

235-243 Quemerford
Calne
Wiltshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

December 2004

Client: Midas Homes Ltd

Issue N^o: 1

Planning Ref N^o: 04/02683/FUL

NGR: SU 011 697

Client Name: Midas Homes Ltd.

Client Ref No:

Document Title: 235-243 Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SU 011 697

Planning Reference: 04/02683/FUL

OA Job Number: 2545

Site Code: CAQUEM 04

Invoice Code: CAQUEMEV

Receiving Museum: Wiltshire County Museum Service

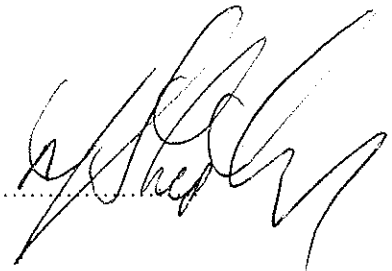
Museum Accession No: TBC

Prepared by: Mike Sims
Position: SWD Project Supervisor
Date: 11th December 2004

Checked by: Andrew Holmes
Position: Head of Small Works
Date: 13th December 2004

Approved by: Nick Shepherd
Position: Head of Fieldwork
Date: 13th December 2004

Signed.....



Document File Location H:\PROJECTS\Wiltshire WI\5594 Quemerford, Calne
EV\evREP.doc
Graphics File Location Server 10:\oaupubs
Illustrated by Georgina Slater

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2004

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 Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Midas Homes Ltd

**235-243 Quemerford,
Calne, Wiltshire*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*****CONTENTS**

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Scope of work	1
1.2 Location, geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
2 Evaluation Aims	2
3 Evaluation Methodology	2
3.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	2
3.3 Finds	2
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	2
3.5 Presentation of results	3
4 Results: General.....	3
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	3
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	3
5 Results: Descriptions.....	3
5.1 Description of deposits	3
6 Discussion and Interpretation.....	4
6.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	4
6.2 Overall interpretation	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 References	6
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	6

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Trench location plan
Fig. 3 Trench 1, plan and sections
Fig. 4 Trench 2, plan and sections

SUMMARY

Between the 2nd and 3rd December 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at 235-243 Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 011 697) on behalf of Midas Homes Ltd. The evaluation revealed horticultural and agricultural soils sealing post-medieval features. No archaeological features or significant deposits were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 2nd and 3rd December 2004 OA carried out a field evaluation at 235-243 Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 011 697) on behalf of Midas Homes Ltd. in respect of a planning application for the construction of 10 new dwellings and a new access road (Planning Application No.04/02683/FUL).
- 1.1.2 A letter (RAC/MJU/04RAC274) was written by Roy Canham, the County Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS) outlining the archaeological requirements, and a WSI (OA 2004) was produced detailing the how OA would undertake the evaluation in line with Mr Canham's letter.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies roughly in the centre of Quemerford, approximately 0.5 km south-east of the town of Calne (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by the A4, to the east and west by residential properties and to the north by agricultural fields. The site lies on level ground at approximately 84 m OD and measures roughly 0.48 hectares. The underlying geology is Kimmeridge Clay (Institute of British Geological Sciences ed. 174, Sheet 266).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has previously been prepared for the WSI, the results of which are reproduced below. The site produced no significant archaeological remains.
- 1.3.2 The development site is located immediately south of the extensive late medieval settlement believed to be Wessington, first mentioned in 1527. This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 28997) and extends westwards to include the former settlement of Quemerford. The Scheduled Monument includes visible earthworks associated with building platforms and closes at Wessington, and includes evidence of later post-medieval encroachment and enclosure of part of Quemerford Common. To the east, are a series of less distinct earthworks representing evidence of field systems and closes. Approximately 250 m to the east is further evidence of settlement, which has been previously levelled by modern farming practices.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of archaeological remains within the development area. In particular, attention will be paid to remains relating to the earlier development of the village and evidence of early farming practices.
- 2.1.2 To establish the palaeo-environmental potential of any features or deposits within the site.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of three trenches totalling 60 m in length forming a 2% sample of the development area (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 Trench 1 aligned north-south measured 25 m long and was sited in the rear of No. 235. Trench 2 was an "L" shaped trench, consisting of an 8 m north-south aligned arm and a 12 m east-west aligned arm and straddled the rear gardens of Nos 237 and 239. Trench 3 was a 15 m long north-south aligned trench in the rear garden of No. 241. All three trenches measured 1.6 m in width.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (1.5 ton mini-digger) fitted with a 1 m wide toothless grading bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or to the top of the natural geology whichever was encountered first.
- 3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and where possible to retrieve dating evidence and environmental samples. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. All the trenches and features were planned at a scale of 1:50. Section drawings of features and sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features, sections and trenches were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OA Field Manual* (OAU 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 A small quantity of modern brick, tile, plastic and metal was recovered from deposits and features within the trenches. These were evaluated on site but were not retained.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below starting with individual descriptions of each trench followed by an overall discussion. An inventory of all deposits and features recorded can be found in Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 All the trenches came down onto natural drift geology represented by stiff clay. All the soil divisions were clearly defined with little or no mixing between the contexts. Groundwater was encountered in the base of Trench 3, however, this did not prevent examination and recording of the trench.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation. The stratigraphy comprised predominantly of ploughsoils overlain by a modern garden soil.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 3, plan 100, Fig. 4, sections 100, 101 and 102)

- 5.1.1 A tenacious orange-brown natural sandy clay (103) was reached at approximately 0.5 m below ground level. This was sealed by a 0.18 m thick layer of tenacious pale yellow-brown silty clay (102), containing many small fragments of abraded brick and tile, representing a former plough soil. Overlying this was a 0.2 m deep layer of a tenacious pale brown silty clay (101), containing fragments of modern pottery representing a garden soil. Towards the southern end of the trench 101 was cut by a 0.8 m deep by 3 m wide vertical sided and flat bottomed feature (105). This was backfilled with redeposited clay and soil (104) containing modern plastic and a steel bolt suggesting a rubbish pit.
- 5.1.2 Feature 105 and layer 101 within the southern half of the trench were overlain by a 0.12 m thick dark brown friable clay loam topsoil (100). Within the northern half of the trench 100 had been heavily disturbed and mixed with modern clinker and brick fragments forming layer 107. Sealing this deposit was a 0.5 m thick layer of modern building rubble within a clay matrix (106) forming a raised area at the rear of the garden.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3, plan 200, Fig. 4, sections 200, 201 and 202)

- 5.1.3 The tenacious orange-brown sandy clay natural (203) was reached at approximately 0.55 m below ground level. This was sealed by a 0.18 m thick layer of tenacious yellow-brown silty clay (202). This produced charcoal flecking and modern abraded brick fragments representing a former plough soil seen in Trench 1 (102). Cutting into this layer were two north-south aligned linear features (206) and (208). These

both measured 0.5 m wide by 0.25 m deep and represented post-medieval field drains associated with former agricultural use of the development area prior to the construction of the existing dwellings in the 1920's. A probable early garden soil of light brown silty clay (201), 0.12 m in depth, sealed both these features and layer 202.

- 5.1.4 Cutting into layer 201 was a 1.3 m square feature with 0.4 m deep vertical sides (204) filled with a friable grey-brown clay silt (205) which produced many charcoal fragments and modern pottery and most likely represents a modern pit or garden feature. As with Trench 1, a dark grey-brown clayey loam garden soil (200) up to 0.3 m deep, sealed the trench deposits.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3, plan 300, Fig.4, sections 300 and 301)

- 5.1.5 The natural was encountered at 0.5 m below ground level. This was overlaid by a undulating layer of tenacious light yellow-brown clay (302), approximately 0.12 m thick, which produced charcoal flecking and abraded fragments of modern brick. This was the plough soil seen in Trench 1 and 2 (102 and 202).
- 5.1.6 Overlying 302 was a 0.15 m deep layer of a friable grey-brown clayey silt (301) representing the early garden soil. This was sealed the present day garden soil.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The conditions during the evaluation were dry and clear with relatively little intrusion by modern features such as services and land drains.
- 6.1.2 The location of the trenches and the percentage sample of the development area is believed to have given a good reflection of the overall archaeological potential of the site.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The results suggest that no significant archaeological remains exist within the proposed development site. Only evidence of former land drains within Trench 2 and the ploughsoils encountered within all three trenches indicate the former agricultural use of this area, prior to the construction of the existing houses and their gardens in the 1920's.
- 6.2.2 While ploughing (indicated by ploughsoils 102, 202 and 302) may have accounted for the complete truncation of possible earlier features, the lack of residual finds recovered, or deeper features cutting into the natural clay, suggests this site had always been agricultural in use. No earlier settlement, particularly medieval, had existed prior to the present houses. However the agricultural land use is likely to have dated to medieval times as indicated by the known medieval closes and field boundaries seen immediately to the north within the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1						
	100	Layer	0.1 m	Modern topsoil	Pottery, Bottle glass, Brick, Plastic	Modern
	101	Layer	0.15 m	Earlier garden soil	Pottery, Glass, Brick	Modern
	102	Layer	0.2 m	Plough soil	Abraded brick fragments	Post-medieval
	103	Layer	> 0.35 m	Natural clay	-	-
	104	Fill	0.7 m	Redeposited soils and clay	Plastic, Galvanised nut and bolt	Modern
	105	Cut	0.7 m	Vertical sided pit	-	Modern
	106	Layer	0.5 m	Mixed builders rubble and clays	Concrete, Brick, Glazed sewer pipe	Modern
	107	Layer	0.15 m	Mixed topsoil and hardcore	Brick, Tile, Clinker, Glass	Modern
2						
	200	Layer	0.2 m	Present day garden soil	Pottery, Brick	Modern
	201	Layer	0.15 m	Earlier garden soil	Brick	Modern
	202	Layer	0.1 m	Plough soil	Abraded brick fragments	Post-medieval
	203	Layer	>0.25 m	Natural clay	-	-
	204	Cut	0.4 m	Pit/garden feature	-	Modern
	205	Fill	0.4 m	Redeposited soils	Pottery, Brick	Modern
	206	Cut	0.3 m	Cut for land drain	-	Modern
	207	Fill	0.3 m	Backfill of drain	Ceramic pipe	Modern
	208	Cut	0.28 m	Land drain	-	Modern
	209	Fill	0.28 m	Backfill of drain	Pottery, Brick	Modern
3						
	300	Layer	0.2 m	Present day top soil	Pottery, Brick, bone	Modern
	301	Layer	0.1 m	Earlier garden soil	Brick	Modern

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
3						
	302	Layer	0.1 m	Probable plough soil	Abraded brick	Post-medieval
	303	Layer	>0.15 m	Natural clay	-	-

APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

IFA, 1992 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

OA, 2004 *235-243 Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire - Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: 235-243 Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire

Site code: CAQUEM 04

Grid reference: SU 011 697

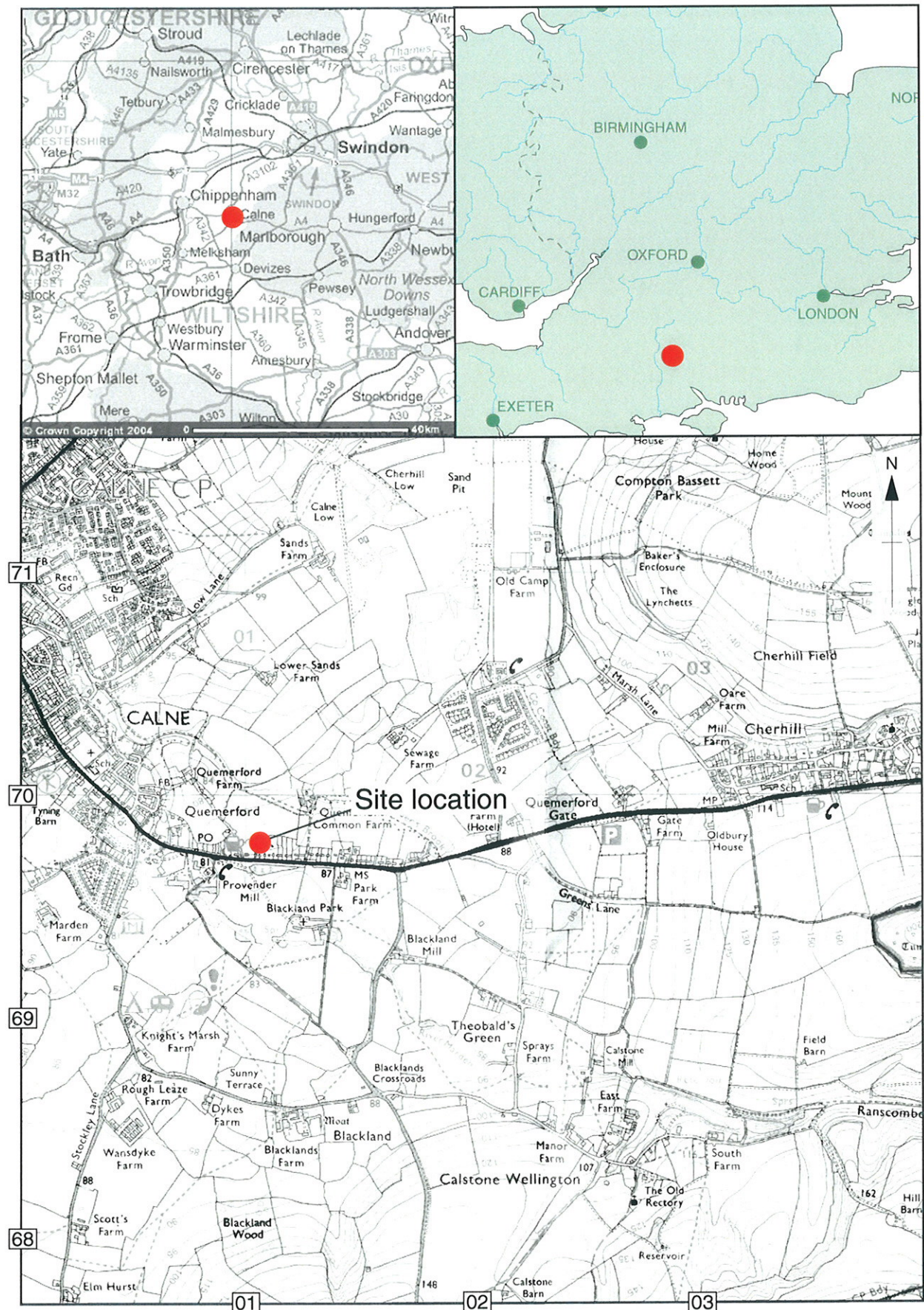
Type of evaluation: 3 machine dug trenches, total length 60 m

Date and duration of project: 2 days, 2nd and 3rd December 2004

Area of site: 0.48 hectares

Summary of results: Modern garden soils overlying earlier, likely medieval, ploughsoils.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Wiltshire County Museums Service in due course.



Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1998. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location

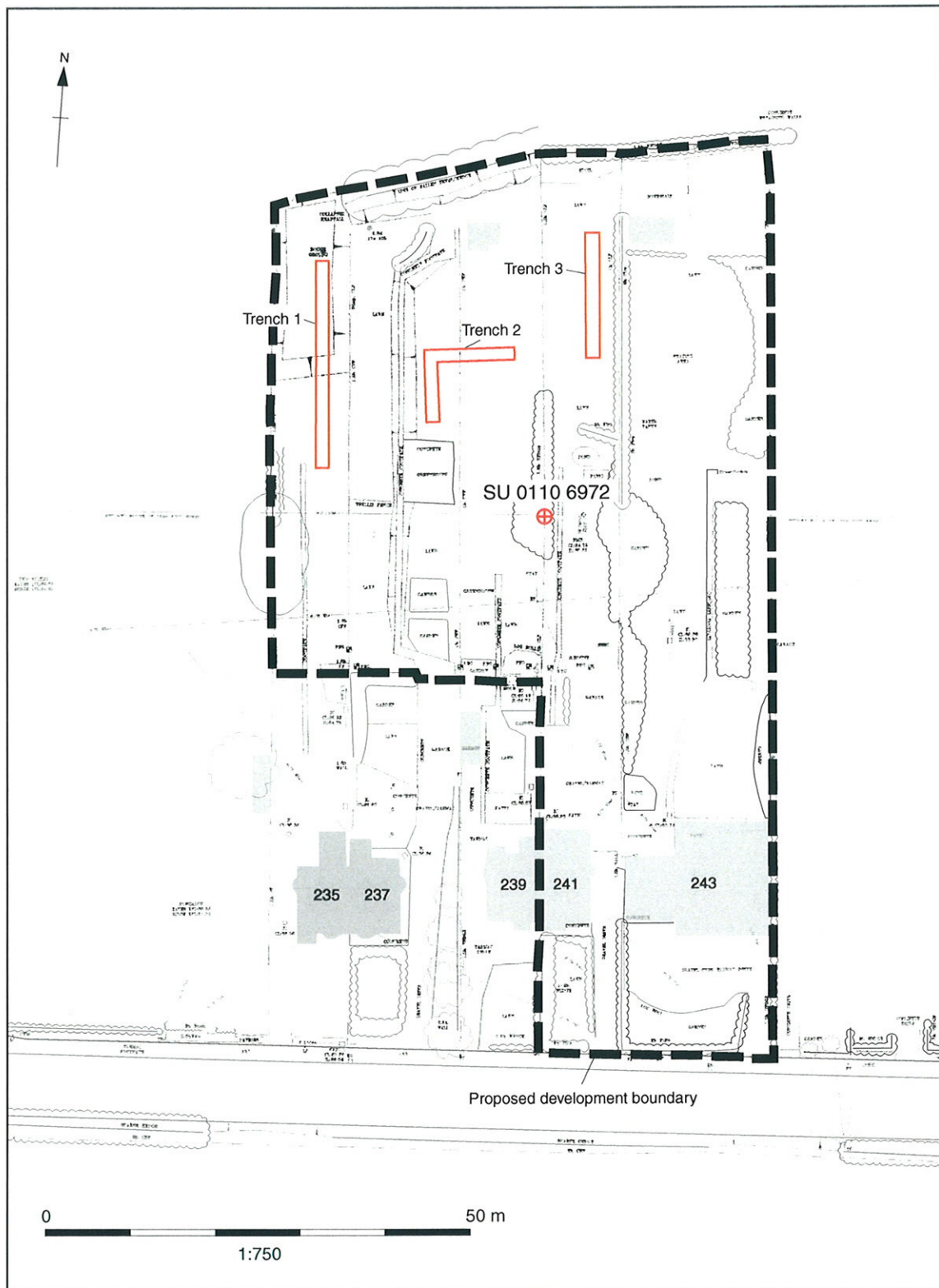
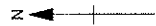
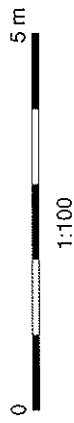
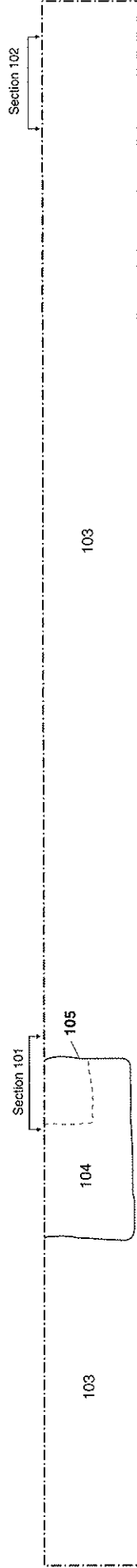


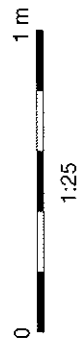
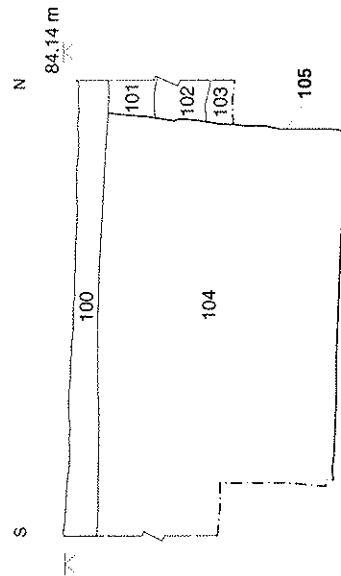
Figure 2: Trench location plan



