

**MEADOW VIEW, COGGES, WITNEY, OXFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**NGR SP 3632 0982**

**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**DECEMBER 1997**

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**NGR SP 3632 0982**

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Date: <i>5/12/97</i>
Checked by:
Date:
Approved by: <i>MR Roberts</i>
Date:

**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

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## ***Summary.***

*In October 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at Meadow View, Cogges, Witney, Oxon (NGR SP 3632 0982). The watching brief identified debris associated with the construction of the housing estate, to the base of all those trenches monitored. No archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.*

## **1. Introduction.**

The watching brief was undertaken on behalf of ComTel (Oxford Cable Ltd), and was necessitated by the fact that a portion of the excavations took place within the bounds of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 183); a programme of archaeological mitigation is required as a condition of the scheduled monument consent. It is also a condition of the planning consent, granted under PPG 16.

## **2. Background.**

Meadow View lies on the north side of Church lane, 150m to the east of Cogges Manor Farm (NGR SP 3632 0982). It lies at 82m OD on an outcrop of forest marble.

The scheduled area contains several elements of archaeological interest; on its western side is a castle of probable twelfth century date. Cogges estate was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. Earthworks in the southern half of the scheduled area would appear to indicate the presence of a medieval village together with part of an associated field system.

The fishpond lies in the northern part of the scheduled area and consists of a bank enclosing the area of the pond, now silted up. The pond is mentioned in a document of 1232/1233 AD when it is described as belonging to the Lords of Cogges. In 1984, a section was dug across the fishpond, which was found to be trapezoidal in plan. Also, the base of the pond was found to be level, and the section displayed a considerable dump of earth and building material, dated to the early 20th century, over the area of the pond to a depth of several metres. Further dating evidence recovered in the excavation would appear to suggest that the pond's use was confined to the medieval period, and that after this time it silted up naturally and was never reused.

## **3. Aims.**

To record any archaeological remains exposed on site during the course of the proposed works to previously established standards (OAU Fieldwork Manual, First Edition, 1992). The ultimate goal being the preservation by record of any archaeology, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance.

## **4. Methodology.**

The excavation of both cable trenches and junction box pits was monitored for the presence of any archaeology. Natural deposits were not exposed in any of the excavations. The cable trenches were dug to a depth of 0.40 m and the junction box

pits to an average depth of 0.50m. Within the constraints imposed by Health and Safety considerations the deposits exposed in plan and section were cleaned, inspected and recorded in plan, section and by colour slide and black and white print photography. Written records were also made on proforma sheets.

## **5. Results.**

One deposit was seen in the sections of the cable trench where it cut through grassed verges, and two others where it cut through road surfaces. No other deposits were seen nor cut features and no finds were retrieved. BT services were encountered at 0.40m in the cable trench.

(1), as seen in the grassed sections was a very mixed mid brown clay loam with 2% medium-coarse subrounded silt and 10% small-medium stones. This material contained large amounts of shredded polythene, hazard tape, newspaper, plastic strapping, heavy duty polythene sacks and other modern debris.

(2), as seen at the base of the road sections was a layer of yellow/white medium-coarse subangular sand and coarse subrounded hardcore, overlain by (3), the tarmac road surface.

## **6. Discussion.**

All those deposits exposed were modern and probably are associated with the construction of the Meadow View housing estate. No deposits relating to the medieval fishpond were exposed or disturbed.

John Dalton  
OAU  
December 1997.

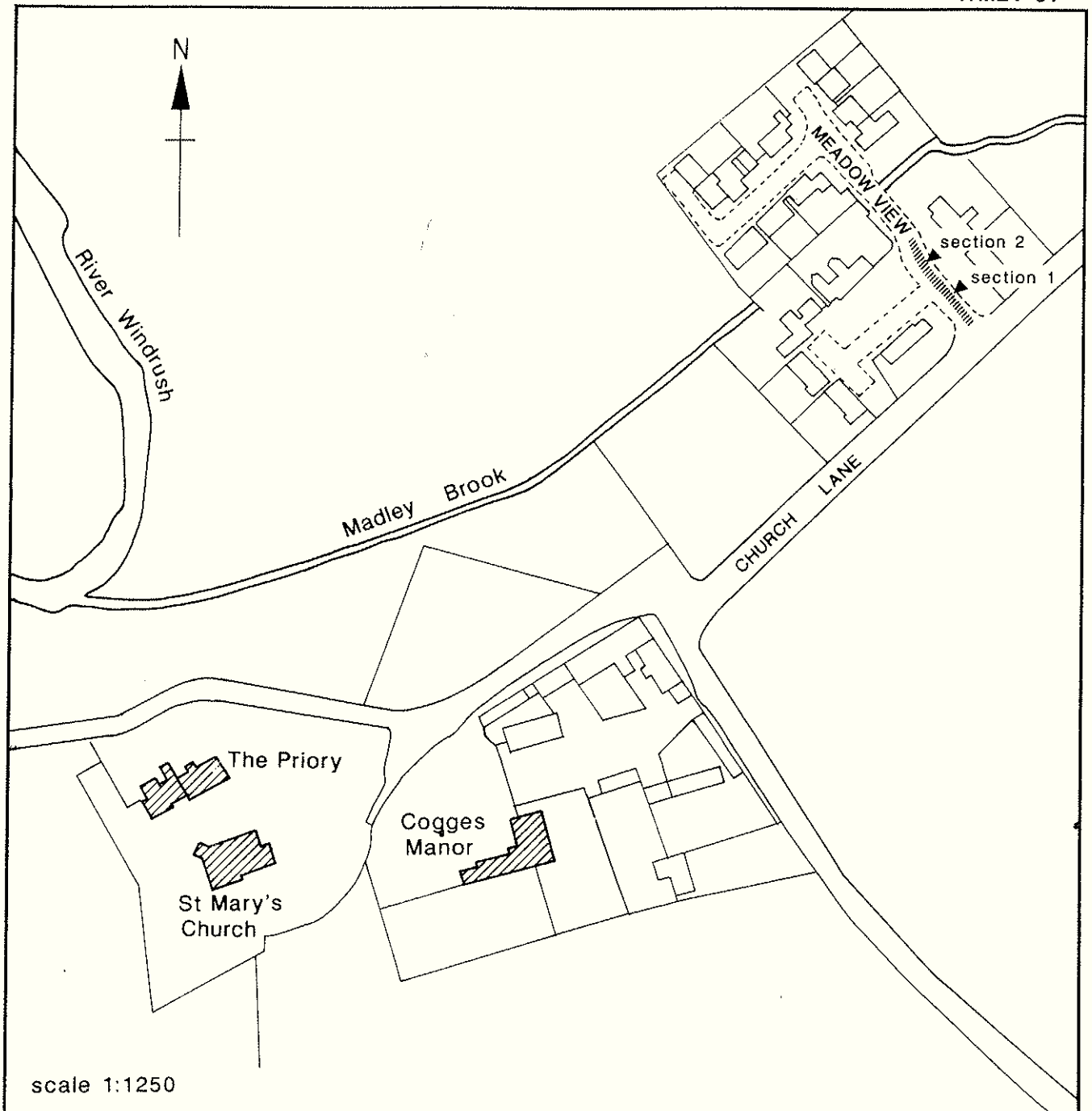


Figure 1

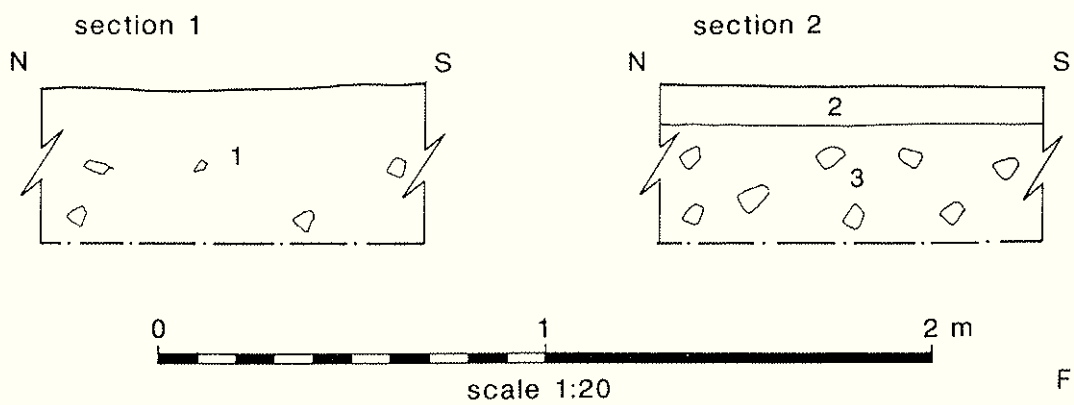


Figure 2

