

Bridge Villa
International
Camping and
Caravan Park
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford
Oxfordshire



**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

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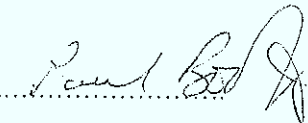
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Signed.....



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In March and April 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bridge Villa International Camping and Caravan Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 6120 8930). The work was commissioned by Andrew Townsend in advance of the construction of a new shower and accommodation block. The watching brief revealed a number of features from the post-medieval period relating to activities at the rear of the former farm on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In March and April 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bridge Villa International Camping and Caravan Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Townsend in respect of a planning application for the construction of a new shower and accommodation block (Planning Application No. PO2/W0701).

1.1.2 A brief for a formal programme of archaeological works was discussed with Paul Smith, Oxfordshire County Archaeologist.

1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2003).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The proposal site is adjacent to the River Thames on the A4130 at Crowmarsh Gifford at NGR SU 6120 8930. The site lies at c. 53 m OD and the underlying geology is Floodplain Terrace Gravels.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2003) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 There are known ditches that may be associated with an alleged 12th century siege castle within the Caravan site. A 12th century leper hospital is reported to have stood on the Newnham end of Wallingford Bridge.

1.3.3 In 1994 archaeological excavations by Thames Valley Archaeological Services on the north side of The Street at the Walter Wilder Foundry site revealed evidence of medieval domestic occupation dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. Roman remains have been found in the meadows immediately to the west of this development area (Paul Smith *pers comm*).

1.3.4 The site of the development was a small holding built in the mid 19th century and was farmed up until the 1950s, when it started to develop into the present caravan and camping site.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The former toilet block was demolished and site levelled. The foundations were then marked out. These were excavated with a 360° machine with a 0.70 m wide bucket in sections and poured with concrete. Once these had set the area between the foundations was reduced and levelled (Figs 2 and 3). A number of visits were carried out during the excavation of the foundation trenches and ground reductions.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.7 m from the ground surface. These cut into the natural of compact light yellowish brown silty clay loam (1). This had been cut by a number of features. These included a partly exposed large sub circular pond (10) with steep sloping sides. It measured 10 m x 4.2 m x 1 m, but the base was below impact level and was filled with a compact grey brown silty clay (11) (Figs 3 and 4, section 2). This was sealed below a layer of dark brown silty clay old topsoil (4) which also sealed two pits. These were only seen in section.
- 3.1.2 The first pit (2) had steep sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.1 m x 0.35 m. It was filled with a mid brown silty clay (3) with late 18th century brick fragments (Figs 3 and 4, section 1). The second pit (12) was undated and had very steep sloping sides and a uneven base. It measured 1.2 m wide and 0.7 m deep and was filled with a grey brown silty clay (13) (Figs 3 and 4, section 3).
- 3.1.3 The old topsoil layer (4) had been cut by a late post-medieval pit (8) with steep sloping sides and a concave base. This was only seen in section and measured 1.03 m x 0.8 m. It was filled by dark grey brown silty clay loam (9) with pottery and CBM (Figs 3 and 4, section 2). This was sealed below a thick layer of modern topsoil (5),

which had been cut by seven circular post holes (6) for a recent fence (Figs 3 and 4, section 1).

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 The bricks from context 3 were identified and dated on site and not recovered from site. A small number of finds were recovered from the fill (9) of the post-medieval pit (8) and consisted of the following:

2 x Fragments of CBM (Ceramic Building Material)

1 x Fragment of blue transfer ware from 19th century

1 x fragment of stone

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The watching brief exposed a number of post-medieval features relating to activities to the rear of the 19th and 20th century smallholding. These included a pond which was part of the farmyard and was recollected by the client's grandfather. No features were discovered relating to the earlier medieval or earlier periods.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

| <i>Context</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Depth</i> | <i>Width</i> | <i>Length</i> | <i>Comments</i> | <i>Finds</i> |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Natural | | | | Natural | |
| 2 | Cut | 0.35 m | 1.10 m | | Post medieval pit | |
| 3 | Fill | | | | Fill of pit | Brick |
| 4 | Layer | 0.30 m | | | Old topsoil | |
| 5 | Layer | 0.25 - 40 m | | | Topsoil | |
| 6 | Cut | 0.90 m | 0.40 m | | Fence Post holes | |
| 7 | Fill | | | | Fill of post holes | |
| 8 | Cut | 0.80 m | 1.03 m | | Post medieval pit | |
| 9 | Fill | | | | Fill of pit | Pottery and CBM |
| 10 | Cut | 1 m | 4.20 m | 10 m | Pond | |
| 11 | Fill | | | | Fill of pond | |
| 12 | Cut | 0.70 m | 1.20 m | | Pit | |
| 13 | Fill | | | | Fill of pit | |

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2003 *Bridge Villa International Camping and Caravan Park, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire* Written Scheme of Investigation

Wilkinson D (ed), 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Bridge Villa International Caravan and Camping Park, Crowmarsh Cifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Site code: CROWBV 03

Grid reference: NGR SU 6120 8930

Type of watching brief: Foundations for new shower block and accommodation building.

