

East Paddock, Drayton Mill, Drayton, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Mr. Les Wells

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DMD 02/13

February 2002

Summary

Site name: East Paddock, Drayton Mill, Drayton, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 4909 9340

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th February 2002

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: DMD 02/13

Area of site: 0.38 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeological features were identified

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The site archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 15.02.02 |
| | Joanna Pine ✓ 15.02.02 |

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Report 02/13

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at East Paddock, Drayton Mill, Drayton, Oxfordshire (SU 4909 9340) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Tim Midgley of 1 Mather House, White Road, East Hendred, Wantage, OX12 8JG on behalf of Mr. Les Wells of East Paddock, Drayton Mill, Drayton, Oxfordshire.

Planning permission is being sought from Vale of White Horse District Council to redevelop the site for housing (DRA/445/20 and DRA/445/21). As it is possible that the development area may contain archaeological remains, a programme of archaeological work in the form of a field evaluation has been requested.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Districts policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Danielle Colls on the 13th February 2002 and the site code is DMD 02/13. 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 is located to the south east of Drayton and lies on the east side of Milton Road to the east of Drayton Mill (Fig. 1). Just to the south is a small valley occupied by Mill Brook. The area of the site is approximately 0.38 hectares and lies at a height of approximately 55m OD. The geology is loam overlying second terrace gravel (BGS 1971) which was observed in only one trench; the others contained yellow- grey clay.

Archaeological background

The site lies just to the south of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 248) complex comprising an extensive set of cropmarks representing several periods. These include a Neolithic cursus, Bronze Age ring ditches and a Saxon palace complex (Chadwick-Hawkes 1986, plate 8c). Also close by are two Saxon cemeteries. Recent

work on the mill site to the south west including an evaluation (Ford 1995) and a watching brief (OAU 2001) located some finds and deposits of Saxon date.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The brief for the evaluation required a 2% sample of the site area which was to be undertaken in the form of three 15m trenches. All machining would be carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Where certain or possible archaeological features were located the relevant areas would be cleaned using the appropriate hand tools and a sufficient number of features would be excavated to satisfy the terms of the brief. This would be carried out in a manner that did not compromise the integrity of any archaeological features that warrant preservation in-situ or might better be dealt with under conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoilheaps would be monitored for finds.

A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

The three trenches dug ranged in length from 15.5-15.8m and in depth from 0.90- 1.10m (Fig.2). They were all 1.6m wide. Trench 1 revealed made ground overlying sandy silt and silty clay before a grey-green clay was encountered (Fig.3). A modern disturbance was observed at the south-western end of this trench and a modern service also crossed the trench. A similar sequence of stratigraphy was also observed in Trench 2 though topsoil was present instead of made ground. Trench 3 revealed made ground overlying a silty clay above gravel

No features or deposits of an archaeological nature were located in any of the evaluation trenches and no stray finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Conclusion

Despite the number of archaeological sites present in the nearby location no features or deposits of an archaeological nature were located in any of the three evaluation trenches. It is, therefore most unlikely that the construction of the proposed buildings will cause any damage to buried archaeological deposits.

References

BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 253, Drift Edition, Keyworth

Ford, S, 1995, Drayton Mill, Drayton, Oxfordshire, An archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 95/8, Reading

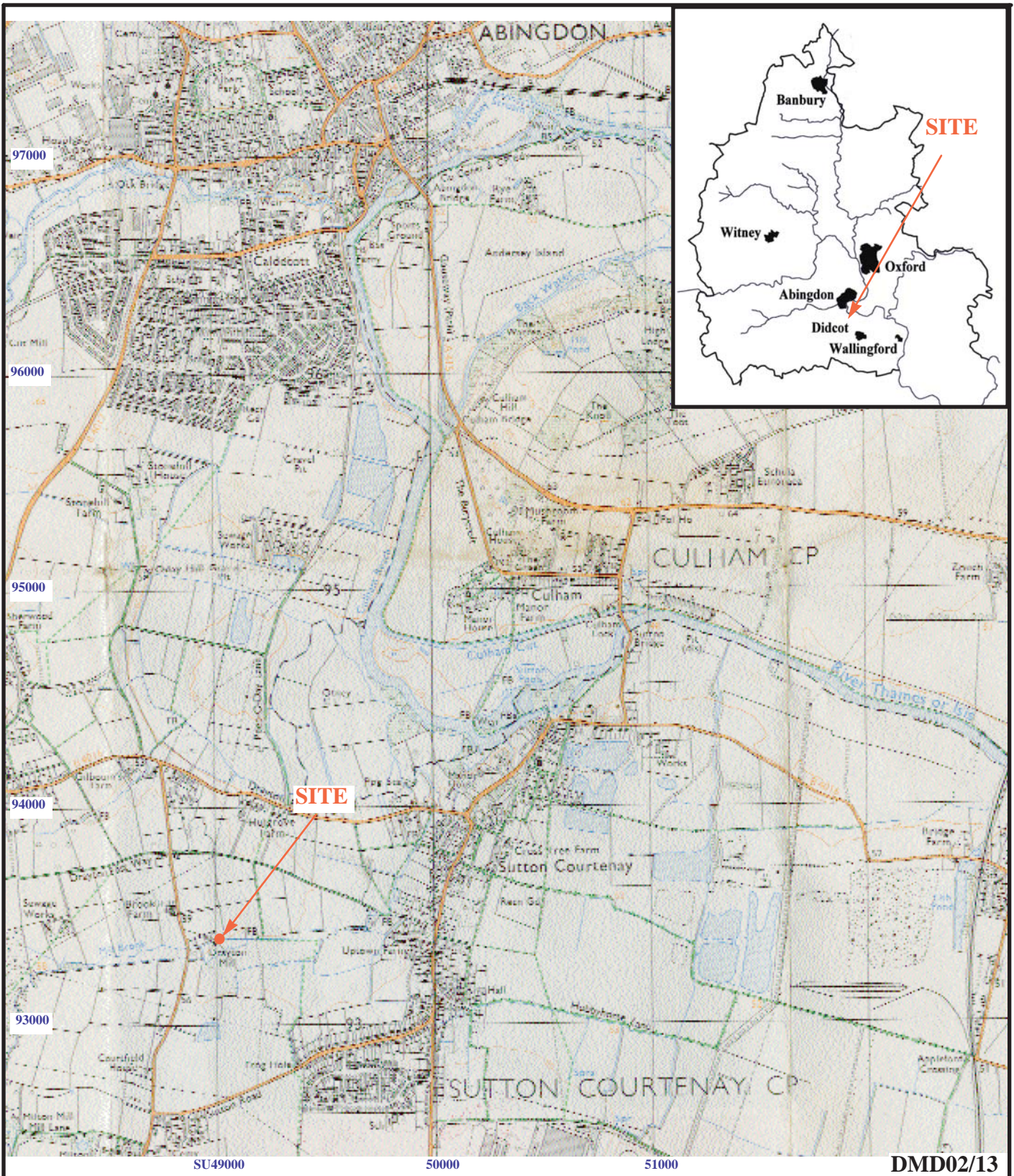
Chadwick-Hawkes, S, 1986, 'The early Anglo-Saxon period' in G Briggs, J Cook and T Rowley (eds), *The Archaeology of the Oxford Region*, Oxford Univ Dept of External Studies, Oxford, 64–108

OAU, 2001, Drayton Mill, Drayton, Oxfordshire, An archaeological watching brief, Oxford Archaeological Unit, Oxford

PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

| <i>Trench No.</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | 15.50 | 1.60 | 1.10 | 0.00m-0.36m made ground; 0.36m-0.66m mid brown sandy silt; 0.66m-1.06m silty alluvium; 1.06m+ green blue grey clay natural |
| 2 | 15.80 | 1.60 | 0.90 | 0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.80m mid brown silty clay; 0.80m+ grey green clay natural |
| 3 | 15.70 | 1.60 | 0.96 | 0.00m-0.28m made ground; 0.28m-0.76m mid brown silty clay overlying gravel |



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Figure 1. Location of site at Drayton Mill and Oxfordshire.

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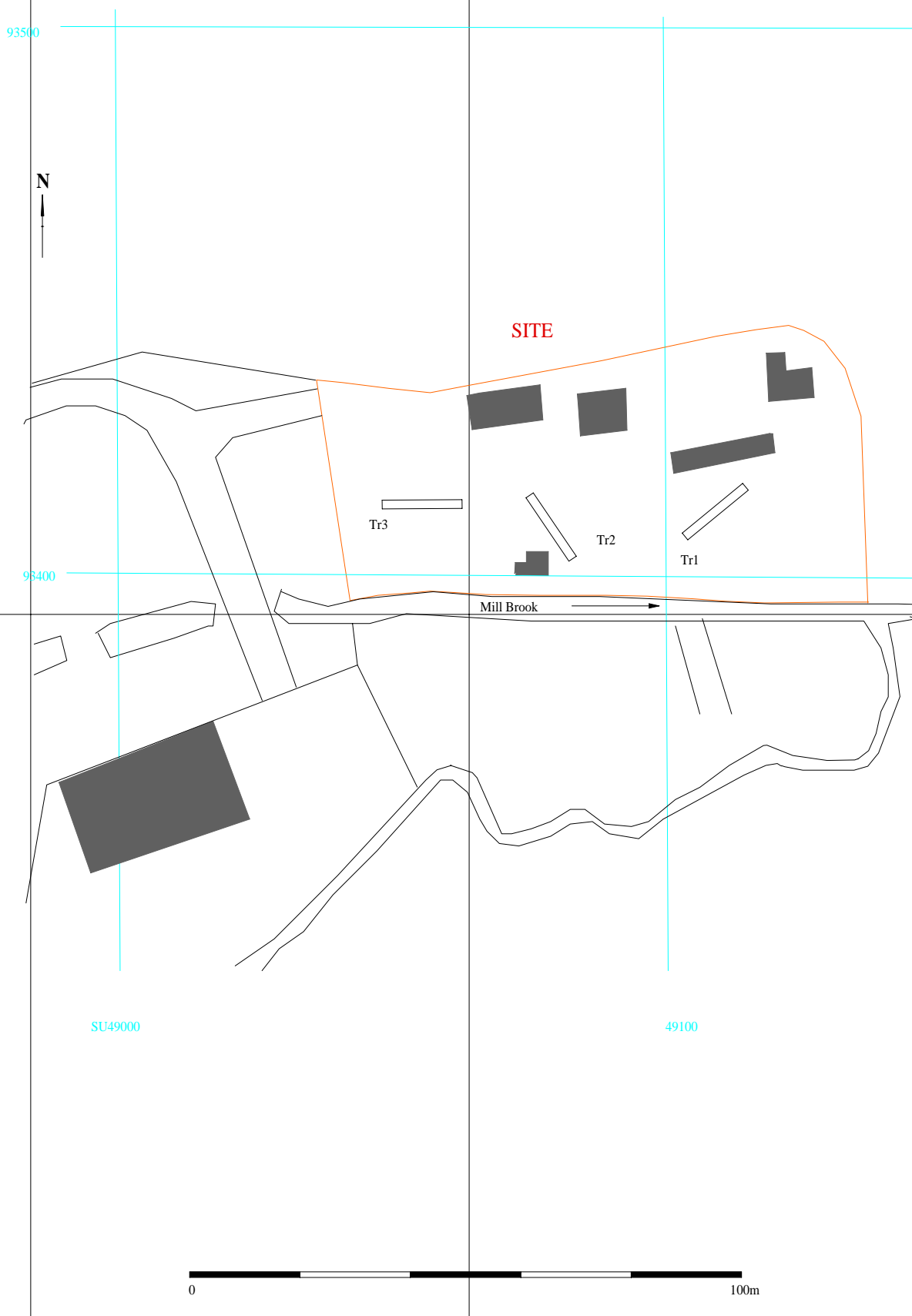


Figure 2. Location of Trenches

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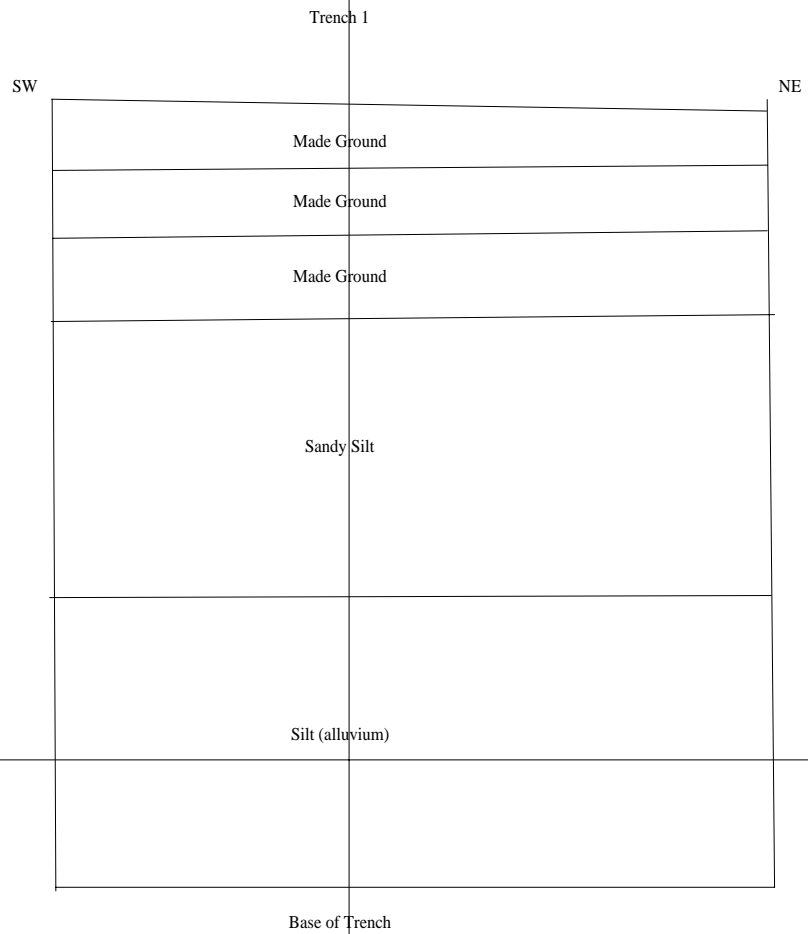


Figure 3. Representative Section of Trench 1



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north, scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking northeast, scales: 1m and 2m.