Trench 1



Section 101



Section 102

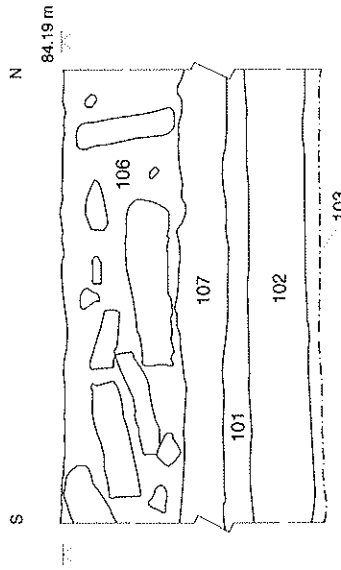


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections 101 and 102

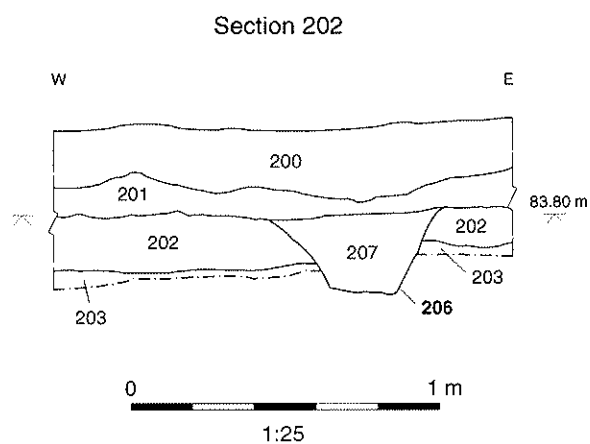
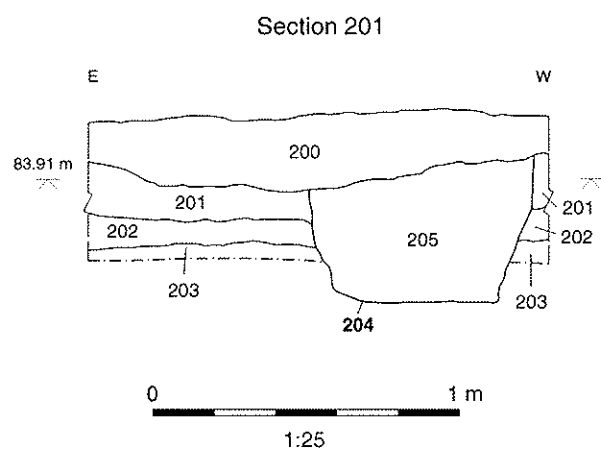
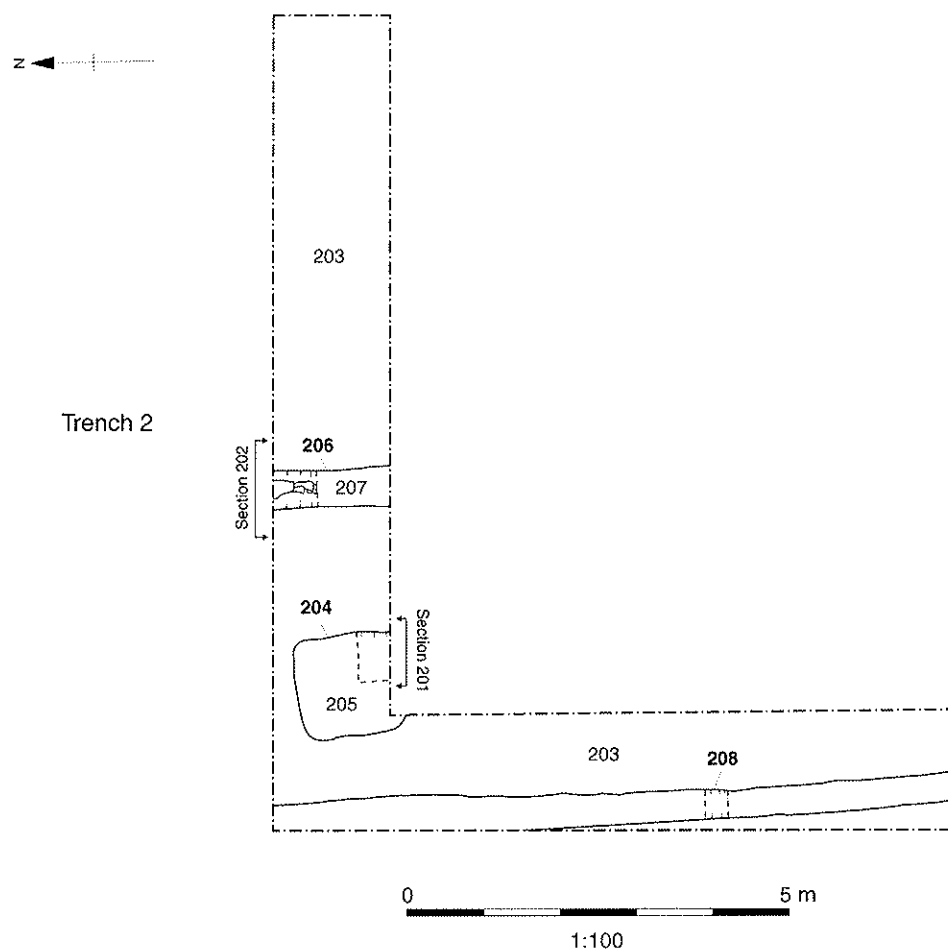


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and sections 201 and 202

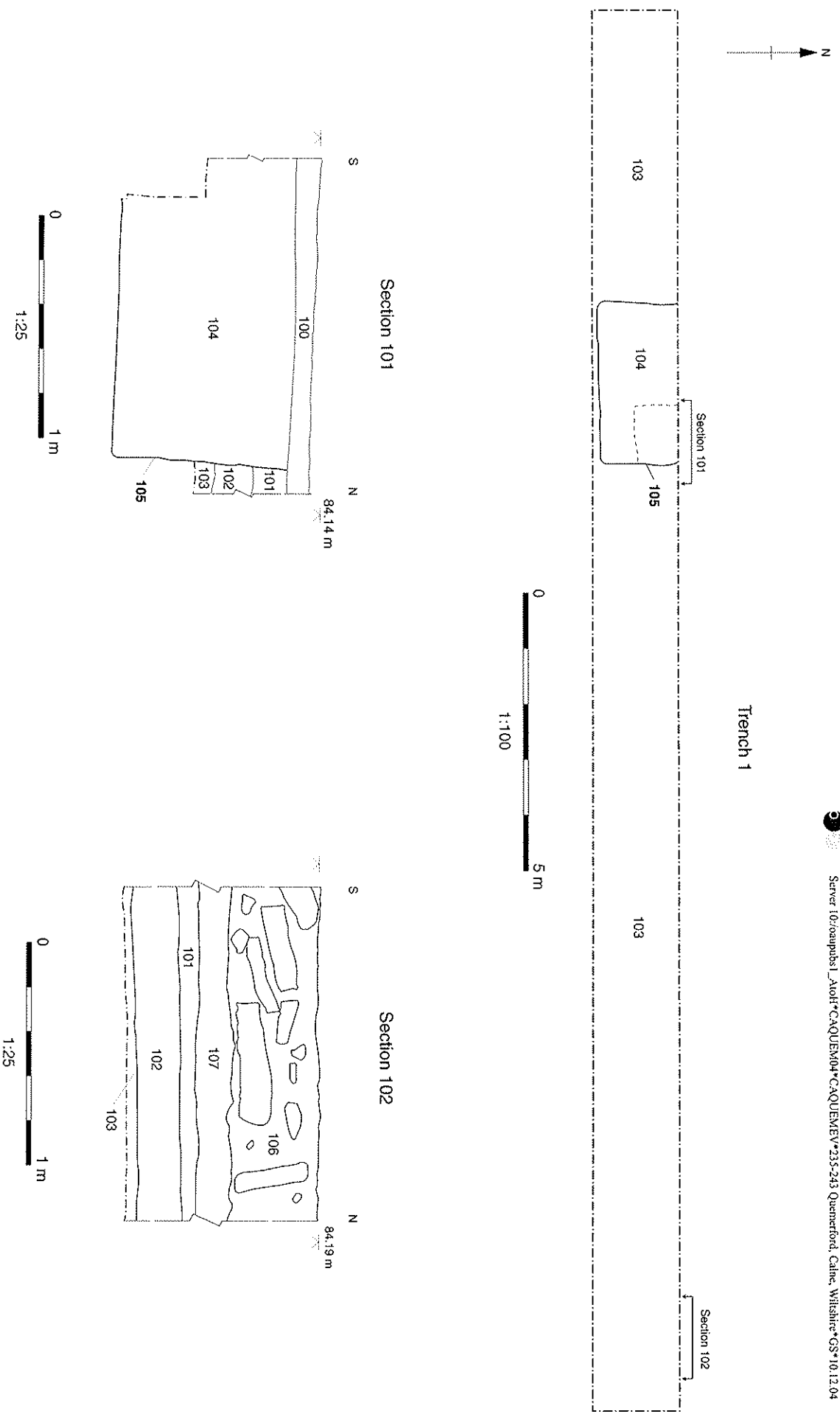


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections 101 and 102

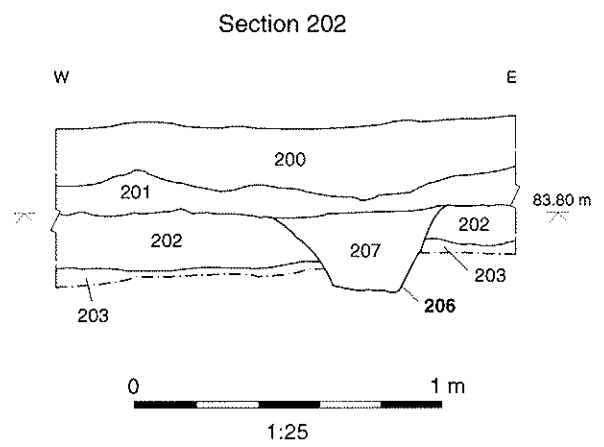
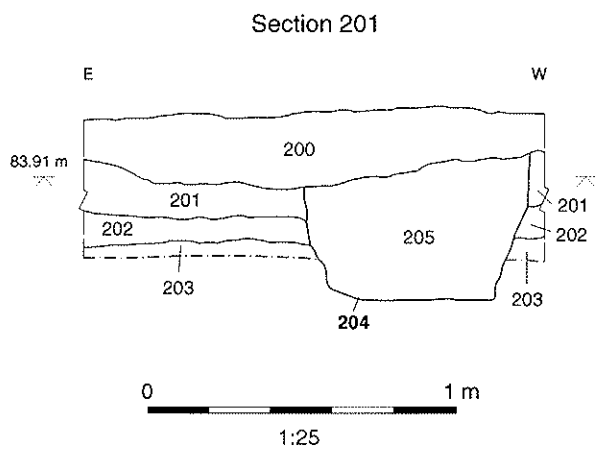
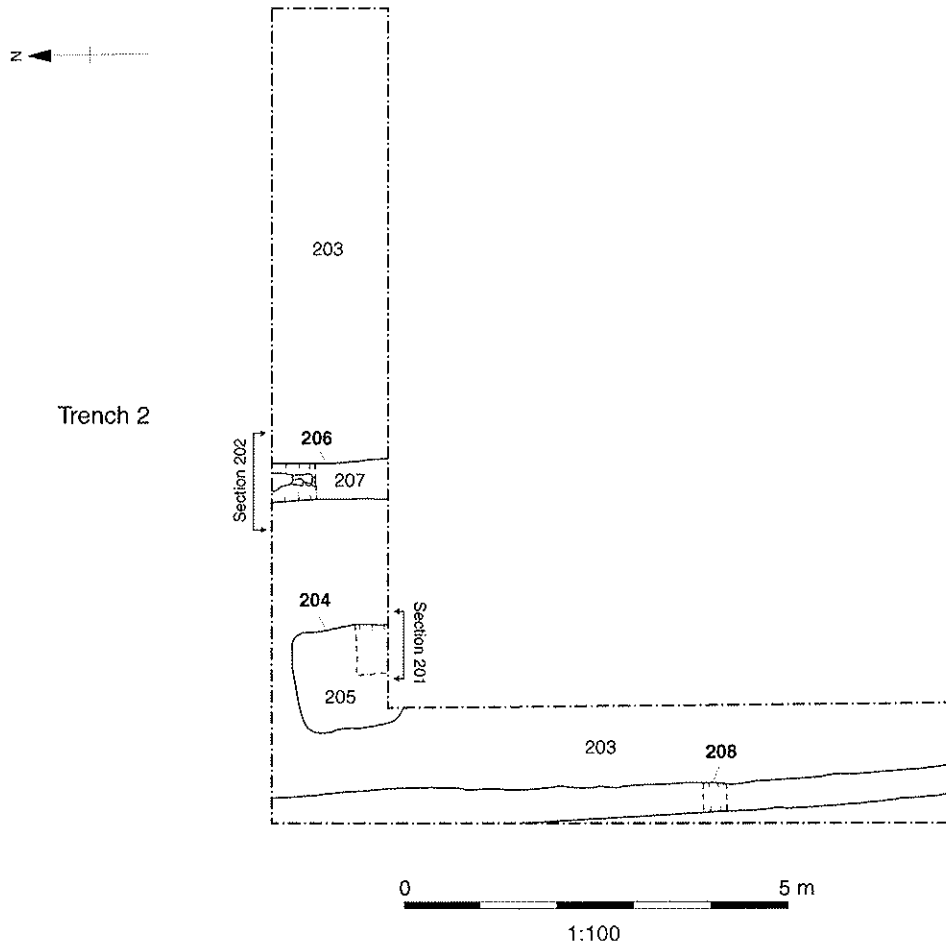


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and sections 201 and 202



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

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

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, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES