Extension Areas 2 & and 3 Tubney Woods Quarry Tubney Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Prepared by:

Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Position:

Project Officer

Date:

7th May 2003

Checked by:

Steven Weaver

Position:

Senior Project Manager

Date:

9th May 2003

Approved by:

Nick Shepherd

Position:

Head of Fieldwork

Date:

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Illustrated by

Peter Lorimer

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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

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Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd.

Extension Areas 2 and 3, Tubney Wood Quarry, Tubney, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR SP 4460 0060 SP 4490 0095

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May 2003

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a field evaluation at Tubney wood quarry, Oxfordshire, on behalf of Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd. The evaluation revealed a low density scatter of Mesolithic flint over Extension Areas 2 and 3; a slightly higher density scatter was located towards the south-east limit of Extension Area 3, probably reflecting the edge of a scatter excavated in 1991. A Roman ditch, containing significant quantities of pottery, was located in Extension Area 2; a possible Roman ditch was also found in Extension Area 3. Two undated ditches located to the north of Extension Area 3 probably represent the former boundary of a plot of land shown on the 1841 tithe map interpreted as the former medieval church graveyard. No graves were located within this land plot, however, a large quarry of medieval date was found. In addition, five undated ditches, some of uncertain archaeological origin, and five tree-throw holes were examined.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Proposals are being formulated for further extension to the quarry at Tubney Wood, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 4480 0080). Proposed extraction of two new areas (Extension Areas 2 and 3) is being considered (Fig. 1). No formal planning application has been made to the Local Planning Authority, however, Oxford Archaeology (OA) have recently undertaken an archaeological desk-based assessment of the two proposal areas, on behalf of Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd (OA 2002). This assessment has identified that both sites have potential to retain archaeologically significant deposits, and as such, Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services have requested that, in line with PPG 16 and Policy PE 8 of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, an archaeological field evaluation is implemented in order to assess the level of preservation of potential surviving archaeological features to assist in establishing a suitable strategy of mitigation.
- 1.1.2 A Design Brief was set by Oxfordshire County Council and a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Mr Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeologist (OA 2003).
- 1.1.3 The proposal areas are located to the north west of the A420 Oxford/Swindon trunk road and to the east of Oakmere, the road leading from the A420 to the village of Appleton. Extension Area 2 is approximately 2.92 hectares in area and Extension Area 3 is approximately 3.37 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The sites lie between c 90 m and c 95 m OD overlooking the Thames Valley, and the River Thames is at a distance of 2 km to the north (Pringle 1926). The land-use in both areas is arable, and the natural geology is Corallian sands overlying limestone.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 In February 2002 OA undertook an archaeological desk based assessment of both proposal areas and this document should be referred to for a detailed account of the archaeological and historical background of the site (OA 2002).
- 1.3.2 The quarry area in Tubney Wood has been subject to a number of previous archaeological investigations that have all revealed significant evidence for the presence of human activity on the site dating from the Mesolithic through to the medieval period (Bradley and Hey 1993; OAU 2001; OA 2002).
- 1.3.3 Of specific note is the potential presence in Extension Area 3 of a graveyard, recorded as surviving in the Victoria County History (1924, 379) associated with the former medieval church at Tubney, of which no structural traces were visible by 1731 (Brooks 1984, 129). The former enclosure of the surviving graveyard is indicated on the 1841 tithe map, and has been illustrated in Figure 2.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Thanks are extended to Hills Minerals and Waste Ltd. for their assistance during the evaluation. Magdalen College Estates and their tenant farmer Mr David Morgen, kindly granted access to the fields.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- To make available the results of the investigation.
- To establish any need for further mitigation.
- To help define any relevant research priorities if additional archaeological investigation proves necessary.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

Extension Area 2

3.1.1 Ten trenches, measuring 30 m by 1.6 m, were excavated by a mechanical excavator (JCB) under archaeological supervision, supplemented by limited hand excavation of archaeological deposits. In addition, two further trenches, measuring 10 m and 12.5 m, were excavated as part of the contingency following consultation and agreement of the Deputy County Archaeologist. These trenches were specifically targeted to

- identify any continuation of a Roman ditch 2204 recorded in Trench 22. The trench locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 A 30 litre sample of both the topsoil and subsoil was sieved through a 5 mm mesh at either end of each trench in order to aid identification of any significant concentrations or scatters indicative of early prehistoric activity known to be present in close proximity to the site.

Extension Area 3

- 3.1.3 Twelve trenches, measuring 30 m by 1.6 m, were excavated by a mechanical excavator (JCB) under archaeological supervision, supplemented by limited hand excavation of archaeological deposits. In addition a further 20 m trench was excavated following consultation with and agreement of the Deputy County Archaeologist. This trench was specifically targeted to identify any continuation of ditches recorded in Trenches 9 and 10. The trench locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.4 A 30 litre sample of both the topsoil and subsoil was sieved through a 5 mm mesh at either end of each trench in order to aid identification of any significant concentrations or scatters indicative of early prehistoric activity known to be present in close proximity to the site.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples if appropriate. All archaeological features were planned at 1:100 and, where excavated, their sections drawn at 1:20. All features 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).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Due to the poor preservation conditions and absence of waterlogged deposits no environmental samples were taken.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 Section's 4.2 and 4.3 contain descriptions of the archaeological deposits and features recorded by area, chronologically earliest to latest; additional context information can be found in the context inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on loose sands with occasional outcrops of sandstone. In general, the natural geology is overlain by a mid to dark orangey brown silty sand subsoil, which varies between 0.12 m and 0.76 m thick; subsoil was not present in trenches 4 and 8. The subsoil was overlain by 0.20 m to 0.56 m of a loose mid grey brown silty sand topsoil. The total thickness of topsoil and subsoil in each trench ranged between 0.26 m and 1.06 m (0.66 m on average). The depth of the topsoil, and particularly the subsoil, was variable across the site, but in general the deposits were thickest in Extension Area 2.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits - Extension Area 2

Early Mesolithic

- 4.2.1 A total of 45 flints were recovered from Extension Area 2, the majority of these dated from the Mesolithic, but a few Neolithic/Bronze Age flints were also present (Appendix 4; Table 3). A possible late upper Palaeolithic long blade was also recovered. The flint was found in small numbers in most trenches, but 25 flints were recovered exclusively from Trench 22; the majority being found in the fills of ditch 2204. The number of flints per trench is shown on Figure 2.
- 4.2.2 A total of 0.72 m³ of topsoil and subsoil was sieved, recovering a total of nine flints (12.5 per 1 m³ average over the area).

