

**99 Radley Road, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs D Pollard

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code 99RRA04-94

November 2004

Summary

Site name: 99 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5044 9773

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 26th October – 1st November 2004

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sarah Coles

Site code: 99RRA04/94

Area of site: 0.17ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were observed nor finds recovered

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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99 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 04/94

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land on the north side of Radley Road on the north western margins of Abingdon, Oxfordshire (SU 5044 9773) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Hoyle of West Waddy ADP, The Malthouse, 60 East St. Helen Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 5EB on behalf of Mr and Mrs D Pollard.

A planning consent (ABG/5920/1) has been approved by the Vale of White Horse District Council to demolish the existing house at 99 Radley Road and construct 3 new houses. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer, of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sarah Coles, Joanna Pine and Helen Moore during October and November 2004. The site code is 99RRA04/94.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises a rectangular parcel of land of 0.17ha on the north side of Radley Road (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is second terrace river gravel, which was observed on site (BGS 1971). The site lies at a height of c. 59m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been summarized in a brief for the project prepared by Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The site lies within an area from which a number of sites and finds are recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record. A Bronze Age cinerary urn and several skeletons were found in the general vicinity when the area was developed in the 19th century, along with Iron

Age pottery and Mesolithic flintwork (a microlith). A probable Roman cemetery lies some 250m to the south at Barton Farm and a possible Saxon cemetery 300m to the west in the grounds of Lady's Convent School.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the construction of the new houses. This involved examining all areas of topsoil stripping, landscaping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations and services.

Results

Following demolition, the site area was cleared of superficial deposits, but no deep topsoil removal or truncation took place (Fig. 3).

The house plots

The footings for plot 1 comprised the digging of trenches 0.8m wide and 1m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.2m of topsoil, 0.6m of brown sandy silt subsoil with the natural red/brown sandy silt at 0.8m (Fig. 4). No archaeological deposits were observed.

The footings for plot 2 comprised the digging of trenches between 0.6m and 1.5m wide and between 1.1m and 1.5m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m–0.5m of made ground above 0.4–0.6m of brown sandy silt subsoil with the natural red/brown sandy silt with gravel at 0.6m. No archaeological deposits were observed.

The footings for plot 3 comprised the digging of trenches which varied in width between 0.4m and 1.6m and 1.2m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.3m of made ground, above 0.3–0.6m of brown sandy silt subsoil with the natural red/brown sandy silt with gravel at between 0.7m and 1.2m. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Soakaway

A soakaway pit at the northern end of the site was observed. It was 2m by 1.5m across and *c.* 2m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.1m of topsoil above 0.3m of brown sandy silt subsoil with the natural red/brown sandy silt with gravel at 0.5. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

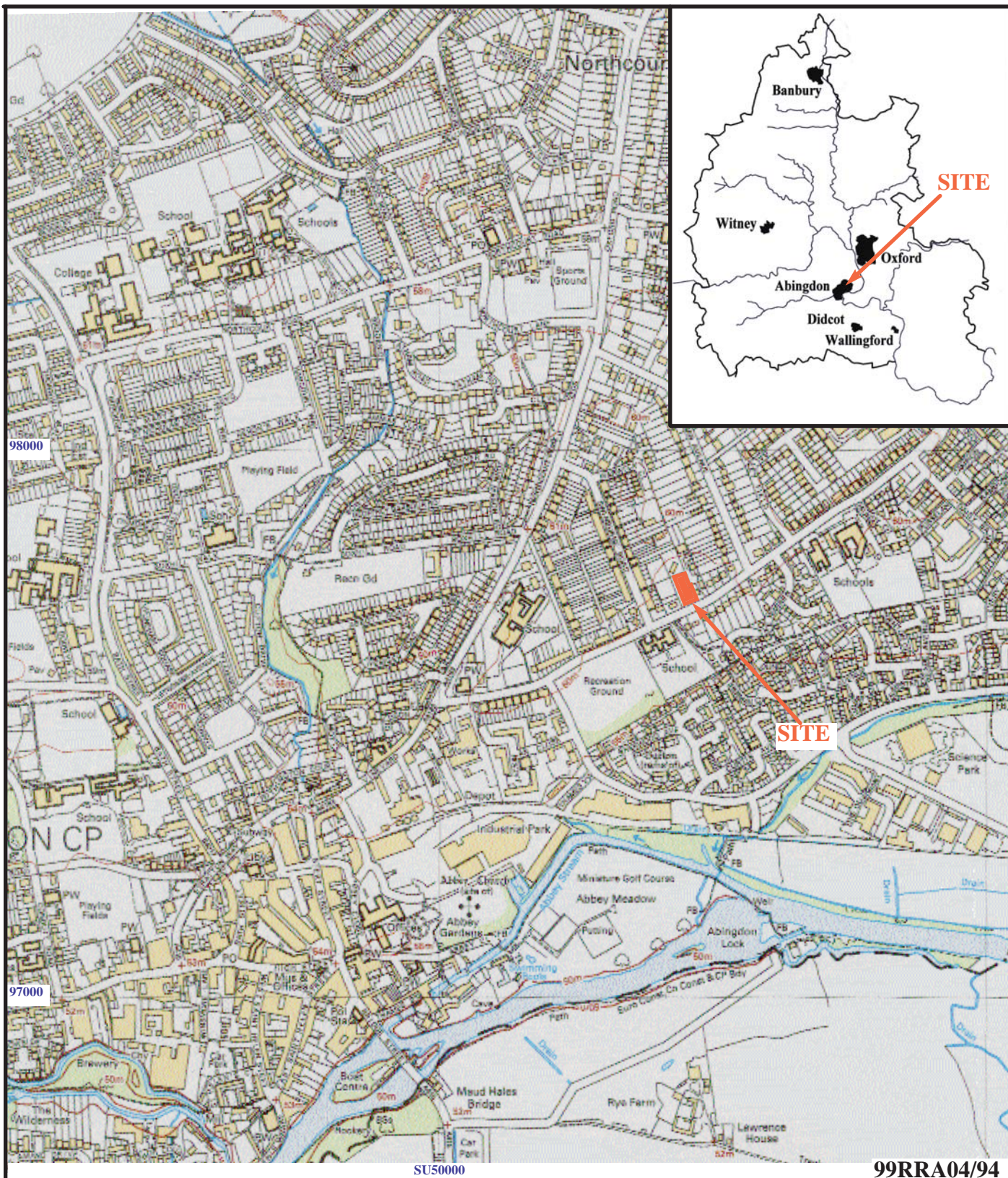
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief has not observed any deposits of archaeological interest nor recovered any archaeological finds.

References

BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, Sheet 253 solid and drift edition 1:63360, Keyworth
OCAS, 2004, '99, Radley Road, Abingdon; design brief for archaeological watching brief' Oxfordshire County
Archaeological Services, Oxford
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



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Figure 1. Location of site within Abingdon and Oxfordshire.

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 A R C H A E O L O G I C A L
 S E R V I C E S



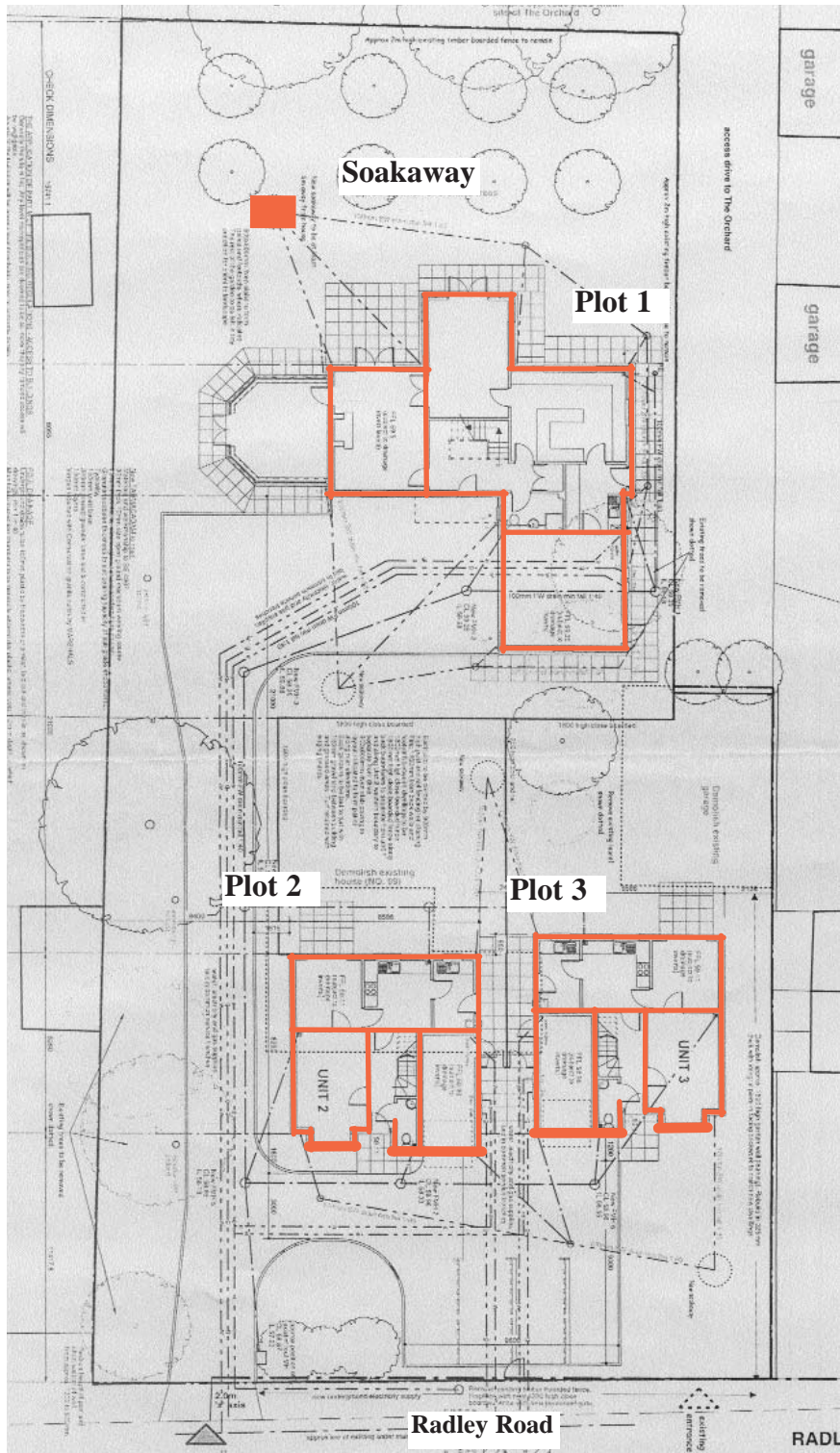
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Figure 2. Location of site on Radley Road.

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Figure 3. Detail of site showing areas observed.

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Plot 1



Plot 3

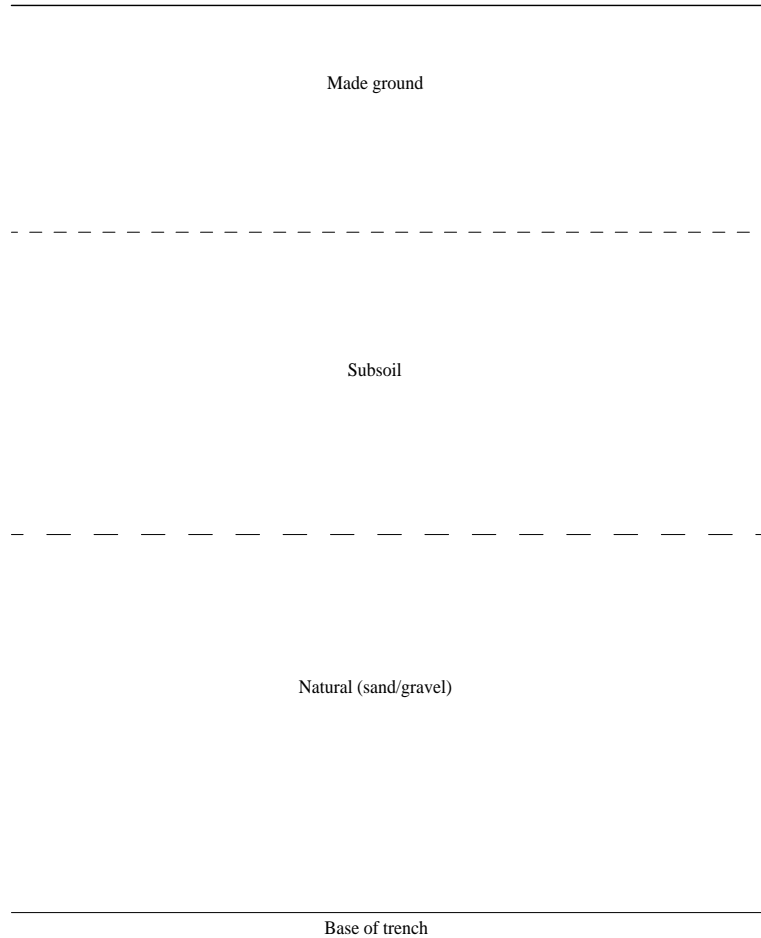


Figure 4. Representative Sections.