Date and duration of project:

Area of site: 16 m x 18 m

Summary of results: A number of features from the post-medieval period relating to activities at the rear of the farmyard.

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, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2003.11



1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

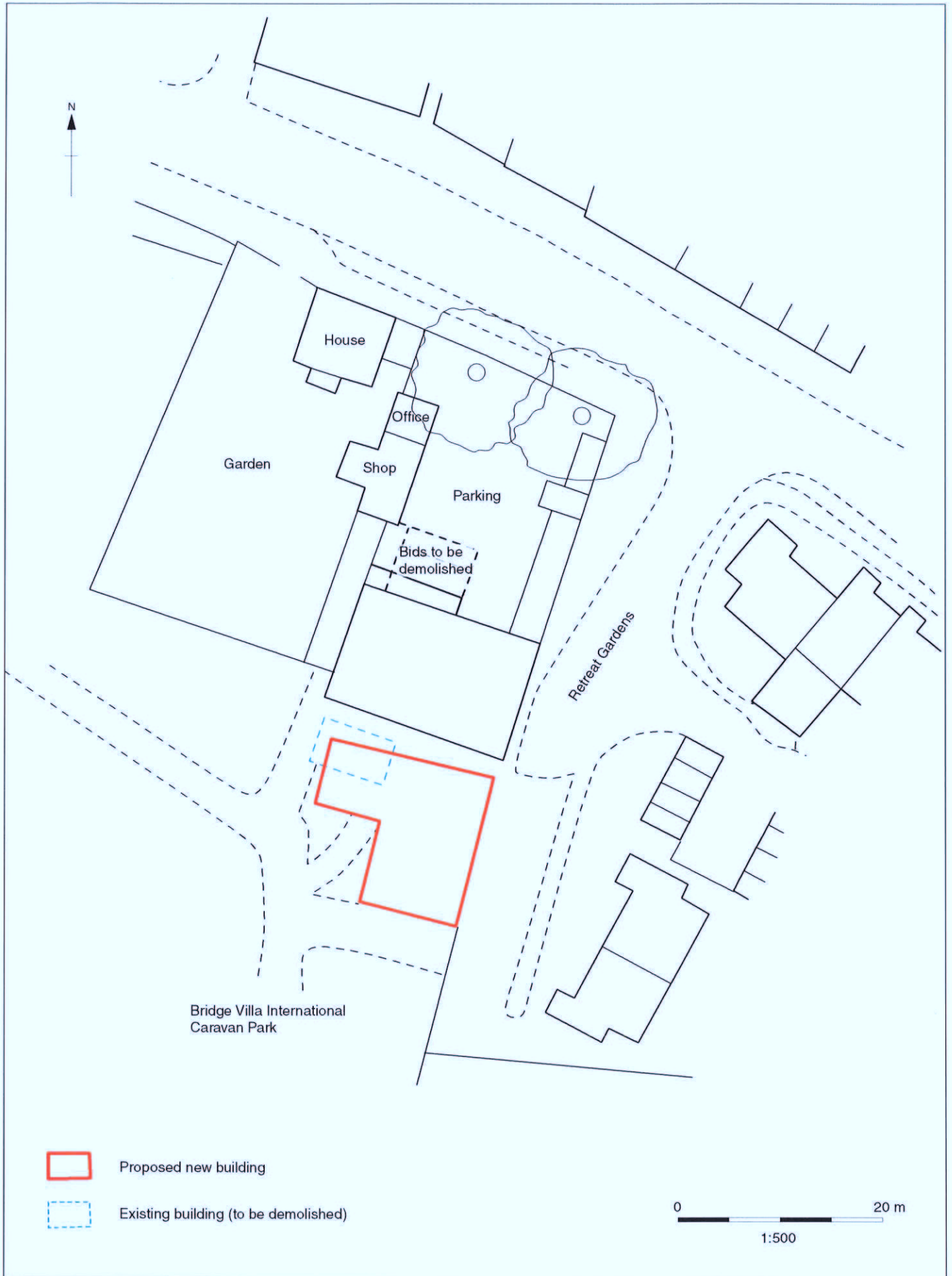


