Units 1-6
Malthouse Walk
Banbury
Oxfordshire

Archaeological
Watching Brief Report

Oxford Archaeology
April 2004

Client: Stokedale Cala Ltd
Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 2133
NGR: SP 4578 4054
Client Name: Stokedale Cala Ltd

Document Title: Units 1 - 6, Malthouse Walk, Banbury, Oxfordshire

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: NGR SP 4578 4054

OA Job Number: 2133

Site Code: BAMAUI 04

Invoice Code: BAMAUIWB

Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum Service

Museum Accession No: OXCMS:2004.1

Prepared by: James Mumford

Position: Supervisor

Date: 16th April 2004

Checked by: Alan Hardy

Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: 16th April 2004

Approved by: Jon Hiller

Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: 21st April 2004

Document File Location: U:/OAU/wbREPORTS/Oxfordshire/BAMAUI.doc

Graphics File Location: Server 10:oupubs 1/All drawings *BANMWB*

Malthouse Walk, Banbury 6jm*16.04.04

Illustrated by: Julia Moxham

Signed: [Signature]

Head of

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 or party using or relying on this document for such 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 or party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2004

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

Tel: (0044) 01865 263800
Fax: (0044) 01865 793496

E: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
W: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627
Units 1 - 6, Malthouse Walk, Banbury, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary .............................................................................................................. 1
1 Introduction ................................................................................................. 1
   1.1 Location and scope of work ................................................................. 1
   1.2 Geology and topography ...................................................................... 1
   1.3 Archaeological and historical background .......................................... 1
2 Project Aims and Methodology ................................................................. 2
   2.1 Aims ...................................................................................................... 2
   2.2 Methodology ......................................................................................... 2
3 Results .......................................................................................................... 2
   3.1 Description of deposits ...................................................................... 2
   3.2 Finds .................................................................................................... 2
   3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains ............................................................ 3
4 Discussion and Conclusions ................................................................. 3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory ........................................... 4
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References .................................................. 4
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details .......................................................... 4

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Area of development
Fig. 3 Site plan showing location of new foundations, new service trench and Section 1
Fig. 4 Section 1
SUMMARY

From February to March 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Units 1 - 6, Malthouse Walk, Banbury, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 4578 4054). The work was commissioned by Stockdale Cala Limited in advance of a rear extension and new shop front windows for 1-6 Malthouse Walk. The watching brief revealed archaeological remains pre-dating the 19th and 20th century development of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 From February to March 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Units 1 - 6, Malthouse Walk, Banbury, Oxfordshire (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Stockdale Cala Limited in respect of a planning application for a rear extension and new shop front windows for 1-6 Malthouse Walk.

1.1.2 A project brief was set by Hannah Fluck, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire Country Archaeological Service (OCAS 2003).

1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Lias at 94 m above OD. The site is situated at 1-6 Malthouse Walk in the centre of Banbury (SP 4578 4054).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2003) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 The site of the proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential. It is within the historic core of Banbury c. 100 m south of the site of the castle which was constructed by Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln in the early 12th century and destroyed in the 17th century after the Civil War.

1.3.3 Immediately to the south of the proposed site an archaeological evaluation by Oxford Archaeology (OA) in 1998 at the corner of George Street and Cherwell Street revealed medieval deposits and features (OAU 1998).

1.3.4 Other archaeological evaluations in the area have revealed medieval deposits and features, suggesting that this area of Banbury was a centre of settlement during the medieval period.
2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.

2.1.2 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 After parts of the existing building were demolished for the new redevelopment, the foundations for the new extension at the rear of the building were excavated with a mini excavator. When the foundation had been laid and the new build started the service trench was started to connect the services. This was all carried out under archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:200 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (Ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Foundation Trenches (Fig. 3)

3.1.1 The foundation trenches cut into a natural blue Lias clay (4), which sloped from 0.6 m to 1 m towards the north-west of the site. This was sealed below a loose reddish brown sand and gravel (3) made ground for the car park at the rear of the building. Sealing this was a 0.2 m thick concrete surface (2) with a later 0.1 m thick tarmac surface (1).

Service Trench (Figs 3 and 4)

3.1.2 The service trench was 0.7 m wide and 2 m in depth and cut into the natural blue Lias clay (4). This was overlain by a 0.14 m thick layer of light reddish brown silty clay (5), which included building debris. This had been cut by broad shallow foundation cut (6). This measured 3.6 m x 0.7 m x 0.3 m and was filled by layer of light grey mortar (7) in which the remains of a three course high brick wall (9) was built. It measured 1.2 m x 0.35 m x 0.32 m and had a brick floor (8) laid against it. This was also bedded into the mortar base (7). Overlying this structure and layer 5 was a 0.2 m thick layer of modern ground make up (10) of orange brown sand and gravel similar to layer (3) observed in the foundation trenches. Sealing this was a 0.15 m thick layer of hardcore (11) under the tarmac surface (12).

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The watching brief did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits or features. The remains of a 19th century brick outbuilding and its brick laid floor were uncovered in the service trench. The results showed that the site had been cleared and levelled in the 19th century, and was developed with terraced houses and a brewery (OAU 1998). The site had then been cleared and levelled again in the 20th century for the construction of the present shop and retail buildings.
APPENDIX 1  ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Depth</th>
<th>Width</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tarmac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Concrete surface</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ground make up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue Lias Clay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Disturbed ground make up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation cut</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mortar base</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brick floor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wall foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ground make up</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Harricore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tarmac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPENDIX 2  BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2003 1-6 Malthouse Walk, Banbury, Oxfordshire Written Scheme of Investigation

OCAS 2003 Design brief for an archaeological watching brief.


OAU 1998 Land at Cherwell Street/George Street, Banbury Archaeological Evaluation Report

APPENDIX 3  SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Units 1 - 6, Malthouse Walk, Banbury, Oxfordshire
Site code: BAMAUL04
Grid reference: NGR SP 4578 4054
Type of watching brief: Ground work for the construction of new rear extension and services.
Date and duration of project: A total of nine visits from the 9/2/04 to the 26/3/04.
Area of site: 35 m x 13 m
Summary of results: The watching brief revealed archaeological remains pre-dating the 19th and 20th century development of the site.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2004.1
Figure 1: Site location.
Figure 4: Section 1
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, No: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, No: 285627

Registered Office:
Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES