

FR1MBWB

New Barn
North of Hamfield Barn
Frilford
Oxfordshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

April 2005

Client: Claude Lay Partners

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2590

NGR: SU 4224 9739

Client Name: Claude Lay Partners

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Proposed New Barn, North of Hamfield Barn, Frilford,
Oxfordshire

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SU 4224 9739

Planning Reference: FRI/18677

OA Job Number: 2590

Site Code: FRIHB05

Invoice Code: FRIHBWB

Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum Service

Museum Accession No: OXCMS:2005.6

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Document File Location: Projects/server1/Frilford hamfield barn/ watching brief /
report

Graphics File Location: Server10:oaupubs1_AtoH*FRIHBWB*FRIHB05*Hamfi
eld Barn Frilford*GS*27.01.05

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**New Barn, North of Hamfield Barn,
Frilford, Oxfordshire*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

On the 28th December 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on the proposed site of a new barn, north of Hamfield Barn, Frilford, Oxfordshire (NGR: SU 4224 9739). The work was commissioned by Claude Lay Partners in advance of excavation of pit foundations. The watching brief encountered no evidence of archaeological remains or activity predating 20th century agricultural use of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 On the 28th December 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief to the North of Hamfield Barn, Frilford, Oxfordshire (NGR: SU 4224 9739). The work was commissioned by Claude Lay Partners in respect of a planning application for a new barn. (Planning Application No. FRI/18677)
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by, and a WSI (OA 2004) agreed with, Hugh Coddington, the Deputy County Archaeologist, representing West Oxfordshire District Council.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development site is located to the north east of Fyfield Wick (Fig. 1) and lies at approximately 68 m OD. The geology is silt and sand of the Corallian beds. The current land use is agricultural.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Part of a small Roman Villa was excavated by Sir Arthur Evans in 1884, just to the south of the development site. Twelve rooms and a portico were found. Other structures, including a possible bath house or cistern, were identified north of the villa in the proximity of the development. Evidence from other villas excavated in the region suggests that the villa forms the core of the complex of buildings that related directly to the villa and the villa estate. Aerial photography has identified a Bronze Age ring ditch to the east and evidence of a field system across the area in general. This may be of prehistoric origin but could alternatively be of the same period as the villa. Pits are also discernible.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To preserve by record any archaeological remains (if present) that the works may remove or damage within the area of site being investigated.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The ten pit foundations for the new barn were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator fitted with a 0.8 m wide bucket. The excavated material was removed in c.0.2 m deep spits to a depth of c.1.20m. Both the base and the sections of the excavation were closely observed during the work and the spoil was examined for artefacts and dating evidence.
- 2.2.2 A plan of the extent of the excavations was drawn at a scale of 1:200 (Fig.2) and two sample sections were recorded at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). A full photographic record of the work was made using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (OAU 1992) and IFA Guidelines (1999).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The stratigraphy of each of the pits was consistent, being of a dark friable silty clay plough soil (101 and 601) 0.2 m deep, overlying a slightly mixed deeper plough soil (102 and 602) of between 0.1m to 0.3 m in depth. This overlay a mottled, slightly yellow-orange stoney layer (103) between 0.3 m to 0.6 m thick. This in turn overlaid a sandy natural, containing lenses of ragstone (104 and 603), which was penetrated for a depth of 0.95 m.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the watching brief. All the finds recovered were of 20th century origin and were evaluated on site but were not retained.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

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

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief illustrated no evidence of activity on the site other than post-medieval arable cultivation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
101	Layer	0.0 m - 0.22 m	Upper ploughsoil	CBM	C20th
102	Layer	0.22m - 0.3 m	Subsoil, Probable earlier plough soil	-	-
103	Layer	0.3 m - 0.6 m	Subsoil	-	-
104	Layer	0.7 m - >1.0 m	Sandy natural with ragstone lens	-	-
601	Layer	0.0 m - 0.25 m	Upper ploughsoil	-	-
602	Layer	0.25 m - 0.6 m	Subsoil	-	-
603	Layer	0.6m - 0.95m	Sandy natural with ragstone lens	-	-

APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 2004 *New Barn, north of Hamfield Barn, Frilford, Oxfordshire - Written Scheme of Investigation*

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

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: New barn, north of Hamfield Barn, Frilford, Oxfordshire

Site code: FRIHBWB

Grid reference: SU 4224 9737

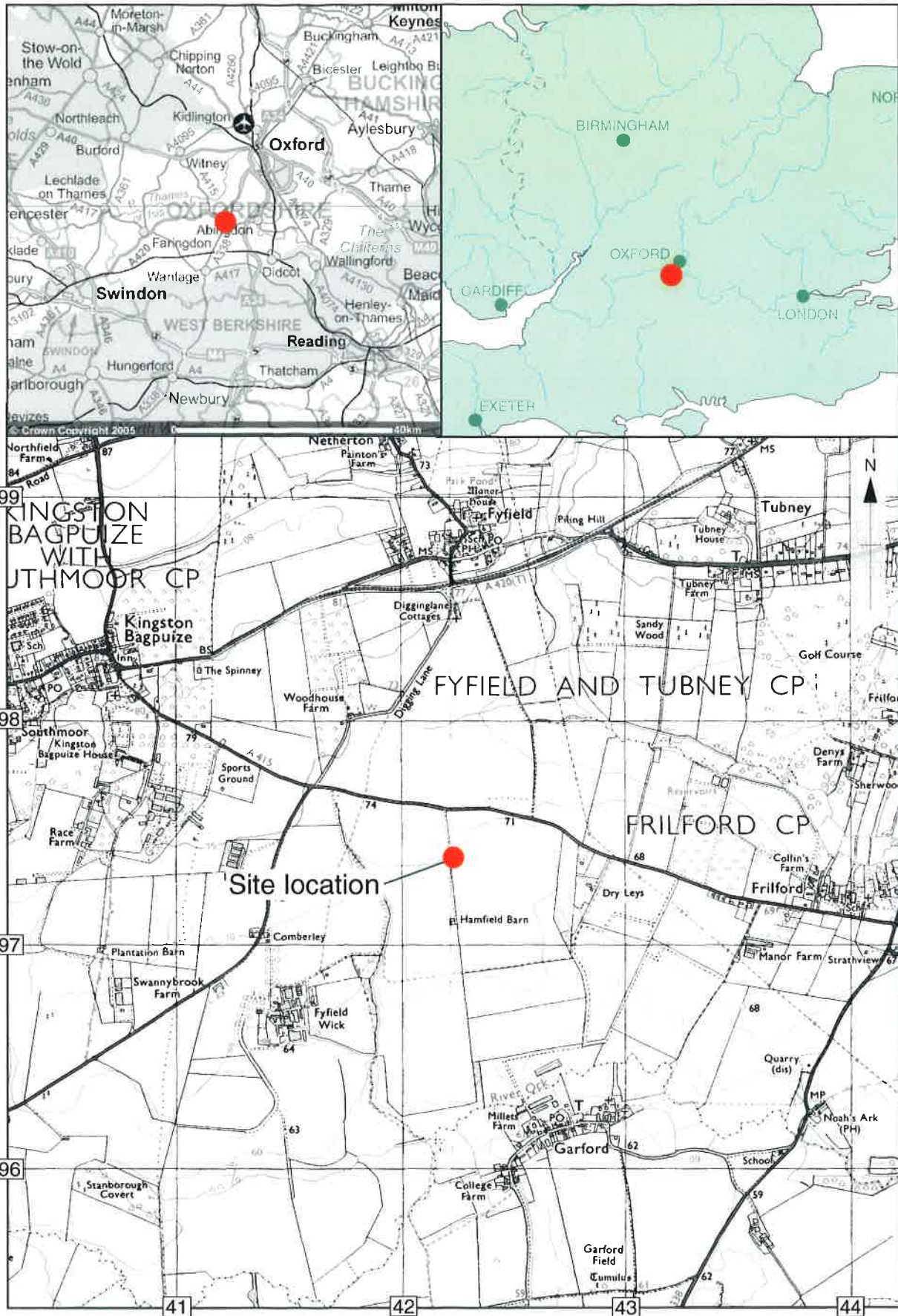
Type of watching brief: Excavation of pit foundations for a new barn.

Date and duration of project: 28th December 2004, Half day

Area of site: 0.1 Hectares

Summary of results: No archaeology earlier post-medieval cultivation was observed.

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.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



Farmtrack to
Hamfield Barn



Pit 10

Pit 9

Pit 8

Pit 7

Pit 6

Section 2

NGR: SU 4224 9739



Section 1

Pit 1

Pit 2

Pit 3

Pit 4

Pit 5



1:200

Figure 2: Site plan

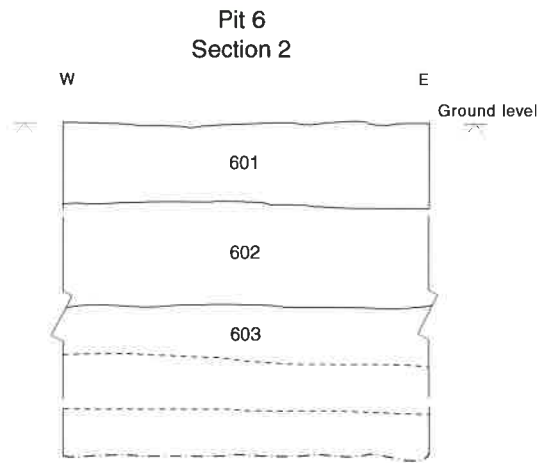
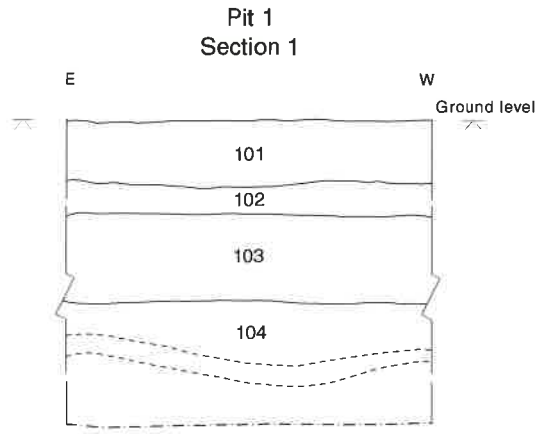


Figure 3: Sample sections



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