Figure 2: Location of proposed development

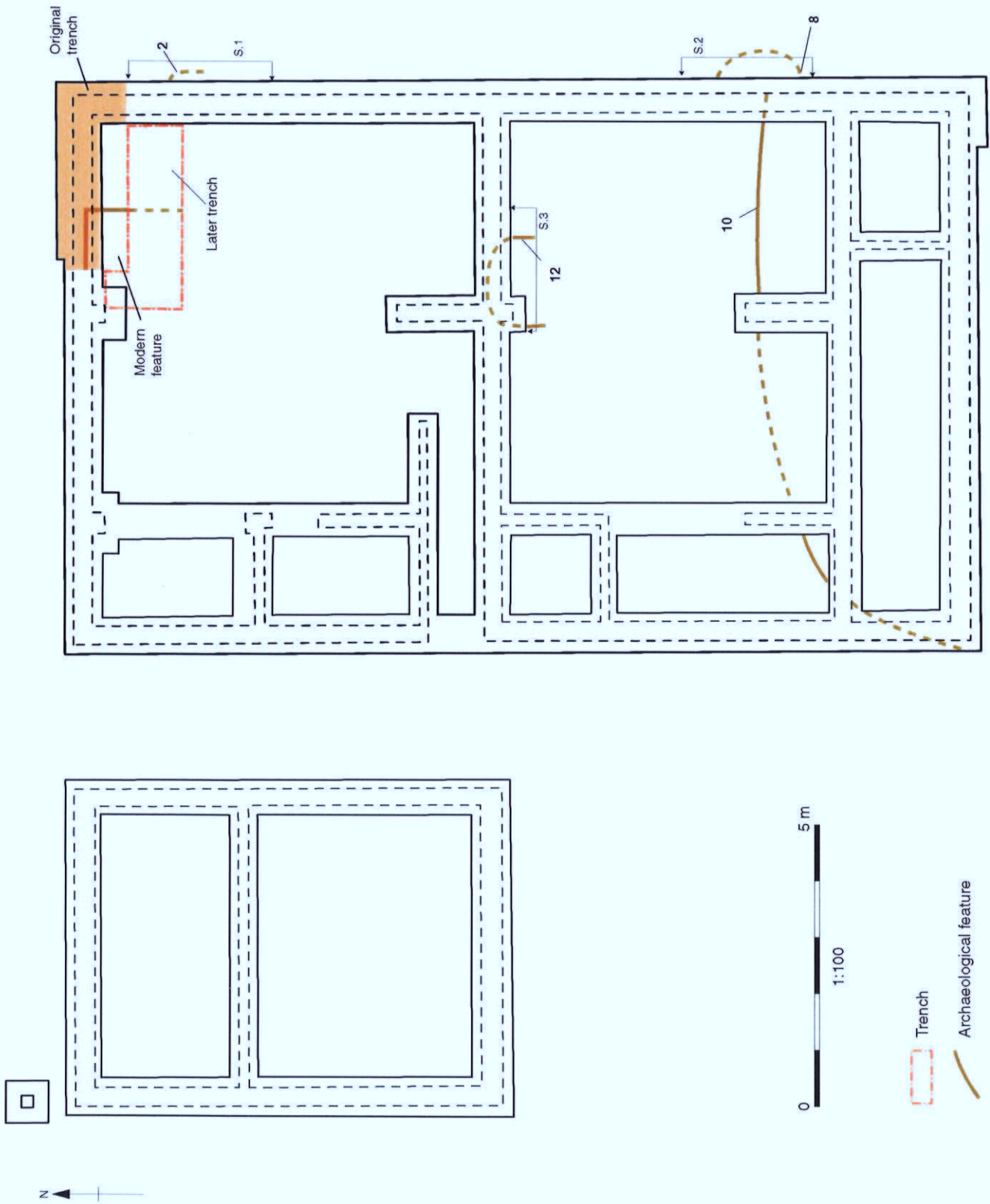
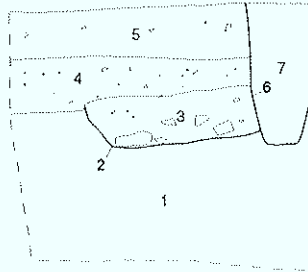
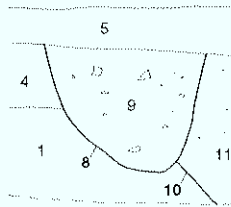


Figure 3: Plan of foundations showing archaeological features and sections

Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

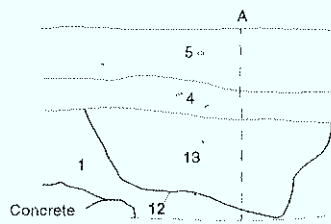


Figure 4: Sections 1 - 3



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