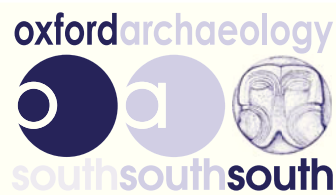


# Banbury Gateway Land North of Wildmere Road



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



September 2013

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# **Banbury Gateway. Land North of Wildmere Road.**

## *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Gerry Thacker*

*and illustrated by Markus Dylewski and Matt Bradley*

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## **Summary**

*Between the 22nd and 24th of July 2013 Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at Banbury Gateway, Land North of Wildmere Road. The evaluation consisted of four trenches, which revealed plough furrows of probable medieval or post medieval date and land drains. No finds were recovered.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The site is located on the north-eastern edge of Banbury, on the northern edge of the Wildmere Industrial Estate, and immediately to the west of the M40 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted by Cherwell District Council for the construction of new retail units, servicing, landscape works and associated access (Planning reference 11/01870/F).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation consisted of four trenches, each measuring 20m long and 1.5m wide (Fig. 2).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is generally level and lies at around 94m OD. The geology of the area is Alluvium above Lower Lias. The current land use of the field is pasture, with poorly preserved ridge and furrow present in the south-eastern corner.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the project has been discussed within the WSI and also a Desk based Assessment (GK Heritage 2012, 2013 respectively), and is briefly summarised below.
- 1.3.2 Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence has been recorded around 1km to the north of the site, along with possible evidence of a Bronze Age ring ditch. Further Iron Age settlement evidence has been recorded 1.5km to the south-west.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to acknowledge Guy Kendall who commissioned the evaluation. And Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Council who monitored the work. The evaluation was run for OA by James Mumford with the assistance of Ben McAndrew, and was managed by Gerry Thacker.





## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to:

- (i) gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits;
- (ii) undertake the excavation of four trenches each measuring 20m by 1.5m;
- (iii) excavate and record archaeological features and deposits of interest;
- (iv) undertake sufficient post-excavation analysis to confidently interpret archaeological features and phasing identified during site works;
- (v) undertake sufficient post-excavation analysis of artefacts and samples to interpret their significance;
- (vi) report and as necessary publish the results of the archaeological work;
- (vii) compile and deposit a site archive at a suitable public repository.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The trenches were located by a Global Positioning System (GPS), and were opened by a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 The trenches were photographed and sample sections cleaned and drawn. All of the deposits encountered were recorded on *pro forma* context trench sheets. Measured sketch plans were drawn to locate the revealed plough furrows and land drains.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Trenches are described below, and a descriptions and dimensions of all deposits form the contents of the table in Appendix A. Trench locations are shown on Fig. 2, and representative sections of each trench are shown on Fig. 3.

#### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 All trenches contained topsoil and subsoil. Ground conditions were good throughout, and all of the trenches remained dry.

#### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Only plough furrows and land drains were encountered.

#### 3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 The trench contained a single plough furrow broadly orientated west-east, that ran in along the length of the trench.

#### 3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 The trench contained a three west-east orientated plough furrows, one of which had a land drain inserted within it. The remaining depth of the furrows was around 0.1m.

#### 3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 The trench contained a single west-east orientated land drain.

#### 3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 The trench cut across a single broadly west east orientated plough furrow that had a land drain inserted within it.

#### 3.8 Finds summary

3.8.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation, and no deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were identified.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The revealed plough furrows and land drains were easily visible beneath the subsoil. Had other, earlier archaeological features been present, they would have been observed.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were met. Namely the absence of archaeological features pre-dating the plough furrows was noted within the location of the four trenches.

### 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 There is no evidence within the locations examined for any archaeological activity except ridge and furrow agriculture. The furrows were later replaced by land drains.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		W-E
Trench partly dug along the length of a plough furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of light yellow brown silty clay with occasional red clay patches.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.48
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		N-S
Trench contained shallow remnants of plough furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange brown sandy clay .				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.6
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology, and contained a single land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange brown clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.8
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, and contained a single plough				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.58



furrow replaced by an inserted land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey brown clay with occasional limestone outcrops.					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Length (m)</b>	20
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

GK Heritage 2012. Banbury Gateway. Land North of Wildmere Road. Desk Based Assessment.

