

**Horton-cum-Studley Village Hall Trustees**

**New Sports Pavilion, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire**

*NGR SP 594 122*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Planning Ref. No. 98/0048/F**

**Oxford Archaeological Unit**

**September 1999**

Horton-cum-Studley Village Hall Trustees

**New Sports Pavilion, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire**


*NGR SP 594 122*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Planning Ref. No. 98/0048/F

Prepared by: 

Date: 8/9/99

Checked by: 

Date: 14/9/99

Approved by: R. Williams HEAD OF FIELDWORK

Date: 24/9/1999

**Oxford Archaeological Unit**

**September 1999**

## **Summary**

*In May and June of 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 594 122). No archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.*

## **1 Introduction**

The development proposal (planning application no. 98/0048/F) comprised the demolition of the existing sports pavilion and the construction of a new pavilion/village hall with associated car park and access on land which previously was used as playing fields, located to the south of the village of Horton-cum-Studley. An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of the planning consent granted under PPG 16, as the application site lies within an area of archaeological potential.

The watching brief was commissioned by Victor C. Brown, the project architect, on behalf of the Horton-cum-Studley Village Hall Trustees. It was undertaken to a brief set by and a WSI agreed with the County Archaeological Officer.

## **2 Background (Fig. 1)**

Very little information is available on the archaeological background of the village. Of the few sites known in the village and its vicinity, the major one is a probable Romano-British settlement located approximately 300 m to the south of the development site (NGR SP 5942 1187). This site was partially excavated in 1851 revealing several structures (PRN 1353). Roman coins have also been found in a field immediately adjacent to, and to the west of, Studley Park (PRN 1365).

The OAU undertook a watching brief in the village, on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1993, during the excavation of footings for an extension to the house at Park View. The house is located to the south of the earthworks from the shrunken medieval village of Horton-cum-Studley. A verbal report on, and aerial photographs of, the earthworks indicate a roughly rectangular ditched or moated enclosure with some ridge and furrow to the north of the road, probably associated with the shrunken medieval village (Oxon CC PRN 12735). No significant archaeological deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.

## **3 Aims**

The aims of the watching brief were to identify any archaeological remains exposed on site during the course of the works, and to record these to established OAU standards (Wilkinson 1992), in order to secure their preservation by record.

## **4 Methodology**

The watching brief was undertaken by means of separate inspection visits; all excavation was by 360° tracked excavator. The watching brief monitored:

- The topsoil strip for the access road and car park construction, during which a constant presence was maintained on site.
- The excavation of foundation and drainage trenches for the new building.

Within the constraints imposed by health and safety considerations the deposits exposed were cleaned, inspected and recorded in plan, section and by colour slide and monochrome print photography. Written records were also made on proforma sheets. Soil description utilises standard charts for the approximation of percentage of inclusion types in soil deposits.

## **5 Results**

Initial work on site was confined to monitoring the topsoil strip for the access road and car parking, during which a constant presence was maintained. Only the topsoil was removed exposing natural subsoil, which in places had been stabilised with deposits of tarmac and crushed Type 1 hardcore. During this work no archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.

Excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored with separate inspection visits. Here the topsoil was seen directly to overlie the undisturbed subsoil; despite careful cleaning of both the sections and bases of the foundation trenches, no archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.

## **6 Finds**

No finds were retrieved during the course of the watching brief.

## **7 Environmental results**

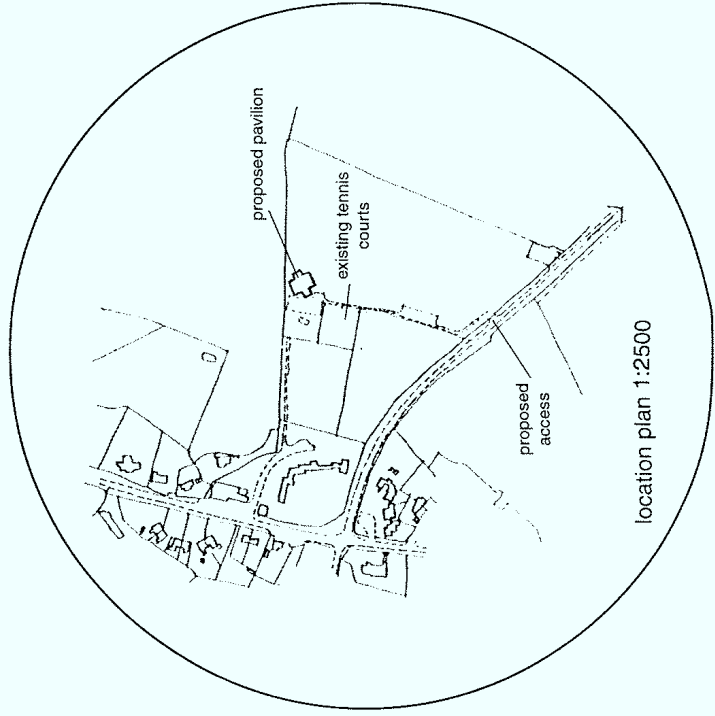
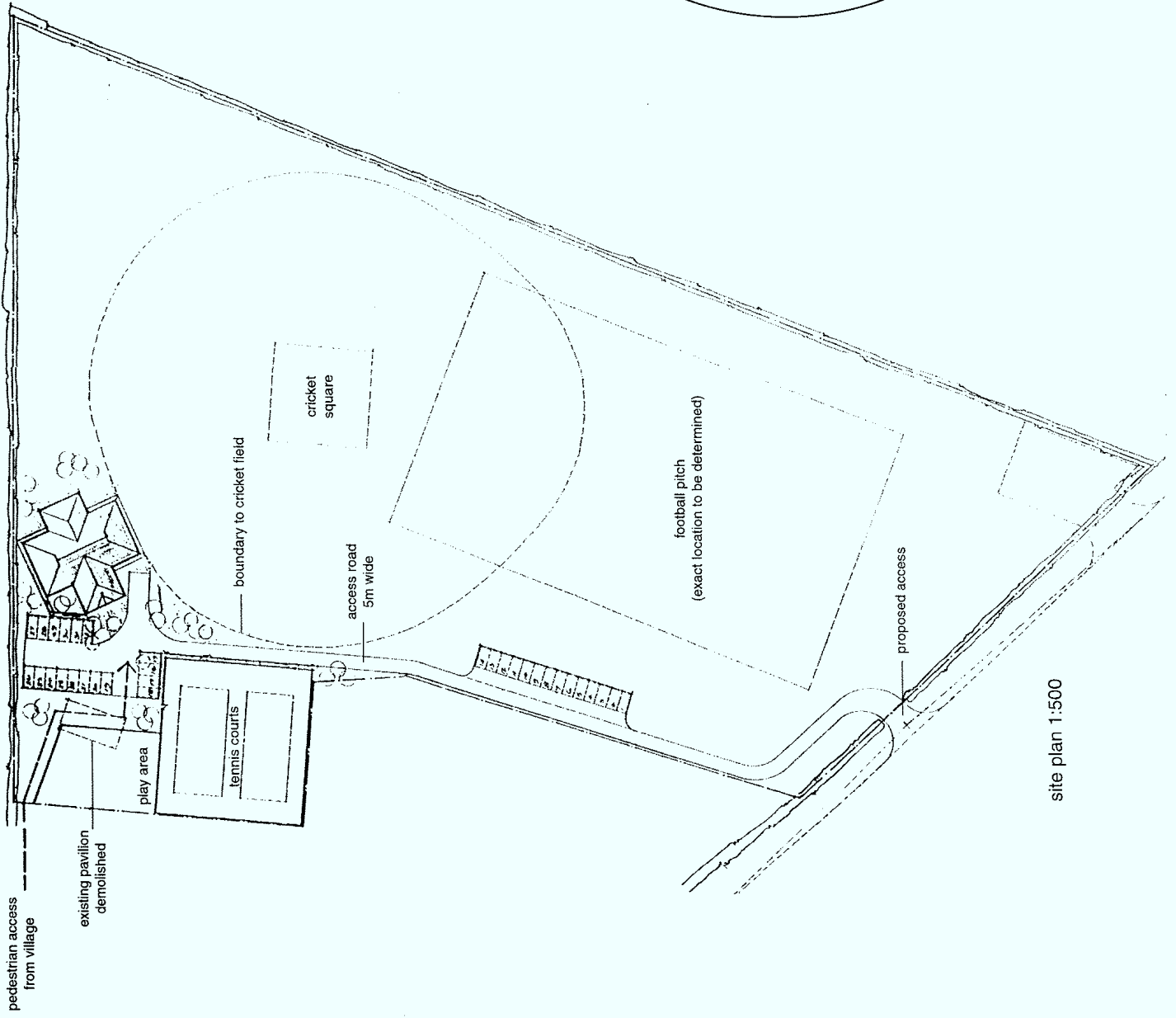
Due to the absence of any archaeology, no environmental soil samples were taken.

## **8 Discussion**

The watching brief did not locate archaeology of any significance, and the site would not appear to have been used as anything other than open land.

## **References.**

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992).





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