Neolithic, Bronze Age

4.2.3 A small collection of flints recovered from the topsoil and subsoil date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods. The flints have been interpreted as a low density background scatter; no associated features of this date were found (Appendix 4; Table 3).

Roman

4.2.4 In Trench 22 a north-west to south-east ditch, 2204, measuring 1.60 m wide by 0.92 m deep was encountered (Fig. 4). The upper fill of ditch 2204 (fill 2202) contained 1.8 kg of mid to late second century AD pottery (Appendix 2; Table 1). In order to ascertain the length of the ditch contingency Trenches 24 and 25 were excavated on each side of Trench 22. Ditch 2204 was not shown to extend into either trench. Ditch 2204 is, therefore, either a short length of ditch, or it turns in the intervening area between trenches, possibly indicating the presence of a small enclosure. A single tree-throw (1404) also produced a single sherd of Roman pottery and a low density scatter of Roman pottery was also found topsoil and subsoil contexts across Extension Area 2.

Medieval and post-medieval

4.2.5 A total of three sherds of mid sixteenth century pottery was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil of Extension Area 2, however, no features of this date were identified (Appendix 3; Table 2).

Undated

4.2.6 Two undated features, interpreted as ditches and two undated tree-throw holes were identified in Extension Area 2. In Trench 18 ditch 1804 was 1 m wide and 0.30 m deep, the edges of this feature were poorly defined and slightly irregular. Ditch 1806 was c 0.60 m wide and 0.15 m deep; this ditch had an indeterminate relationship with an undated tree-throw hole 1808. Tree-throw hole 1808 was irregular in plan, c 1.30 m wide and 0.52 m deep. Another undated tree-throw hole, (2103), was found in Trench 21. Tree-throw hole 2103 was 0.90 m wide and 0.32 m deep. The interpretation of these features is difficult as recent excavations undertaken in Extension Area 1 adjacent to the site (report forthcoming), have shown considerable staining and discoloration of the natural sand that were previously interpreted as possible archaeological features when evaluated.

4.3 Distribution of archaeological deposits - Extension Area 3

Early Mesolithic

- 4.3.1 A total of 42 flints were recovered from Extension Area 3 (Appendix 4; Table 3). The flintwork was mainly Mesolithic in date, but a small number of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints were also present. The majority of the flint, 22 pieces, was recovered exclusively from Trench 12.
- 4.3.2 A total of 0.66 m³ of topsoil and subsoil was sieved, recovering a total of 15 flints (22.57 per 1 m³ average over the area). Six flints were recovered from sieving 30 litres of subsoil at the north-eastern end of Trench 12. It was also observed on the ground that there was a general increase in the scatter of flintwork at the north-eastern end of this trench. This scatter is situated on the edge of a concentration examined by Bradley and Hey (1993). The location of previously recorded dense scatters is shown on figure 2.

Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age

4.3.3 A small collection of flints recovered from the topsoil and subsoil date from the Neolithic or Bronze Age, and a single residual Bronze Age pottery sherd was found in the fill of ditch 101 (Trench 1) (Appendix 2, Table 1). The recovered pottery sherd is not believed to be contemporary with the ditch, as this ditch is thought to define part of a medieval/post medieval land plot. The flints have been interpreted as a low density background scatter as no features of this date were found. In addition, two small sherds of possibly Iron Age pottery were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil.

Roman

4.3.4 Ditch 904, in Trench 9, is dated as Roman (Figs 2 and 5). Ditch 904 is 1.60 m wide and 0.67 m deep, aligned north-west to south-east. Two fills were recorded in ditch 904, the upper fill, 902, contained 21 sherds of Roman pottery, some of which conjoin with pieces recovered from the overlying subsoil (Appendix 2; Table 1).

Medieval and Post Medieval

4.3.5 Trench 1 contained a large feature interpreted as a quarry (Fig. 3). The quarry, 103, is 14.8 m long and in excess of 1.4 m deep (not bottomed). Quarry 103 was filled by a single fill, 104, which contained one sherd of Roman pottery and six sherds of thirteenth century pottery (Appendix 3; Table 2).

Undated

- 4.3.6 Four ditches and two tree-throw holes in Extension Area 3 are undated (Fig. 2). A north-west to south-east aligned ditch, 101, was excavated in Trench 1 (Fig. 3). Ditch 101 was 1.10 m wide by 0.10 m deep and contained a single fill, 102; the fill contained a single, residual, sherd of Bronze Age pottery. In Trench 5, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, 503, was 1.30 m wide and 0.37 m deep; the ditch was filled by a light sandy silt, 502, which contained two flints (Fig. 5). Trench 10 contained a south-west to north-east aligned ditch, 1004 (Fig. 5). Ditch 1004 was 1.94 m wide and 0.60 deep and contained two fills, 1005 and 1006. Ditch 1103, in Trench 11, measured 1.60 m wide and 0.25 m deep, and contained a single fill.
- 4.3.7 Undated tree-throw holes were found in Trenches 5 and 10. Tree-throw hole 505, in Trench 5, was roughly circular, measuring 0.80 m in diameter and 0.27 m deep, and contains a single burnt fill. Tree-throw hole 1007, in Trench 10, was 0.80 m wide by 0.35 m deep and was filled by 1008, a light yellowish brown sandy silt.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The trenches were evenly distributed across the site and all cut features were sampled (up-to at least 50% sample). The recorded features should provide a good indication of surviving archaeological remains although isolated features may have been missed. The sieved 30 litre samples of topsoil and subsoil at each end of the evaluation trenches proved to represent a very limited sample, both in spatial distribution and in the volume of soil examined (30 litre = 0.03 m³). This technique will, therefore, highlight large dense scatters if present, but smaller concentrations may not have been identified. A total of 1.38 m³ of topsoil and subsoil was sieved, recovering a total of 24 flints (17 per 1 m³ average over the entire site).

