

Karrick House
Tanners Lane
Shrewton
Wiltshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

November 2004

Client: Mr and Mrs Manning

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2518

Planning Ref N^o: S/2004/0779

NGR: SU 068 442

Client Name: Mr. and Mrs. Manning

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wiltshire

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SU 068 442

Planning Reference: S/2004/0779

OA Job Number: 2518

Site Code: SHRKH 04

Invoice Code: SHRKHEV

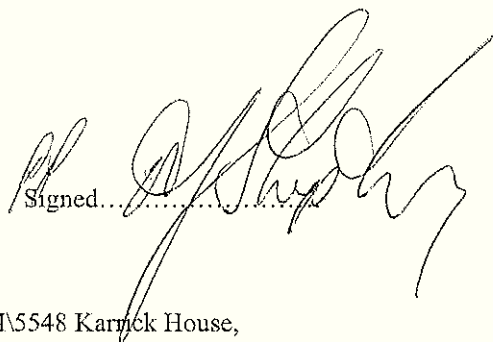
Receiving Museum: Wiltshire County Museum

Museum Accession No:

Prepared by: Mike Sims
Position: SWD Project Supervisor
Date: 23rd November 2004

Checked by: Andrew Holmes
Position: Head of Small Works
Date: 26th November 2004

Approved by: David Wilkinson
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 16th December 2004

Signed... 

Document File Location H:\PROJECTS\Wiltshire WI\5548 Karrick House,
Shrewton EV\evREp.doc

Graphics File Location Server 10:\oaupubs
1_RtoZ*SHRKH04*SHRKHEV*Karrick House,
Shrewton, Wiltshire*GS*25.11.04

Illustrated by Georgina Slater

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2004

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wiltshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 Evaluation Aims	2
3 Evaluation Methodology	2
3.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	2
3.3 Finds	2
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	2
3.5 Presentation of results	3
4 Results: General.....	3
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	3
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	3
5 Results: Descriptions	3
5.1 Description of deposits.....	3
5.2 Finds	3
6 Discussion And Interpretation.....	4
6.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	4
6.2 Overall interpretation	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 Bibliography and references.....	5
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	5

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections

SUMMARY

On November 22nd 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 068 442) on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Manning. The evaluation revealed extensive deposits of modern garden soils, an earlier worked soil and alluvial clay and gravels overlying a natural clay. Other than the worked soil no significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 On November 22nd 2004 OA carried out a field evaluation at Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 068 442, Fig. 1) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Manning, in respect of a planning application for the construction of three new dwellings (Planning Application No. S/2004/0779).

1.1.2 A brief (WCAS 2004) was set by, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (OA 2004) was agreed with Helena Cave-Penney, the Assistant Archaeologist for the Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated in the garden to the rear of Karrick House, which is located at the base of a shallow valley leading down to the River Till. The development area is bounded to the north and north-west by residential properties, to the south by a school playing field, to the west by Tanners Lane and to the east by the River Till. The site of the evaluation was level ground at approximately 79m above OD. The underlying geology is sand and river gravels overlying clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 An archaeological background to the evaluation had been prepared for the WSI, the results of which are reproduced below.

1.3.2 The development site is located within the village of Maddington, which now forms part of Shrewton, and is first documented in AD 1178. The site itself lies opposite the Manor of Shrewton, known to date from c 1602. Immediately to the south-west of the site on the other side of Tanner's Lane, a series of earthworks were identified by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) in the 1980s, and were interpreted as the remains of medieval settlement. The development of the site therefore has the potential to disturb archaeological remains dating to this period.

