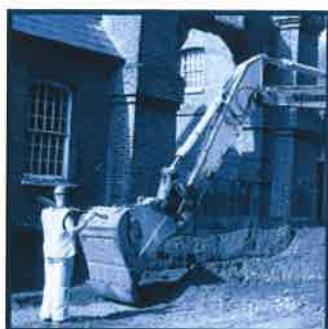


# Redesdale Arms Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



November 2006

**Client: ADC Limited**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1  
OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 3199  
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Illustrated by Sarah Lucas

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High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*****CONTENTS**

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## SUMMARY

*Between June and October 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Redesdale Arms, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 204 323). The work was commissioned by ADC Limited in advance of the construction of a two storey extension to an existing building. The watching brief revealed worked soils overlying natural clays. No significant archaeology was observed.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between June and October 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at the Redesdale Arms, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 204323). The work was commissioned by ADC Limited in respect of a planning application for a two storey extension (Planning Application No. CD.109/V).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Charles Parry, the Senior Archaeological Officer representing Gloucestershire County Council, requiring the implementation of a watching brief during the period of the groundworks (GCC, 2006).
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2006).

#### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is situated in the centre of the town of Moreton-in-Marsh, which is located on the A429, part of the Fosse Way (Fig. 1). The development area was formerly used as a car park and is sited to the rear of the Redesdale Arms, with access off Hospital Road. The site lies on level ground at 135 m above OD and measures approximately 300 m<sup>2</sup>. The underlying geology is Glacial sand and gravel overlying boulder clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain sheet no. 217).

#### 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 2006) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site is located within the historic core of Moreton-in-Marsh medieval town and as such the development had the potential to reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or finds relating to this period. There was also potential for Romano-British deposits due to the site's location along the margins of the Fosse Way.
- 1.3.3 The High Street was subject to extensive redevelopment in the 18th century with the majority of the buildings within the High Street listed in Pevsner (1970, p.323)

attributed to that date or later. Only the Curfew Tower on the corner of Oxford Street can be dated as earlier, with a probable construction date of the 16th century.

- 1.3.4 The Redesdale Arms Hotel was built in the late 18th century and was one of the principal inns of that date. Prior to 1891 it was called "The Unicorn".

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological deposits or features that may be disturbed or destroyed during any intrusive groundworks.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The watching brief was conducted as a series of monitoring visits during the period of any activities that may have impinged upon any archaeological deposits. These activities included reduction of site level, excavation of the foundation trenches and the excavation of the service trenches.
- 2.2.2 A plan was maintained showing the extent of any intrusive works at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2) and any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavations and features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The stratigraphy observed was similar throughout the site, and the following general description can be applied throughout the development area.
- 3.1.2 The underlying natural (6), a deposit consisting of banded layers of clay and gravel, was encountered at a depth of 0.6 m below the original ground level (Fig. 3, Sections 1, 2 and 3). This was overlaid by a 0.15 m deep layer of dark yellow-brown silt clay (5). This contained small fragments of abraded brick, indicative of a worked soil.
- 3.1.3 Overlying this was a layer of dark grey-brown clay loam (4) measuring 0.3 m in depth along the northern edge of excavation (Fig. 3, Sections 2 and 3) rising to 0.7 m in depth along the southern edge of the excavation (Fig. 3, Section 1). This contained much charcoal flecking, fragments of glazed earthenware and creamware pottery and fragments of clear bottle glass suggesting a 19th-century or 20th-century date and

probably represents a garden soil. Within the area of the carpark and access road this was sealed by a 0.3 m deep layer of building rubble within a yellow-brown silt clay matrix (3) (Fig. 3, Section 2 and 3). This was a layer of made ground, probably laid to support the carpark and road and is modern in date. This was overlain by a 0.15 m thick layer of gravel ballast (2) which supported the 0.12 m thick tarmac car park and road surface (1).

### 3.2 Finds

3.2.1 All the datable artefacts recovered were post-medieval in date and included 19th/20th century samples of pottery and fragments of bottle glass from Layer 4. Examples of modern frogged bricks and plastic fencing were observed within Layer 3. These were evaluated on site but were not retained. Small fragments of abraded brick and/or tile were observed within Layer 5, these were however, considered to be too small for diagnosis and were recorded but not retained.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

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

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The deposits which can be positively dated (Layers 1, 2, 3 and 4) all relate to the late post-medieval period, the 19th and 20th centuries. Layer 4 is indicative of a garden soil, while Layer 5 is a probable layer of worked soil and may indicate the earlier use of the land as a kitchen garden relating to the hotel or possibly agricultural use prior to the construction of the hotel.

4.1.2 No evidence for earlier construction or activities on the site, either in the form of deposits, features, truncated foundations, beam slots or post-holes were observed. There is the possibility that later activities such as ploughing or cultivation may have destroyed these features, however, the lack of residual finds or the truncated bases of deeper features would mitigate against this.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth/Height</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.12 m	> 8 m	Modern tarmac carpark surface	-	C20th
2	Layer	0.12 m	> 8 m	Gravel base for tarmac	-	C20th
3	Layer	0.25 m	> 8 m	Mixed building rubble and clay, made ground	Concrete, brick, iron, plastic	C20th
4	Layer	0.2 m - 0.7 m	> 8 m	Buried topsoil horizon	Pottery, glass, slate	C19th/ C20th
5	Layer	0.15 m	> 8 m	Earlier worked soil	Abraded brick and tile	C18th ?
6	layer	> 0.4 m	> 8m	Natural Alluvial deposits, banded clay and gravels	-	-

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

GCC, 2006 *Redesdale Arms, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh: Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Recording*

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

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

OA, 2006 *Redesdale Arms, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Pevsner, N, 1970 *The Buildings of England: Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds*

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Redesdale Arms, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

**Site code:** MOIMRA06

**Grid reference:** SP 204 323

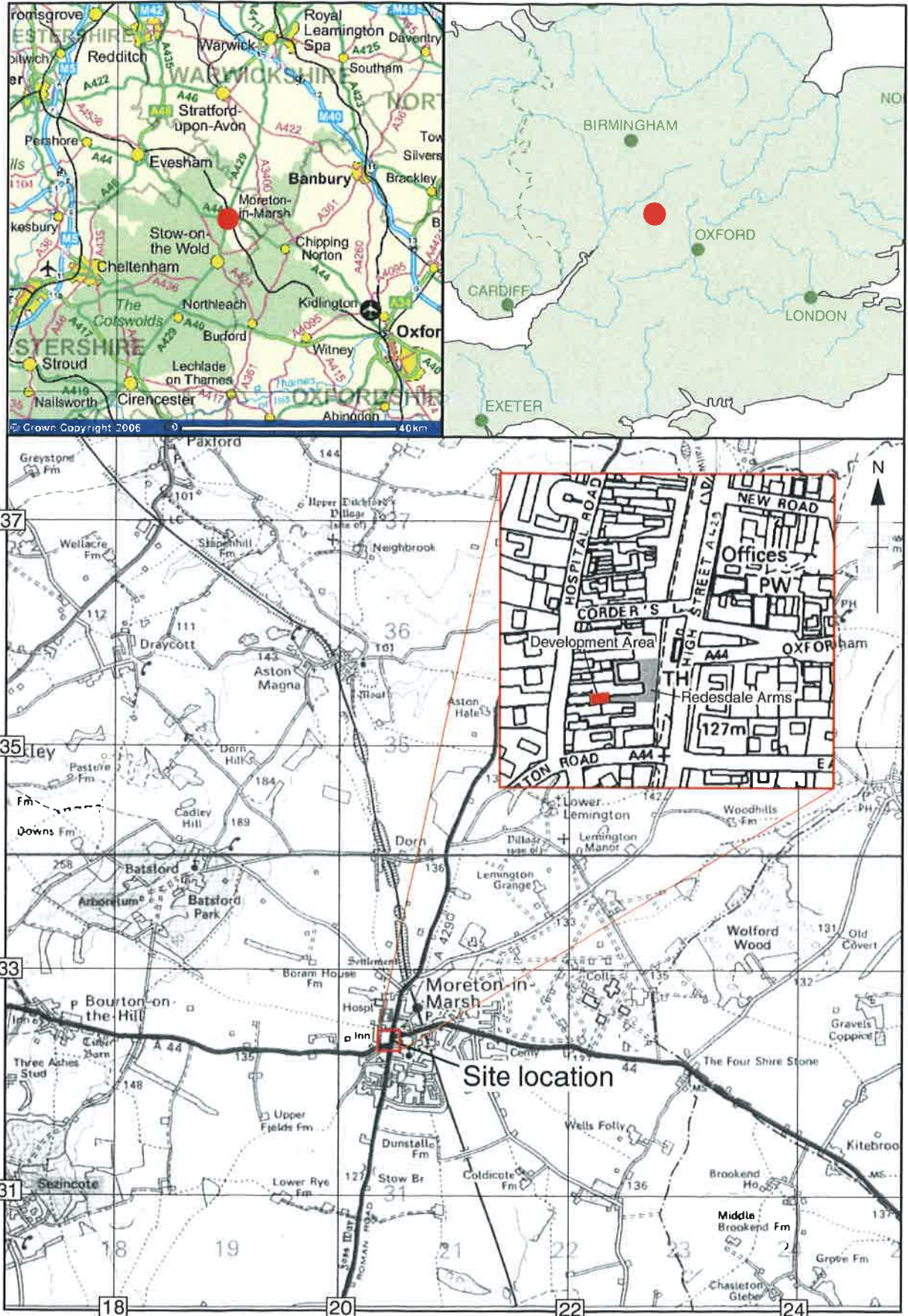
**Type of watching brief:** Machine excavation of building foundations and service trenches

**Date and duration of project:** June to October 2006, 4 site visits

**Area of site:** 300m<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of results:** The watching brief revealed worked soils overlying natural deposits. No significant archaeology was observed.

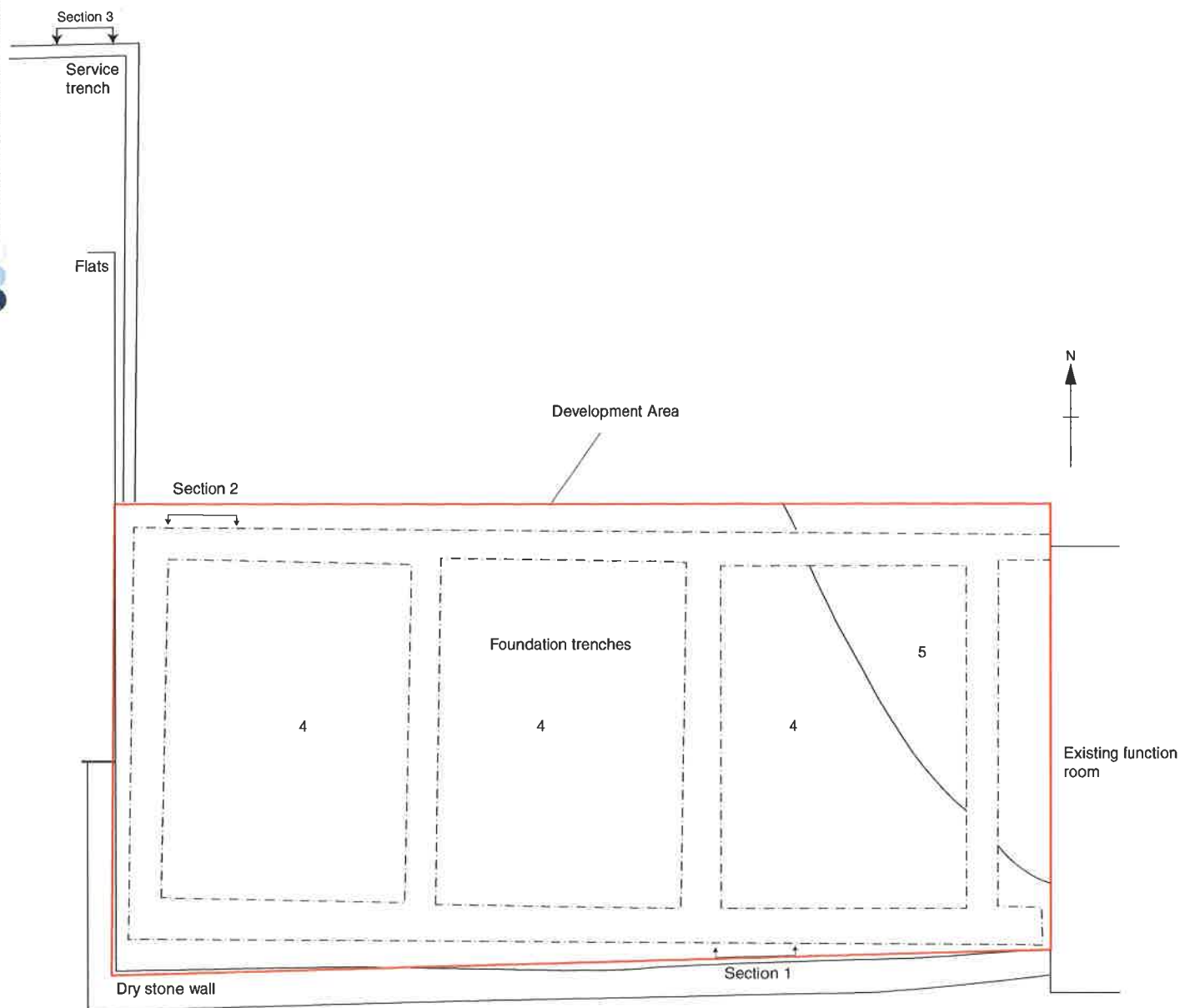
**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Corinium Museum in Cirencester in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location