5.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results - Extension Area 2

5.2.1 The scatter of flint present in the topsoil and subsoil indicates some Mesolithic activity in the evaluated area, but no dense scatters were identified (see Fig. 2).

- 5.2.2 A small number of Neolithic or Bronze Age flints were recovered, representing a low density background scatter. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was found in Trench 14 and may be indicative of limited occupation activity in the vicinity.
- 5.2.3 Ditch 2204 is dated to the mid to late second century AD. The ditch contained a large assemblage of pottery, perhaps indicative of Roman settlement on, or near, the site. The ditch was not seen to extend into Trenches 24 or 25, suggesting the ditch may not extend for any great distance, possibly forming part of a more discrete enclosure.
- 5.2.4 Three possible undated ditches recorded in Trenches 18 and 19 may possibly belong to the remnants of an earlier field system of possible Roman date, although the archaeological origin of these features is uncertain, and thus their interpretation as ditches is questionable.

Summary of results - Extension Area 3

- 5.2.5 The scatter of flint present in the topsoil and subsoil indicates some Mesolithic activity in the evaluated area, but no dense scatters were identified across both areas. A concentration of flintwork was, however, identified at the north-east end of Trench 12 and probably represents the edge of a scatter excavated in 1991 to the east of the site (Bradley and Hey 1993) (see Fig. 2).
- 5.2.6 A small number of Neolithic or Bronze Age flints were recovered, representing a low density background scatter. A sherd of Bronze Age pottery and two sherds of Iron Age pottery were also recovered from this area. These finds indicate that there was some presence in this area during the later prehistoric period.
- 5.2.7 Evidence of Roman activity on the site is suggested by the recovery of a small number of sherds of Roman pottery from the topsoil and subsoil and by Ditch 904 in Trench 9, that contained artefactual evidence of Roman date.
- 5.2.8 The location of the possible former medieval graveyard was sought during the evaluation in this area. Ditches located in Trenches 1 and 5 broadly correlate with the position of the land plot interpreted as the former graveyard as indicated on early maps; the ditches, however, remain undated and no graves were located within this area. A large, probably thirteenth century quarry was located in Trench 1 within the confines of this land division (Fig. 2).
- 5.2.9 The undated ditches in this area are believed to reflect the remains of earlier field divisions or field systems that may possibly be contemporary in date with the Roman activity recorded by the evaluation in this area.

Significance

5.2.10 The scatter of Mesolithic flintwork indicates a presence in the area, although no new dense scatters were identified. The scatter identified on the eastern edge of Trench 12 is likely to relate to a scatter identified by previous excavation carried out in 1991 immediately to the north east of Extension Area 3.

- 5.2.11 Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age activity has been identified in both extension areas through the presence of flints and a few sherds of residual pottery, although, no features dating from these periods were found in the evaluation. Work currently being undertaken within Extension Area 1, that lies between the two evaluated areas, has produced more definite evidence for prehistoric activity in the area with the recording of a ring gully, presently interpreted to represent the remains of a possible prehistoric funerary monument. The limited artefactual evidence produced by the evaluation could therefore further reflect evidence of this activity extending into both extension areas.
- 5.2.12 The evaluation has produced significant evidence for Roman occupation activity in the area. The ditch (2204; Trench 22) recorded in Extension Area 2 contained a large assemblage of pottery, whose unabraded nature and density is indicative of the presence of settlement on, or adjacent to, this area. More limited evidence for Roman activity has also been recorded to be present in Extension Area 3, and work currently being undertaken in Extension Area 1, lying between the two sites, has further recovered two cremations of Roman date. It presently remains unclear if the ditch recorded in Extension Area 2 forms part of a wider field system, as suggested to be present by the character of the ditch/ditches recorded in Extension Area 3, or part of a discrete settlement enclosure. When the evidence from the evaluation and from current work in Extension Area 1 is examined as a whole, and given the sites proximity to a known former Roman Road, it could be possible to suggest that the ditch recorded in Extension Area 2 has the capacity to represent evidence for the presence of a small farmstead on the site that dates to around the second century AD, given the broadly contemporary date of the pottery assemblages recovered from all three areas. This suggestion may be further supported by the predominantly domestic nature of the pottery recovered from the ditch.
- 5.2.13 Evidence of medieval activity on the site was predominantly focused within Extension Area 3, which is unsurprising given its locality adjacent to the site of the former medieval church. Much of the evidence for medieval activity was represented by the recovery of residual pottery sherds from topsoil and subsoil contexts, although a single quarry pit feature was recorded (Trench 1) and two undated ditches, previously thought to represent the boundaries of the former medieval church graveyard, have further been ascribed to this period, although could be later (see below). The residual pottery recorded across this area appears to span a broad time frame dating from the early medieval to early post-medieval periods and its presence suggests that this area may have been used for agricultural purposes with pottery being introduced to the fields through manuring. Undated ditches located to the south of Extension Area 3 could therefore be medieval in origin, reflecting the alignment of former field boundaries, as beside the land plot discussed below, no maps from 1761 to present show any other field boundaries to be present within the evaluated areas.
- 5.2.14 Undated ditches located in Trenches 1 and 5 appear to broadly correlate with the position of the land plot previously interpreted as the graveyard of the former medieval church, suggested by early map evidence. Unfortunately no dating evidence, other than a residual Bronze Age pottery sherd, was recovered from the

ditches, but more importantly no graves cuts were recorded by the trenches excavated within the purported graveyard area. A single large feature, interpreted as a quarry, of probable thirteenth century date was, however, located in Trench 1 within the confines of this land division. It is thought possible that this quarry may relate to the construction of the church. The evaluation would certainly appear to have substantiated the location of the land plot identified by the early maps and to have clearly demonstrated that it is unlikely to represent part of the former graveyard to the medieval church. It is also possible, given that no secure dating evidence was recovered from the ditches, that this land plot is post-medieval in origin.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

(Fo = Fill of)

Trench	nch Ctxt Type No		Width (m)	Thick . (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1				A SALE	Jeff of the	and from the co	417.753
1	100	Topsoil		0.30			
1	101	Ditch	1.10	0.10			Undated
1	102	Ditch Fill	0.00	0.10	Fo 101	1 x pot	Bronze Age (residual)
1	103	Quarry	14.8	1.40			Medieval
1	104	Quarry Fill		1.40	Fo 103	12 x pot, 3 x flint, 1 x animal bone	6x C13th 6 x Roman
1	105	Natural		-			
1	106	Subsoil		0.20			
2							
2	200	Topsoil		0.40			
2	201	Subsoil	_	0.20			
2	202	Natural		-			
2	203	Finds Reference			Subsoil W	1 x pot	C11th?
3							
3	300	Topsoil		0.36		1 x pot	Roman
3	301	Subsoil		0.40		6 x pot, 1x iron key, 1 x tile, 3 x animal bone	5x C15th pot 1x Iron Age po
3	302	Natural		-			
3	303	Finds Reference			Topsoil S	2 x pot	C13th
- 3	304	Finds Reference			Subsoil S	1x pot	Roman
3	305	Finds Reference			Subsoil N	1 x pot, 1 x tile	C.L10th pot
4							
4	400	Topsoil		0.30			
4	401	Natural		-			
5					7		*
5	500	Topsoil		0.30			
5	501	Subsoil		0.66		1 x flint	

Trench	Ctxt No		Width (m)	Thick . (m)	k Comment	Finds	Date
5	50	2 Ditch Fill		0.34	4 Fo 503	2 x flints	
5	50.	3 Ditch	1.30	0.34	1		Undated
5	504	Finds Reference			- Topsoil, S	De T	Ondated
5	50:			0.27	Burnt	11-146	
5	506	Natural					
6							
6	600	Topsoil		0.25			
6	601	Subsoil		0.38			
6	602	Natural					
6	603	Finds Reference			Topsoil NE	1 x flint	11
6	604				Subsoil SW	1 x flint	
7	1						
7	700	Topsoil		0.30			
7	701	Subsoil		0.76		1 x flint	
7	702	Natural		-			
7	703	Finds Reference			Topsoil SE	1 x pot, 1 x flint	C.L10th
8						IIIIt	
8	800	Topsoil		0.28			
8	801	Natural		-			
8	802	Finds Reference			Topsoil NE	1 x pot	C.L11th
9		reference					. (
9	900	Topsoil	-	0.25	~	10 x pot, 1 x flint, 1 x clay pipe	Roman pot
9	901	Subsoil		0.30		8 x pot	Roman
9	902	Ditch fill		0.17	Fo 904	21 x pot	Roman
9	903	Ditch fill		0.50	Fo 904		
9	904	Ditch	1.60	0.67			Roman?
9	905	Natural	П	-			- Comuni
9	906	Natural		-			
9	907	Tree-hole fill	0.00	0.20	Fo 908		
9	908	Tree-hole	0.80	0.20			Undated
9		Tree-hole fill		0.15	Fo 910		Chaled
9		Tree-hole	0.50	0.15			Undated

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick . (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
9	911	Finds Reference			Subsoil SE	2 x pot	Roman	
10								
10	1000	Topsoil		0.20		10,000		
10	1001	Subsoil		0.28		6 x pot	1x Mid 16th Century, 5 x Roman	
10	1002	Natural		(*)		1 x pot	Roman	
10	1004	Ditch	1.94	0.60			Undated	
10	1005	Ditch fill		0.12	Fo 1004			
10	1006	Ditch fill		0.50	Fo 1004			
10	1007	Treehole	0.80	0.35			Undated	
10	1008	Treehole	111	0.35	Fo 1007			
10	1009	Sieving Reference			Topsoil SE	1 x pot	Mid 16th Century	
10	1010	Sieving Reference			Subsoil SE	1 x pot	Roman	
10	1011	Sieving Reference			Topsoil NW	1 x pot	Roman	
11		rectorence						
11	1100	Topsoil		0.30				
11	1101	Subsoil		0.40		2 x pot, 1 x flint, 1x iron obj.	C13th pot	
11	1102	Natural		-				
11	1103	Ditch	1.60	0.25			Undated	
11	1104	Sieving Reference			Topsoil, W	1 x flint		
11	1105	Sieving Reference			Subsoil W	1 x flint		
11	1106	Sieving Reference			Subsoil E	1 x flint		
12								
12	1200	Topsoil		0.46				
12	1201	Subsoil		0.36		16 x flints		
12	1202	Natural		-		1 x pot	Iron Age	
12	1203	Finds Reference			Subsoil NE	2 x pot, 6 x flints	Roman pot, Mesolithic flint, inc. microlith	
13	1							
13	1300	Topsoil		0.30				
13	1301	Subsoil		0.30				

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick	Comment	Finds	Date
13	1302	2 Natural		-			
14							14
14	1400	Topsoil		0.45			T
14	1401	Subsoil		0.52		1 x flint	
14	1402	Natural		-		1 x mm	
14	1403	Tree-hole	0.50	0.07			
14	1404	Tree-hole fill		0.07	Fo 1403	2 x pot, 1x flint	Roman
14	1405	Sieving Reference			Subsoil SE	1 x pot	Bronze Age
14	1406				Topsoil NW	1 x pot, 2 x flint	Roman
15	1					*****	
15	1500	Topsoil		0.30			
15	1501	Subsoil		0.50		2 x flint	
15	1502	Natural				2 X IIIII	
16							
16	1600	Topsoil		0.40			
16	1601	Subsoil		0.50			
						1 x pot, 1 x flint	Roman
16	1602	Natural		-			
16 17	1603	Sieving Reference			Subsoil N	2 x flint	
17	1700	Topsoil		0.30			
17	1701	Subsoil		0.30		1 x flint	
17	1702	Natural		-			
18						11	
18	1800	Topsoil		0.30			
18	1801	Subsoil		0.28		1 x flint	
18	1802	Natural		17.1			
18	1803	Sieving Reference			Topsoil NW	1x iron obj.	
18	1804	Ditch	1.00	0.30	Ditch?		Undated
18	1805	Ditch fill		0.30	Fo 1804		3
18	1806	Ditch		0.50	Ditch?		Undated
18	1807	Ditch fill		0.50	Fo 1805	4 x flint	Ondated
18	1808	Tree-hole	1.40	0.52		TAIMI	Undated
18	1809	Tree-hole		0.52	Fo 1808	1 x flint	Ondated

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Type Width Thick Comment Finds (m) . (m)		Finds	Date	
19							
19	1900	Topsoil		0.56			
19	1901	Subsoil		0.40			
19	1902	Ditch Fill		0.35	Fo 1903		
19	1903	Ditch	0.81	0.35			Undated
19	1904	Natural		-			
19	1905	Sieving Reference			Topsoil S	1 x flint	
19	1906	Sieving Reference			Topsoil N	1 x pot	Mid 16th Century
19	1907	Sieving Reference			Subsoil N	1 x flint	
20							_
20	2000	Topsoil		0.25			
20	2001	Subsoil		0.12			
20	2002	Natural		-			
20	2003	Sieving Reference		0.00	Topsoil S	2 x flint, 1 x tile	
21							
21	2100	Topsoil	T	0.50			
21	2101	Subsoil		0.40			
21	2102	Natural		-			
21	2103	Tree-hole					Undated
21	2104	Tree-hole fill			Fo 2103		
21	2105	Sieving Reference			Subsoil S	1 x flint	
22				-			
22	2200	Topsoil		0.30	i s		
22	2201	Subsoil		0.50		17 x pot, 1 x flint	Roman
22	2202	Ditch fill	42	0.54	Fo 2204	154 x Pottery (1.8 kg), 25 x flints, 7 x animal bone	Roman
22	2203	Ditch fill		0.16	Fo 2204 (primary fill)	9	
22	2204	Ditch	1.60	0.92	Ditch - quantities of Roman pottery		M-L2nd century
22	2205	Natural		-			
23							
23	2300	Topsoil		0.23	-		

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick . (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
23	2301	Subsoil		0.24			
23	2302	Colluvium		0.12	clay layer		
23	2303	Natural		•			
24							
24	2400	Topsoil		0.22			
24	2401	Subsoil		0.69		1 x pot, 1 x rotary quern stone fragment, 2 x slag	Roman pot
24	2402	Natural		-		_ I ong	
25							
25	2500	Topsoil		0.20			
25	2501	Subsoil		0.60			
25	2502	Natural		-			

APPENDIX 2 PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY ASSESSEMENT/ SPOT DATING

By Edward Biddulph

A total of 266 sherds, weighing 2,863 g, was recovered from the site. The assemblage was rapidly scanned and assessed to determine the range of forms and fabrics present using the standard Oxford Archaeology recording system. Vessel forms were identified with reference to Young's Oxfordshire corpus (1977) where possible.

Flint-tempered sherds from contexts 102 and 1405 are likely to date to the Bronze Age. A small number of grog or sand tempered sherds (fabrics E30 and E80) were identified. These were usually associated with Roman-period sandy wares, suggesting an early Roman date; alternatively they are residual, given their abraded condition.

Ditch 2204 (fill 2202) yielded the largest single group of pottery. Weighing 1.8 kg, it accounted for two thirds of the entire assemblage. The group consisted largely of grey wares (fabrics R10, R30 and R50), presumably locally-produced. Forms included a narrow-necked jar (Young type R15), medium-mouthed jars (Young type R24), bead-rimmed dishes (Young types R43 and R60), and poppy-headed and bag-shaped beakers (Young types R31 and R34). A Dorset-produced black-burnished ware cooking jar and straight-sided dish with groove were also retrieved, as well as a body sherd from an Oxfordshire white ware mortarium. A second century date, probably falling within a range of c AD 125-170, can be assigned to the group.

Much of the remaining pottery is consistent with a mid Roman date, appearing to share a second century emphasis of 2202, although few groups could be firmly dated to this period. Context 900 yielded a sherd of probable Severn Valley ware (O40). The fabric was produced throughout the Roman period, though it enjoyed a peak of production during the second and third centuries. Samian ware arrived from Gaul. Context 1010 contained samian ware from Central Gaul of second century date, while probable late second/early third century East Gaulish samian was found in 1002. Context 902 contains the latest pottery: a shell-tempered ware (C11) cooking vessel. The ware appears regionally in any significant amount from the third century, but has greatest currency during the fourth century.

Assemblage condition was good. Ditch group 2202 comprised large, relatively unworn pieces. The other pottery seemed to be in worse condition, although there was no significant difference in average sherd weight: that of 2202 weighing 12 g, against an average of 11 g. Cross-context joins were evident between 901 and 902, suggesting that the pottery derived from a single source, or that contamination occurred during collection. Given its condition and apparently low residuality, the assemblage generally is unlikely to have moved far from its original place of discard. It probably experienced few episodes of relocation prior to final deposition.

A number of vessels were retrieved from cremation burials during a previous phase of investigation. These comprised jars, including a black-burnished cooking jar, and bag-shaped beakers. All date to the second century and are consistent with the dating of the domestic assemblage.

Spot dates

Context	Date					
102	BA					
104	ROM					
300	ROM					
301	IA + ROM					
304	ROM					
900	MR					
901	M-LR					
902	M-LR					
911	ROM					
1001	E-MR					
1002	MR					
1010	MR					
1011	ROM					
1101	ROM					
1202	IA					
1203	ER					
1404	ROM					
1405	BA					
1406	ROM					
1601	MR					
2201	MR					
2202	M-L2nd					
2207	ROM					
2208	ROM					
2401	MR					
3053	LIA/ER					

ER = Early Roman (Mid 1st-early 2nd)

MR = Mid Roman (Mid 2nd - mid 3rd)

LR = Late Roman (Late 3rd - late 4th)

Table 1: Prehistoric and Roman pottery spot dates

APPENDIX 3 MEDIEVAL POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 21 sherds with a total weight of 287 g. The majority of the material was Saxo-Norman or later, with the range of wares present suggesting that there was activity at the site from around the Norman conquest until the early post-medieval period.

The Assemblage

The pottery was recorded utilising the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 3 sherds, 20 g.

OXBF: North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050 - 1400. 1 sherd, 2 g.

OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 - 1350. 1 sherd, 9 g.

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 - 1600. 9 sherds, 193 g.

OXDR, Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 5 sherds, 60g.

In addition, the following, not covered by the Oxford type-series, was also noted:

Stamford ware. c AD900-1200 (Kilmurry 1980). Wheel-thrown. White, pink, buff or grey fabric, usually with sparse to dense quartz up to 0.5mm, occasional black or red ironstone up to 1 mm. Often glazed with yellow, pale or sage green glaze. 2 sherds, 3 g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem.

The range of post-Roman ware types and vessels is fairly typical of Oxford and its environs, although there are a few sherds worthy of note. The Stamford ware is a pottery type which, although not unknown in the area, is rather rare, and the material is only usually found in small quantities at sites in the city, and is exceptionally rare at more rural locations. Both sherds are glazed, which means that they are unlikely to date to before the later tenth century, but since such pottery was at the peak of its production volume during the eleventh century, it is entirely possible (and, indeed, highly likely) that it dates to that time rather than the tenth century, although this cannot be said with total certainly.

Context 301 is given a fifteenth century date due to the fact that there is the bunghole from a large cistern present. Such vessels are often found in contexts of that date in the area, and are a reliable indicator of domestic activity.

The range of fabric and vessels types present suggests that, despite the small assemblage size, there was activity at the site from around the time of the Norman conquest until the early post-medieval period, and that the activity was wholly domestic in nature, although further excavation would help clarify this.

	ST	AM	02	XY	OX	AC	OX	BF	OX	AM	OX	DR	
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
104							1	2	4	63	1,0	1.00	13thC
203					1	14				0.5			11thC?
301					2	6			2	86			_
303			1. 7.	7 9		-		F-7 (12)	2		-7	770-23	15thC
305	1	2		-	-11 10 10		17.00		2	4		10.77	13thC
703	1	1		1-1-1-1		-	_	-		_			L10thC
802	1	1	,	-		_					150		L10thC'
			1	9									L11thC
1001											1	47	M16thC
1009											1	9	M16thC
1101									1	40			13thC
1906											1	1	M16thC
2206											2	3	
Total	2	3	1	9	3	20	1	2	9	193	5	60	M16thC

Table 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT

By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

Introduction

A total of 94 flints were recovered from the evaluation. The majority of the flintwork was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil; in addition a small number of flints were recovered from features, main Roman and Medieval ditches. The assemblage is dated on technological traits to the early Mesolithic; a small number of flints from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age were also present. A single, large 104 mm, blade possibly represents a late upper Palaeolithic long blade.

CATEGORY TYPE	Trench 12	Trench 22	Other trenches	Grand Total
Flake	16	14	20	50
Blade	2	10	5	17
Bladelet	1	1	1	3
Blade-like		1 11	2	2
Irregular waste		2	1	3
Chip	1	1	8	10
Rejuvenation flake tablet		1		1
Rejuvenation flake other		1		11
Core single platform blade core	1	1		2
Bipolar blade core		1	1	2
Tested nodule/bashed lump			1	1
Microlith (fragment)	1			1
End scraper			1	1
Grand Total	22	32	40	94

Table 3: The flint assemblage by category

Raw material and condition

The raw material used was consistently a good quality dark grey to dark brown flint that exhibits a thick unabraded cortex (up to 10 mm thick), this flint is chalk flint, probably originating from the Berkshire Downs to the south.

The condition of the flint was variable. Flint from the topsoil and subsoil exhibited light to moderate post depositional edge damage, a few flints were in fresher condition. The surfaces of the flints varied from uncorticated to very heavily corticated; no pattern was observed between the degree of cortication and technological traits/date of the artefacts.

The assemblage

The flake material was generally of narrow proportions, approximately one third of the assemblage were of blade proportions (in excess of 2:1 length to breadth ratio). A large number of the flakes exhibited scars of blade removals on the dorsal surface and platform edge abrasion. In addition, the majority of the flints exhibited a diffuse bulb appeared to have been struck using a soft hammer percussor. A few rejuvenation flakes were present in the assemblage including a platform rejuvenation tablet and crested blade. The technological traits of the flake material indicate the careful preparation and reduction of cores, with the intention of producing blades. In addition, the presence of cortical and side trimming flakes indicates that core were both prepared and reduced at this location. A blade from context 2201, Trench 22, is particularly noteworthy, as it's length is 104 mm, even though slightly broken; this blade is over double the length of any other blade in the assemblage. The blade has been struck from a well prepared core at an early stage of reduction. The size of this blade, particularly in relation to other blades in the assemblage, indicates this blade may belong to a different industry, possibly a late upper Palaeolithic long blade industry.

Four cores and a tested nodule were recovered. All the cores recovered were for the production of blades, two of the cores were single platform and two exhibited opposed striking platforms.

The retouched assemblage consisted of only two flints; an end scraper from context 1807 and a burnt and broken backed blade fragment (probably from a microlith) from context 1203. The scraper in manufactured on a large trimming flake and exhibits abrupt retouch around the curving distal edge. This flint probably dates from the Mesolithic or Neolithic. The microlith fragment is Mesolithic, but the dating cannot be refined due to the fragmentary condition of the artefact.

Conclusions

The assemblage recovered from the evaluation includes a possible late upper Palaeolithic long blade, and a number of Mesolithic and Neolithic/Bronze Age flints. The distribution of flintwork suggests a low density scatter of Mesolithic and Neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork. is present across the majority site is cover by a low density scatter of flintwork. A possible higher concentration of Mesolithic material was observed in Trench 22, as 32 flints were recovered from the trench in total, although sieving did not identify any density of material. A distinct scatter was however present at the northern edge of Trench 12. A number of flints were found in both the topsoil and subsoil; sieving of the subsoil at the north-east end of trench recovered six flints from a 30 lt. sample (0.03 m³). The area surrounding this trench, therefore, may potentially contains similar densities of flint to the scatters in New Plantation to the east (Bradley and Hey 1993, 9) and the quarry extension to the north-east (Oxford Archaeological Unit 2001).

In general, the density of flintwork is lower than recorded in new plantation and in the previous excavation area. A total of 1.38 m³ of topsoil and subsoil was sieved in extension areas 2 and 3, recovering a total of 24 flints, equating to 17 flints per cubic metre of soil; 46 flints per cubic metre was recorded on average in extension area 1 (Oxford Archaeological Unit 2001, 4).

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APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Tubney Wood Quarry Extension Areas 2 and 3

Site code: TUWQ'03

Grid reference: NGR SP 4460 0060 and SP 4490 0095

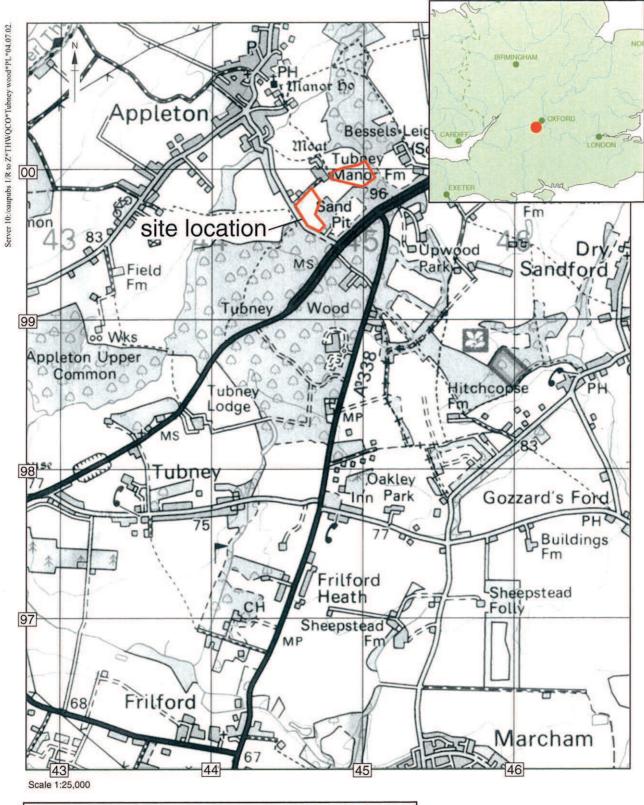
Type of evaluation: Trenching and sieving

