

# Pinnocks Farm Northmoor



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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## **Pinnocks Farm, Northmoor**

*Archaeological Watching Brief Report*

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## Summary

*On November 5-8th 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Pinnocks Farm, Northmoor, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 412 029). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Neale in advance of the construction of a new extension. The watching brief revealed modern disturbed ground and garden soils overlying natural gravel. No significant archaeology was observed.*

### 1 LOCATION AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1 On November 5-8th 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Pinnocks Farm, Northmoor, Oxfordshire, NGR SP: 412 029 (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Neale.
- 1.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential and as part of the planning permission, an archaeological watching brief was requested during the course of the excavation of footings. This is in line with PPS5 and Policy BE13 of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan.
- 1.3 The site is located approximately one mile to the west of Northmoor, Oxfordshire and at a height of c 65 m OD. The underlying geology is first terrace gravel overlying clay.
- 1.4 The site is within the original Pinnocks Farm yard. It is an extension to the original farmhouse, replacing the early 20<sup>th</sup> century extension.

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Pinnocks Farm is located within the bounds of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM141). This is designated as a complex of later prehistoric and Roman period settlement. To the south and west are a spread of cropmarks. Those to the west appear as a series of large semi-rectangular enclosures and trackways. Those to the south show an enclosed settlement with internal paddocks and rectangular and circular enclosures (H. Coddington pers comm).
- 2.2 The farm house appears on the 1876 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map and has had various later additions, including significant alterations in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These alterations include the extension already partly demolished for the new building works.

### 3 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The aims of the Watching Brief were:
  - To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
  - To preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits that may be disturbed or destroyed during the course of the groundworks.
  - To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.



- 3.2 When the attending archaeologist arrived on site, around 60% of the trenches had already been dug with a 360 tracked excavator, fitted with a 0.3 m toothed bucket and backfilled with concrete. Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer, was informed of this. The trenches had been excavated to a depth of 1 m and around 0.3 m of garden soils were still visible above the concrete.
- 3.3 The remaining monitored trenches were dug by a tracked excavator fitted with a 0.3 m wide toothed bucket. Excavation proceeded in spits until the required depth of excavation (1 m) was achieved. The sides and base of the trenches were closely examined for archaeological evidence and the spoil was examined for dating evidence.
- 3.4 A plan showing the extent of the excavations was maintained at a scale of 1:50 (Fig. 2). A general photographic record of the work was made using black and white slide film and digital photographs. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (Wilkinson 1992).

#### 4 DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS

- 4.1 The only deposit seen throughout the trenches was a c. 0.6 m thick homogeneous, grey brown, clay silt with fragments of modern brick, ceramic building material and gravel inclusions. This deposit directly overlay the natural gravel.

#### 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The deposit was interpreted as a mix of garden soils and disturbed subsoils, truncated by modern service pipes and foundations. The majority of this disturbance is probably related to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century extension which was located on top of this site.
- 5.2 No archaeological remains were located within the monitored works.

#### 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- 6.1 Wilkinson, D. 1992 *OA Field Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)
- 6.2 OA 1992. *Northmoor Pinnocks Farm, Archaeological Evaluation*







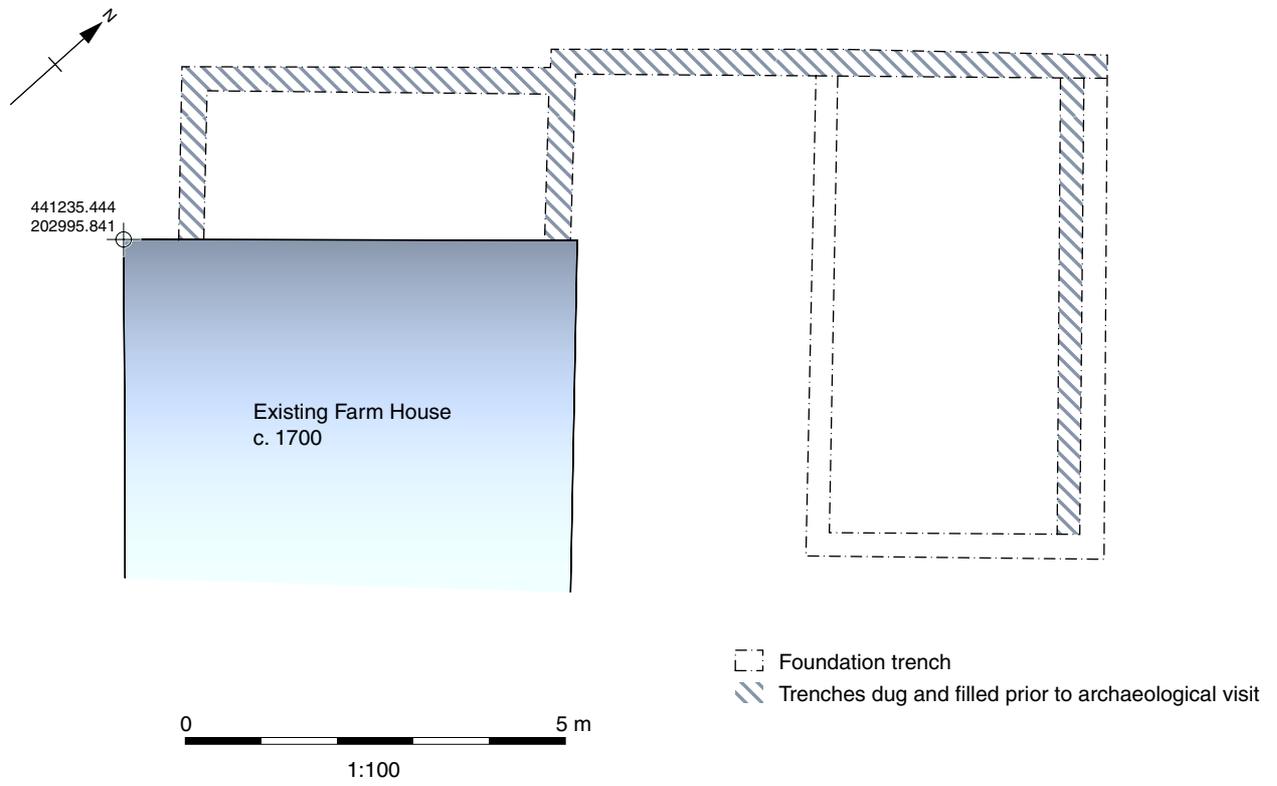


Figure 2: Trench location plan







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