1.3.3 The site itself has produced no archaeological evidence to date.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the development area. In particular, attention was paid to the possibility of surviving remains relating to either the earlier development of the village or to evidence of tanning suggested by the lane's name.
- 2.1.2 To establish the palaeo-environmental potential of any features or deposits within the site.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of one trench measuring 5 m long and 1.5 m wide (Fig. 2), sited within the proposed footprint of one of the new buildings. Because of a standing tree and garden features, the location of the trench was transposed 1 m to the east, but remained within the footprint of the building.
- 3.1.2 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 1.5 ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.0 m wide toothless grading bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the first significant archaeological layer or to the top of undisturbed natural, whichever was encountered first. In addition a sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench in order to determine the depth of the alluvial deposits and to determine if these alluvial deposits sealed any earlier archaeology.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trench was cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. The trench was planned at a scale of 1:50 and sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The trench and the sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of obvious modern origin were evaluated on site but were not retained.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 No deposits deemed suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, starting with a stratigraphic description of the deposits encountered and followed by a discussion and interpretation of the site.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site was located on a very shallow east facing slope. The trench came down onto natural drift geology represented by a mixed clay and flint gravels, overlying clay.
- 4.1.2 All the soil divisions were clearly defined with little or no mixing between the contexts. Ground water was not encountered during the course of the evaluation.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits (*Fig. 3, sections*)

- 5.1.1 At the base of the sondage dug in the southern end of the trench a layer of tenacious pale yellowish brown natural clay (5), containing small rounded flint gravel was encountered at a depth of 1.2 m below ground level. This was sealed by a 0.3 m thick layer of compacted small to medium sized sub-angular flints within a brown clay matrix (4). This is a probable alluvial deposit associated with the River Till immediately to the east of the site. Overlying this context was a 0.12 m thick layer of a tenacious light brown silt clay (3), a probable alluvial or flood deposit.
- 5.1.2 Layer 3 was overlaid by a 0.35 m deep layer of a friable greyish brown clay loam (2), which produced examples of late medieval pottery and represents a worked or cultivated soil, most probably a medieval or early post-medieval plough soil. Cut into the surface of this layer was a 0.6 m wide, by 0.5 m deep service trench (7) containing a 150 mm diameter bitumen and fibre pipe. This sloped down towards the River Till and is a probable storm water drain *c.*1950. The service trench had been backfilled with redeposited soils (6).
- 5.1.3 Running the length of the trench and sealing both the pipe trench and the earlier soils was a 0.4 m thick layer of a dark brown clay loam (1), the present day garden soil.

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 Both the modern garden soil, 1, and the backfill of the service trench, 6, produced many fragments of modern brick and tile as well as fragments of transfer printed and cream ware and fragments of bottle glass. These were evaluated on site but were not retained. Fragments of earthen ware pottery with a pale yellow brown glaze were recovered from the earlier worked soil, 2, and are of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The conditions in the field were dry and clear with only minor intrusion by modern features such as the service trench.
- 6.1.2 The evaluation trench represents approximately an 8% sample of the proposed building's footprint. Given its location it should give a good reflection of the overall archaeological potential of the site.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The results of the evaluation show that no significant archaeological remains exist on the site, other than a probable buried late medieval or early post-medieval ploughsoil. Two explanations for this suggest themselves:-
- 6.2.2 The presence of the alluvial deposits, and the proximity of the River Till suggest that this site may have been prone to periodic flooding and hence no settlement or activity (other than agricultural use) had taken place within the area of the evaluation.
- 6.2.3 The depth of cultivation, of the modern garden soil and the earlier worked soil, up to 0.75 m in depth may have truncated or destroyed any archaeological deposits above the alluvial clay. However any deeper features such as ditches or pits would have cut into the underlying gravel and would have survived. This explanation is therefore considered to be less likely.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.4 m	Modern garden soils	Brick, Pottery, Glass, Plastic	C20th
2	Layer	0.35 m	Earlier worked soil, possible late medieval or early post-medieval plough soil	Pottery	C15th/C16th
3	Layer	0.12 m	Alluvial clay	-	-
4	Layer	0.3 m	Mixed clay and subangular flints, alluvial deposit	-	-
5	Layer	> 0.1 m	Natural clay	-	-
6	Fill	0.5 m	Backfill of service trench	Brick, Tile, Metal, Pottery	C20th
7	Cut	0.5 m	Cut for modern drain	-	C20th

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

IFA, 1992 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*

OA 2004 *Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wiltshire : Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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

WCAS, 2004 *Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton. Archaeological Brief, Field Evaluation*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Karrick House, Tanners Lane, Shrewton, Wiltshire

Site code: SHRKH 04

Grid reference: SU 068 442

Type of evaluation: Single machine excavated trench

Date and duration of project: 22nd November 2004, 1 day

Area of site: 96 m²

Summary of results: Extensive deposits of garden soils and earlier worked soils, alluvial deposits, no significant archaeology

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Wiltshire County Museums Service in due course.