GK Heritage 2013. Banbury Gateway. Land North of Wildmere Road. Written Scheme of Investigation.



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Banbury Gateway. Land North of Wildmere Road

**Site code:** BAGW 13

**Grid reference:** SP 4678 4229

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date and duration:** Between the 22nd and 24th of July 2013

**Area of site:** c. 0.78 Hectares

**Summary of results:** Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at Banbury Gateway, Land North of Wildmere Road. The evaluation consisted of four trenches, which revealed plough furrows of probable medieval or post medieval date and land drains. No finds were recovered.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service under the accession number OXCMS:2013.106.



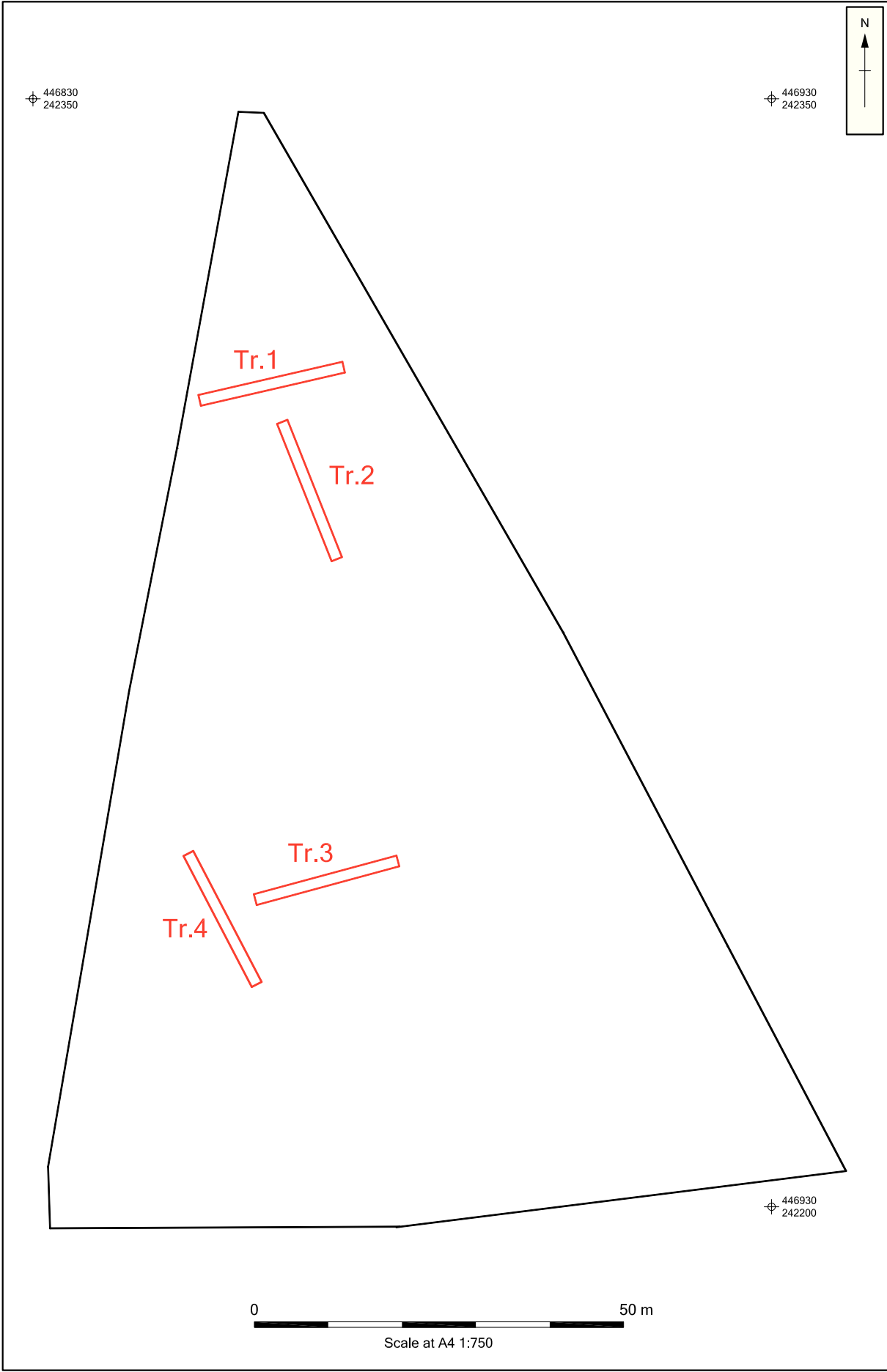




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Figure 1: Site location

X:\b\Banbury Gateway\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\001\current\BIL\OE\080813.dwg(Fig 2)\*\*\*\*hannah.kennedy\* 20 Sep 2013



CHECKED BY:

Figure 2: Trench Location

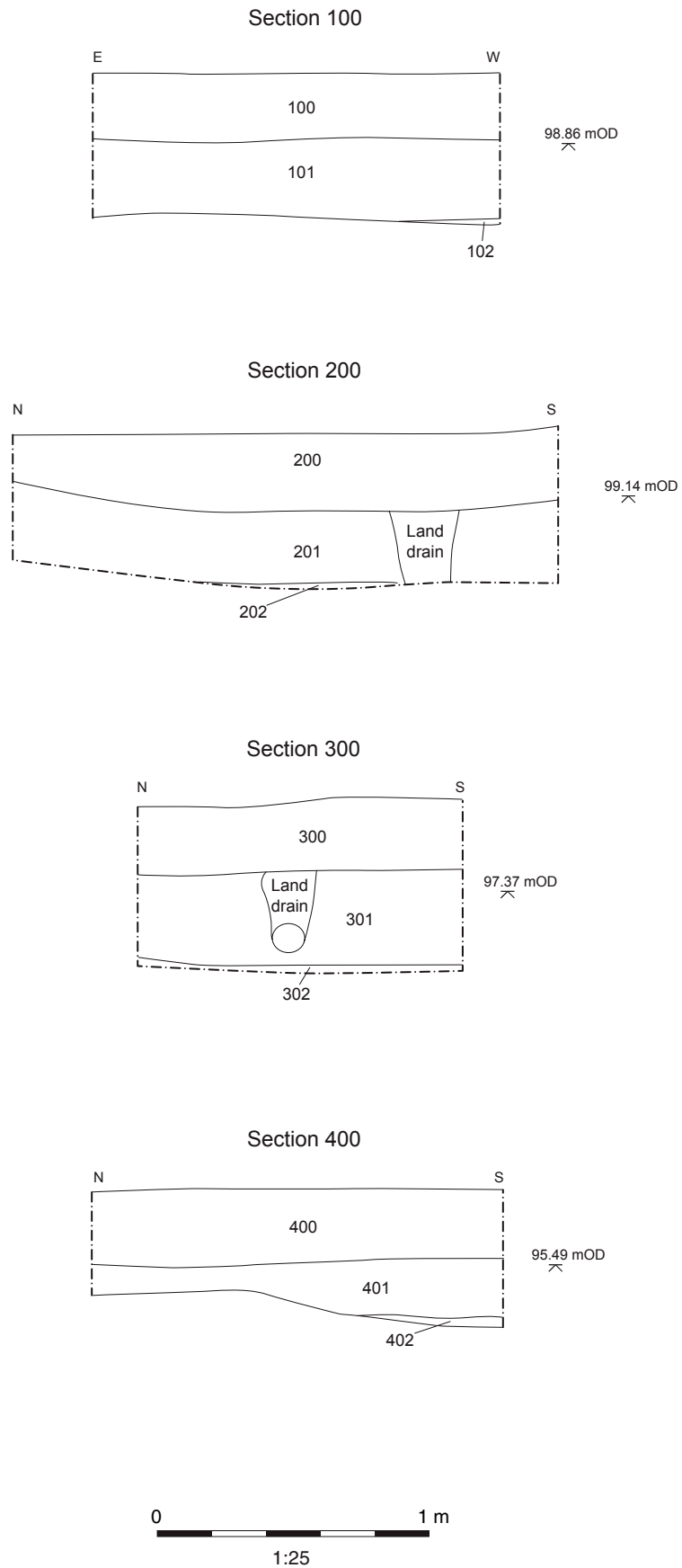


Figure 3: Representative sections





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