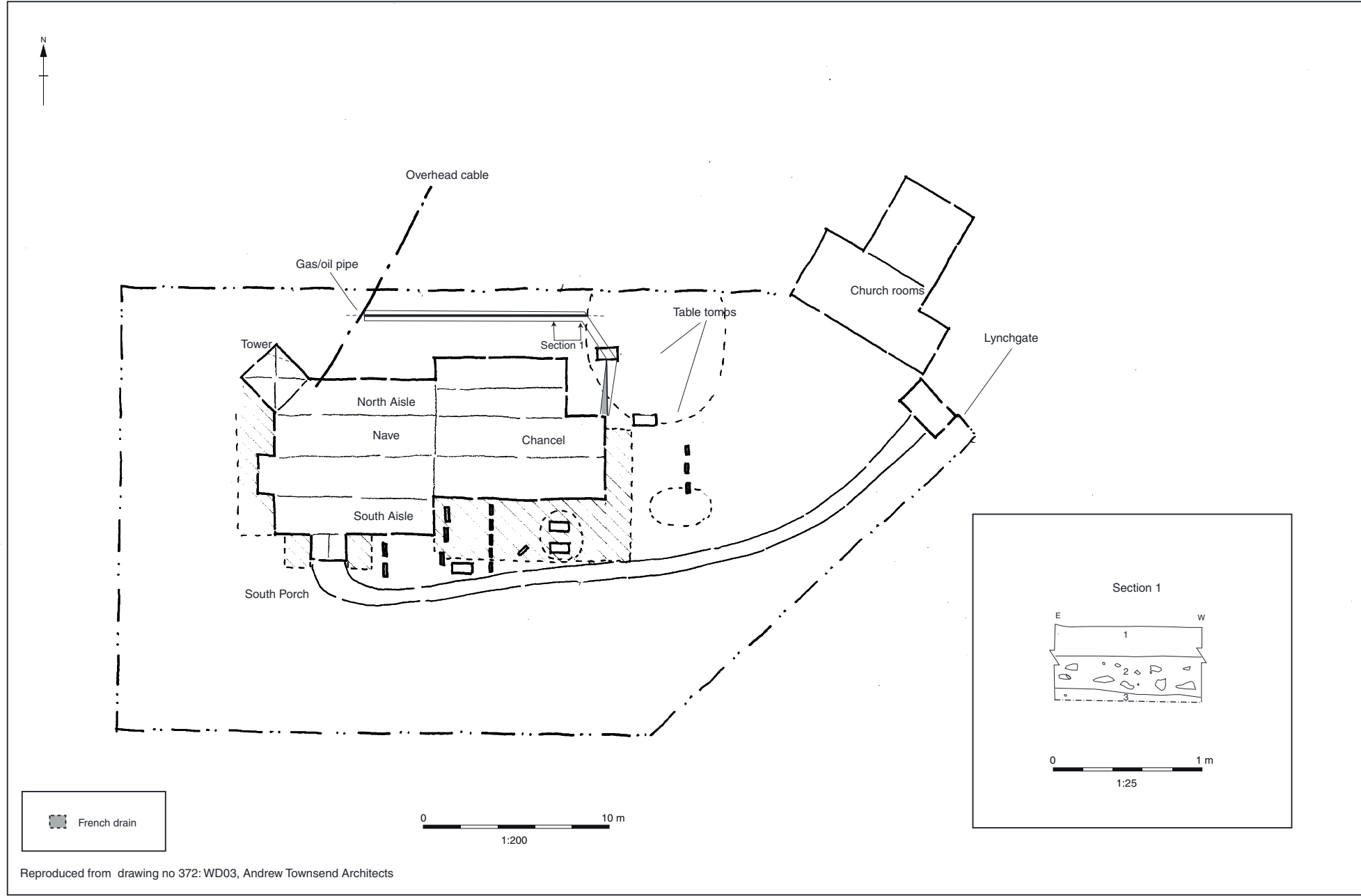
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2003.135



Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location



Reproduced from drawing no 372: WD03, Andrew Townsend Architects

Figure 2: Site plan and section 1

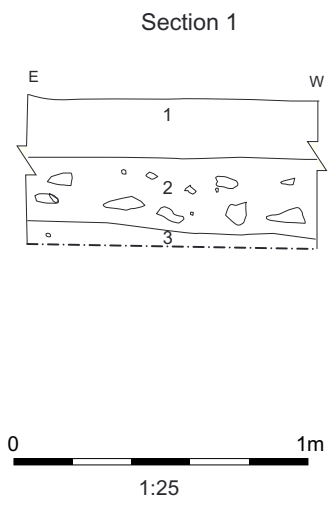


Figure 3: Section 1



**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@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*