Date and duration of project: 26th March - 2nd April 2003

Area of site: Extension Area 2 is 2.92 ha and Extension Area 3 is 3.37 ha

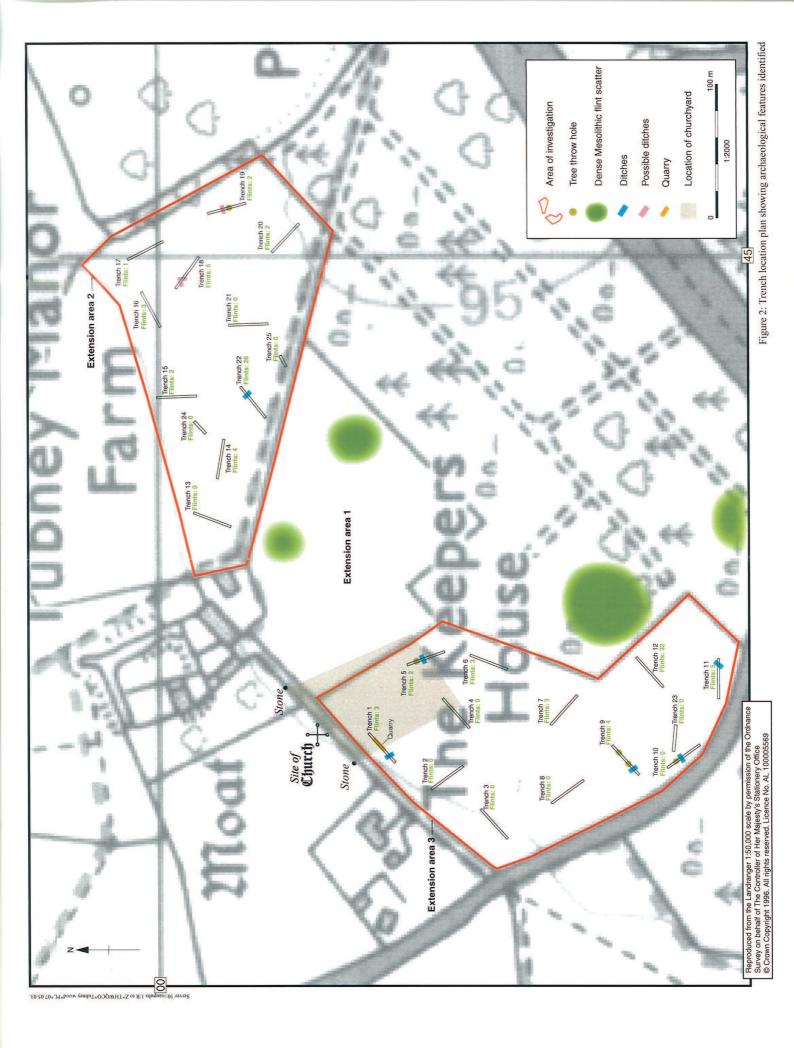
Summary of results: The evaluation revealed a low density scatter of Mesolithic flint over Extension Areas 2 and 3; a slightly higher density scatter was located towards the south-east limit of Extension Area 3, probably reflecting the edge of a scatter excavated in 1991. A Roman ditch, containing significant quantities of pottery, was located in Extension Area 2; a possible Roman ditch was also found in Extension Area 3. Two undated ditches located to the north of Extension Area 3 probably represent the former boundary of a plot of land shown on the 1841 tithe map and interpreted as the church's graveyard. No graves were located within this land plot, however, a large medieval quarry was found. In addition, five undated ditches, some of dubious archaeological origin, and five tree-throw holes were examined.

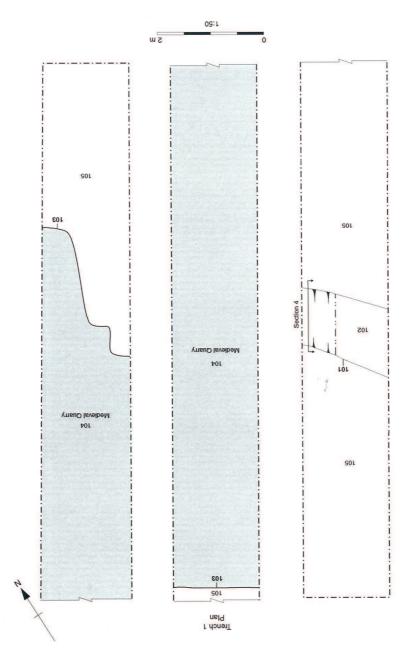
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: TUWQ 01.62

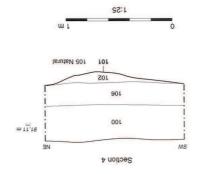


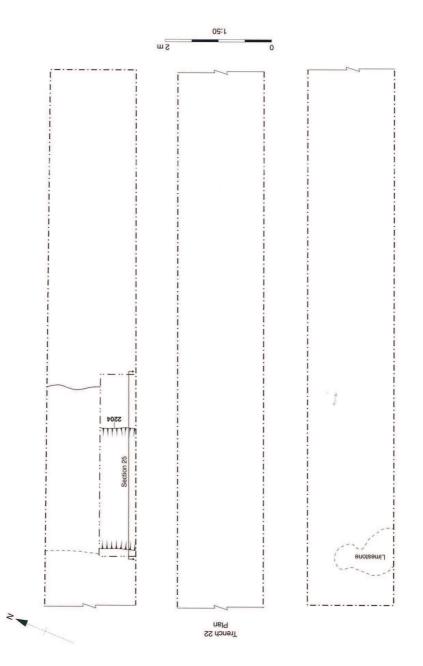
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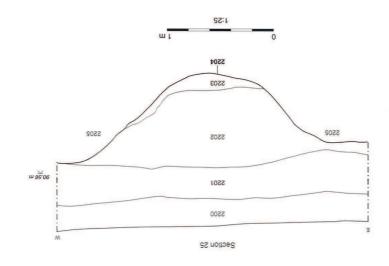
Figure 1: Site location map

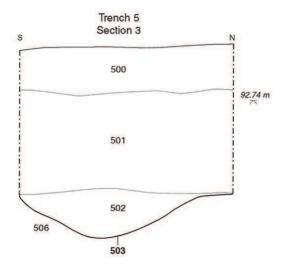


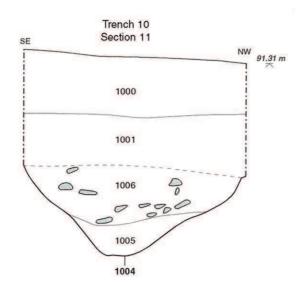












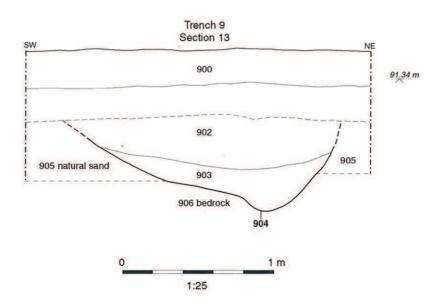


Figure 5: Sections 3, 11 and 13



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

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