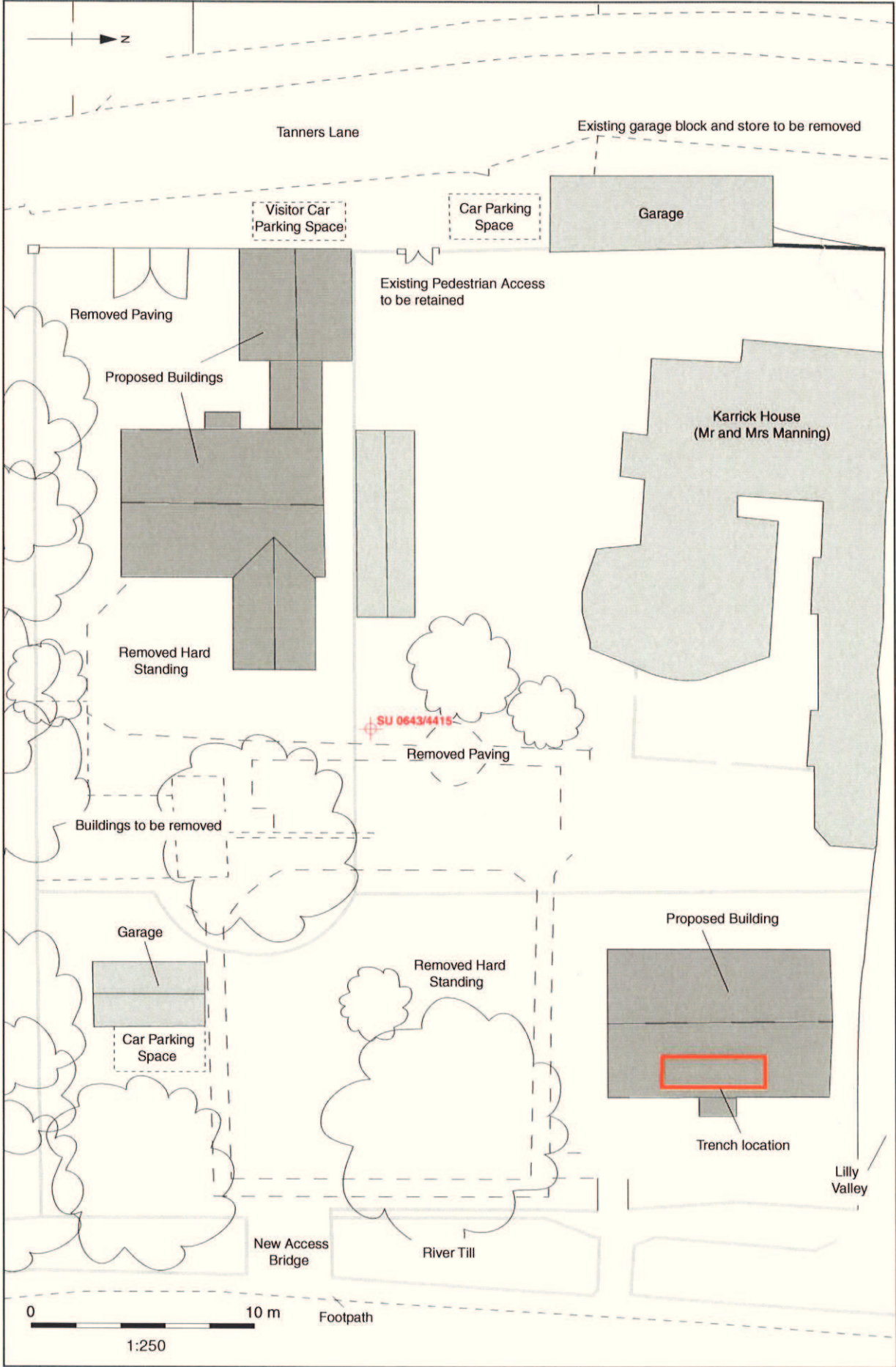


Figure 2: Trench location

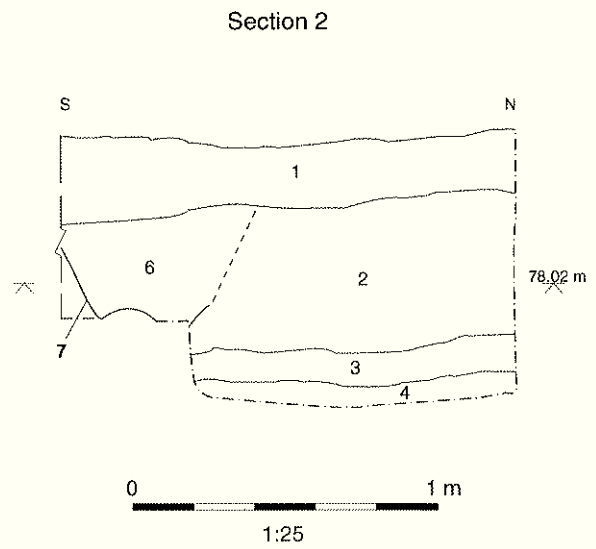
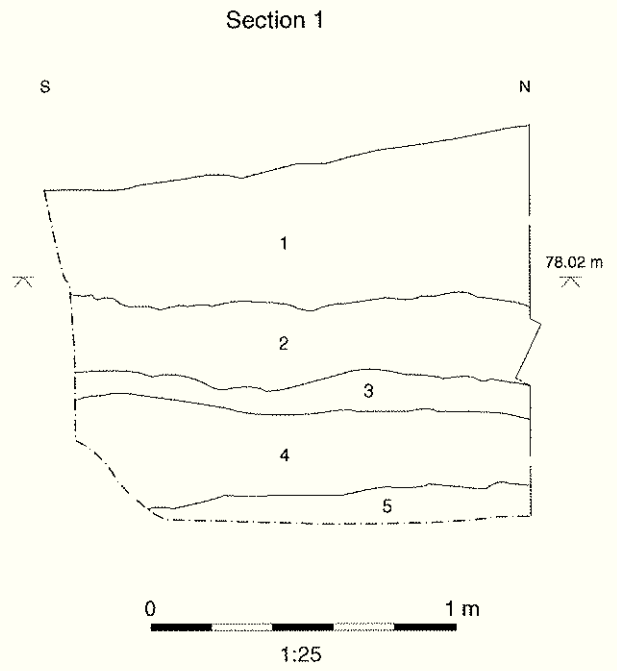
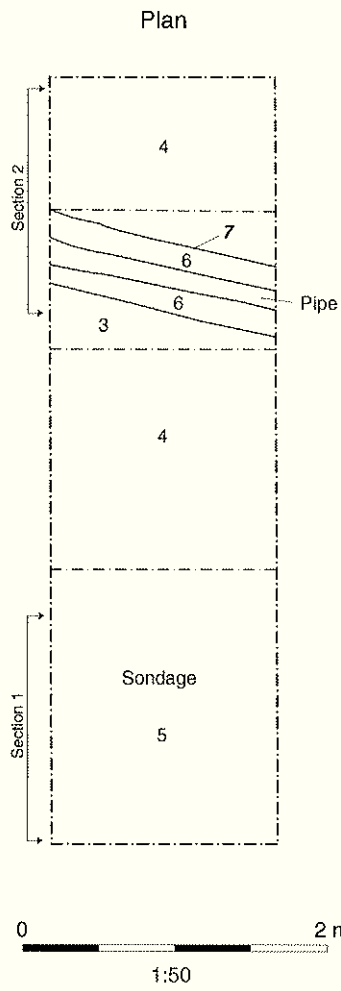


Figure 3: Trench plan and sections



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES