

**Roderick James Architects**

**Fawler Copse, Kingston Lisle, Wantage, Oxfordshire**

*NGR SU 3206 8791*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**Planning Ref. No. KLI/2164/6**

**Oxford Archaeological Unit**

**February 1999**

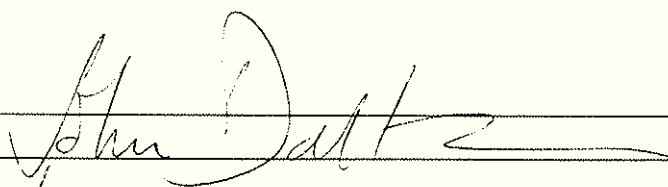
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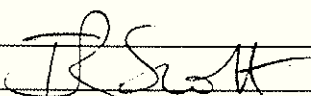
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Planning Ref. No. KLI/2164/6

Prepared by: 

Date: 8/2/99

Checked by: 

Date: 19/2/99

Approved by: R. William HEAD OF FIELDWORK

Date: 26/2/1999

Oxford Archaeological Unit

February 1999

## **Summary**

*In August and September of 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at Fawler Copse, Kingston Lisle, Wantage, Oxon (NGR SU 3206 8791). No archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.*

### **1 Introduction**

The development proposal (planning application no. KLI/2164/6) comprised the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a new house, garage and swimming pool. An archaeological watching brief was required as a condition of the planning consent, granted under PPG 16.

The watching brief was commissioned by Roderick James Architects on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hobhouse. It was undertaken to a brief set by and a WSI agreed with the Deputy County Archaeologist.

### **2 Background**

The site lies to the north-east of the Uffington White Horse and hillfort; a standing barrow, which may be Roman, lies to the south of the site. Several other prehistoric barrows and ring-ditches lie in and around the parish. Struck flints have been recovered from the site.

The place-name Fawler comes from the Old English *fagan flore* and indicates a tessellated pavement. The development area lies on the Saxon boundary between Uffington and Kingston Lisle mentioned in a 10<sup>th</sup> century charter, and is a documented Saxon holy place. The north-west of the parish was covered by a 300 acre hunting park which was emparked in 1336 by Alice de Lisle. Settlements, however, existed here; the parish church of Kingston Lisle has some 12<sup>th</sup> century elements. Occupation of this date is evidenced by the medieval pottery dating from c. 1200 to 1400 that has been recovered from the site. The site was later occupied by the 16<sup>th</sup> century Chapel of St James which was demolished in 1733. It is possible that the Chapel was surrounded by a graveyard.

The site lies in the south-east of the parish of Kingston Lisle, to the west of Fawler Copse and to the south-east of Fawler Manor. The site is located on Head and Younger Coombe deposits overlying Gault at approximately 100 m OD.

### **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 to the site. All excavation was undertaken by 360° mechanical excavator, with the spoil being heaped prior to its removal from site.

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**

The foundation trenches were dug to an average depth of c. 1 m. All excavation took place within the footprint of the demolished building, and it rapidly became apparent that this building had been constructed on a concrete and brick platform, which had only partially been removed during demolition works. This provided a level surface on a sloping site, and was being re-used for the new building. The sequence of silty loams, although heavily truncated by the platform for the demolished building, was similar across the site and allows for a general description.

The earliest deposit seen was a mid brown/gray silty clay loam, with 5% coarse subangular gravel and lenses of mid-dark gray silty clay, (3). This deposit contained fragments of housebrick and concrete and appeared to have been redeposited. Overlying this was a mid-dark gray silty loam with 10% fine-coarse subangular gravel, housebrick fragments and concrete lumps, (2). This deposit was heavily truncated by a brick and concrete platform [1] constructed for the former house on the site, and being reused for the new house. No finds were retrieved from any of the deposits seen.

## **6 Environmental results**

Due to the absence of significant archaeological deposits, no environmental soil samples were taken.

## **8 Discussion**

Heavy disturbance associated with previous construction on the site has either obscured or destroyed any archaeological traces.

## **References.**

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

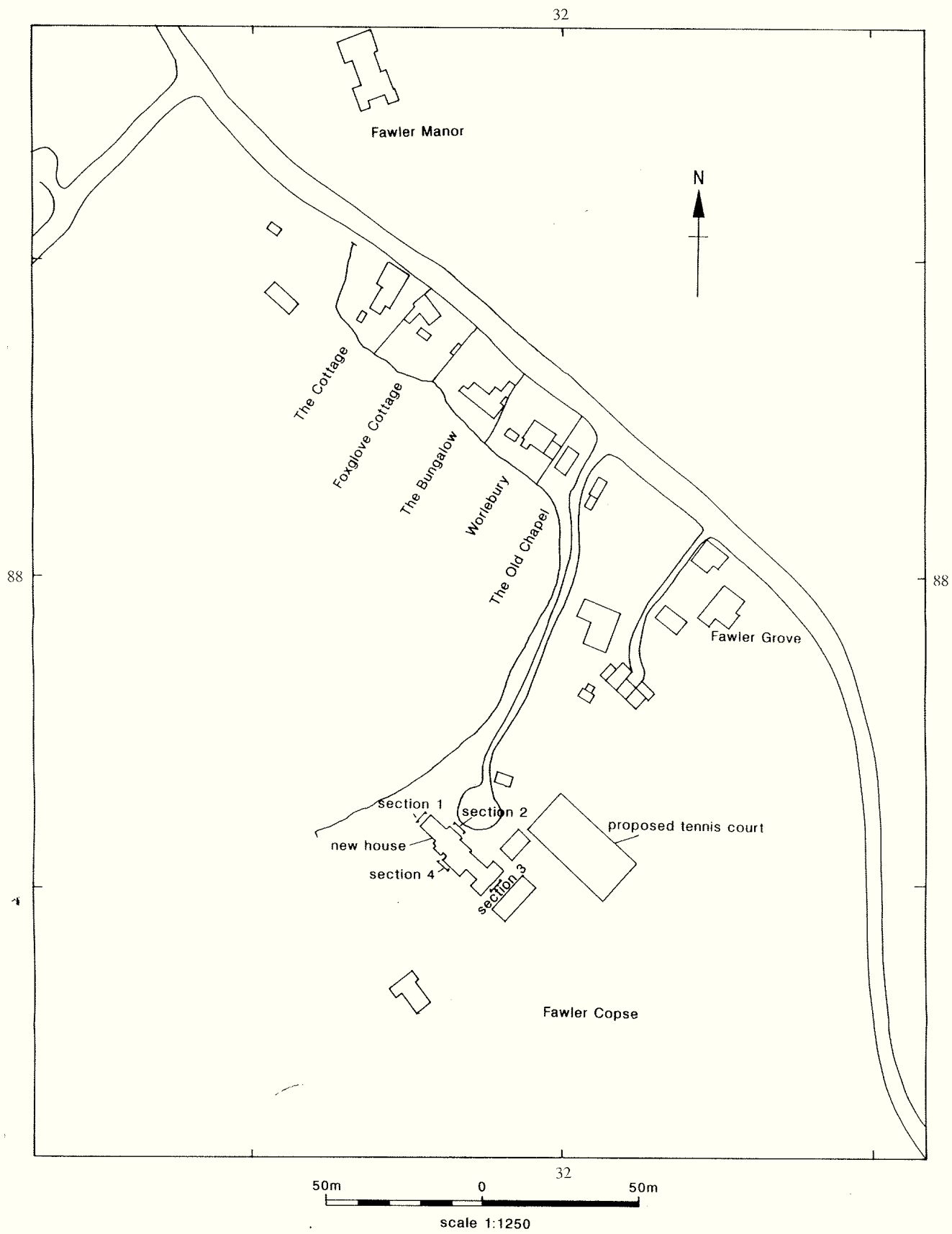


Figure 1: location of site and section locations

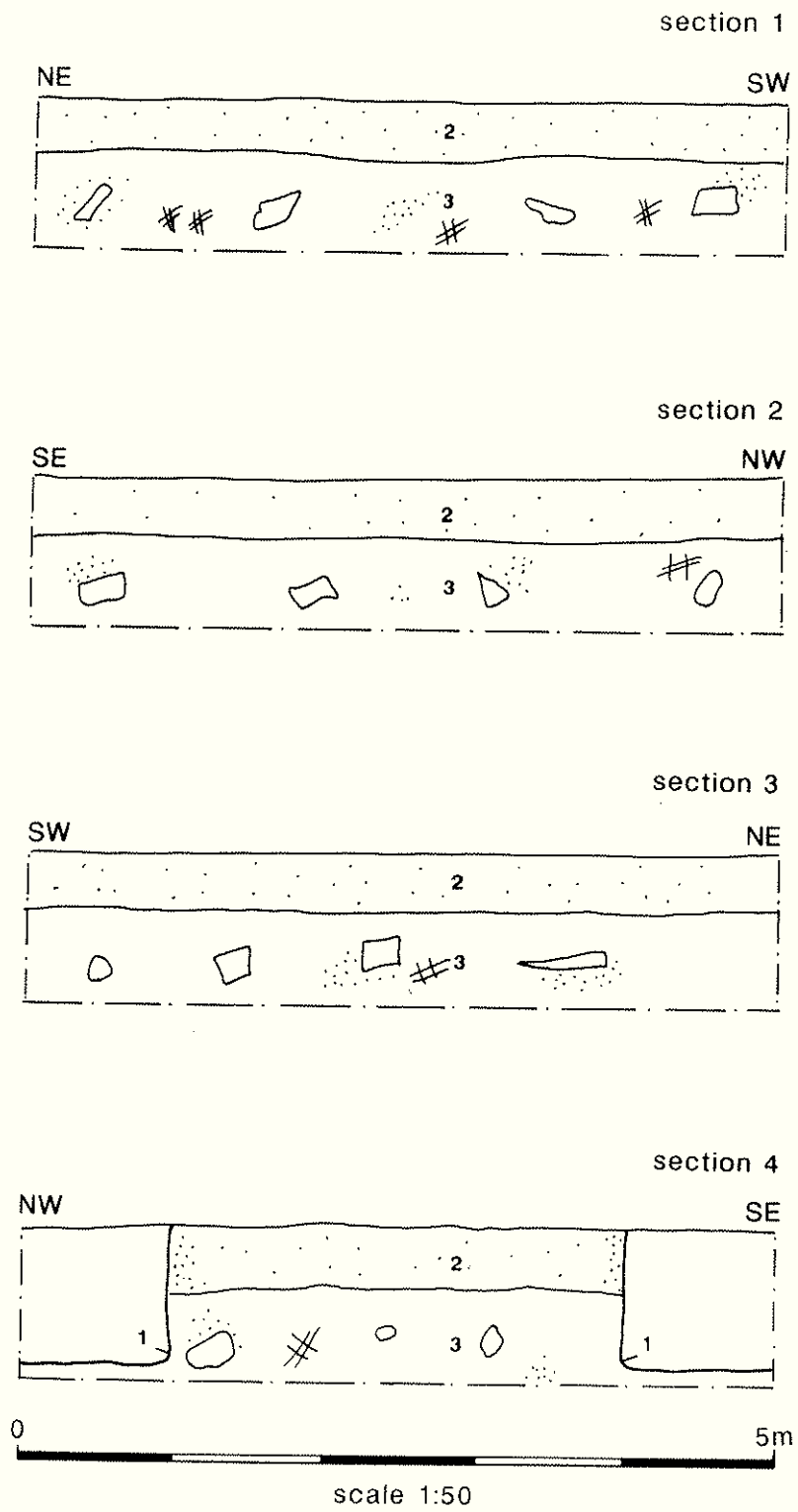


Figure 2: sections 1 to 4



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