0 5 m  
1:100

Figure 2: Site Plan

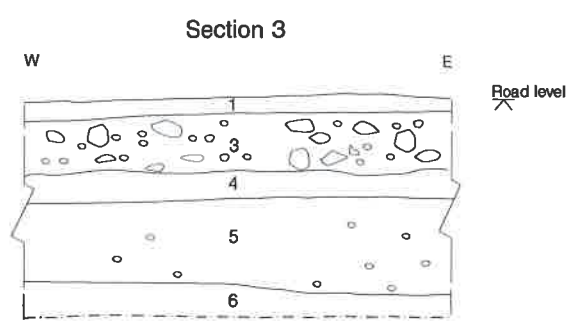
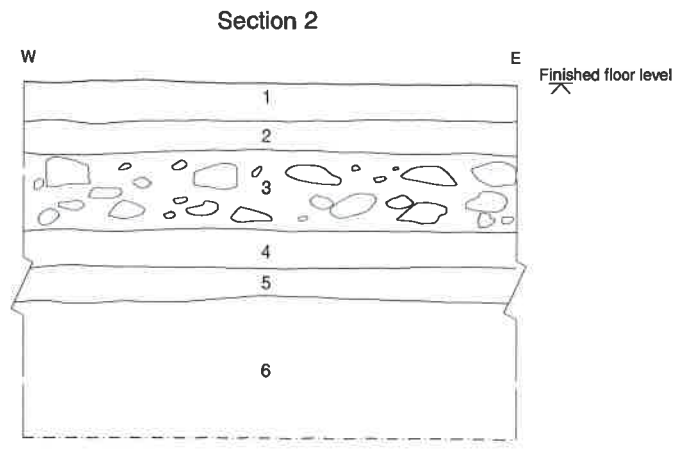
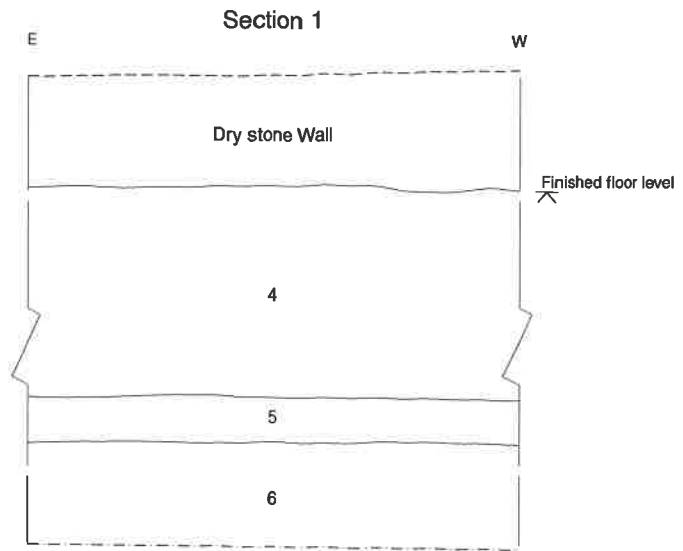


Figure 3: Section drawings



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