



Southampton Archaeology Unit

Report 1395

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land at 17-19 Between Towns Road, Oxford

Dr AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

2019

Client: Cantay Estates Ltd



Contents

1. Summary	2
2. Introduction	3
3. Aims of the assessment.....	4
4. Assessment methodology	4
5. Site location, topography and geology	4
6. Historical background	5
7. Cartographic evidence	6
8. Archaeological background.....	8
9. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site.....	13
10. Historic Buildings	16
11. Scheduled monuments	16
12. Conservation areas.....	16
13. Historic Parks and Gardens	16
14. Archaeological areas	16
15. The present condition of the site and its impact on the archaeology	17
16. Development proposals and their impact on the archaeology	18
17. Conclusions	19
18. Bibliography	19

Front cover: site looking southeast as shown on Google Earth

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land at 17-19 Between Towns Road, Oxford

Dr AD Russel BA PhD MCIfA

Southampton Archaeology Unit report 1395

Ordnance Survey grid reference 454481 204101

1. SUMMARY

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council was commissioned by Cantay Estates Ltd to carry out a desk-based assessment of land at 17-19 Between Towns Road, Oxford to support a planning application for student accommodation.

Historic maps show the site as lying on farmland between the settlements of Church Cowley and Temple Cowley. The site was first developed in the 20th century for domestic housing on the northeast side of the site, then by construction of a Conservative club on the southwest.

The site lies on ridge of limestone and clay to the southwest of Oxford. The area has been utilised for stone, sand and clay extraction for some two thousand years and a number of archaeological sites lie to the northeast and southwest together with listed buildings relating to the villages of Church Cowley and Temple Cowley.

To the north of the site lies Temple Cowley, which formed around a preceptory of the Knights Templars in the medieval period. The exact location of the preceptory is not known, but it is unlikely to lie within the present site, which was probably fields in the medieval period.

The Oxford Archaeological Research Agenda 2012 for the Roman period has identified a number of agendas to further examine aspects of the Roman settlement in the Oxford Area. It identifies the Corallian Ridge area, which includes the assessment site, as having High Potential to throw light on aspects of Chronology, Landscape and Agriculture, Settlement, Manufacture and Trade, and Transport and Commerce.

Casual observations on the south part of the site in the 20th century found Oxford ware pottery. More specific archaeological work on the adjacent plot to the southwest of the site found evidence of Roman pottery production, including kilns, clay preparation areas, workshops and waster dumps. Archaeological work on the adjacent plot to the northeast in 2018 found part of a Roman field system, the ditches of which included much late Roman Oxford pottery, including wasters. These sites form part of the internationally important Oxford Roman Pottery Industry.

It is considered that the likelihood of finding further evidence of Roman pottery production or other activity on the site of No 17-19 is High. The development of the frontage of the site in the 20th century has probably destroyed most of the archaeology beneath the present buildings but archaeology should survive well under the car park areas, and probably under the row of garages which will have shallow footings. The magnetic survey of the car park area behind No 19 picked up possible kilns, but evaluation showed this was not the case.

Pre-application discussions have been undertaken with the David Radford, City Archaeologist, at Oxford City Council. He has requested a staged programme of works, commencing with a geophysical survey followed by an archaeological evaluation, with the aim of the characterising the archaeological remains on the site. The likely impact of the development on the archaeology would be assessed and if necessary a programme of mitigation would be drawn up. Should Roman pottery kilns survive then preservation in-situ would be the preferred option. It would be appropriate to secure such a programme of archaeological work by a condition on the planning permission.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council was commissioned by Cantay Estates Ltd to carry out a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of land at 17-19 Between Towns Road, Oxford (fig 1) to support an application for Student Accommodation Development at 17/19 Between Towns Road, Oxford.

2.2 The assessment site lies between the old villages of Cowley and Temple Cowley in an area that was heavily utilised for pottery production in the Roman period.

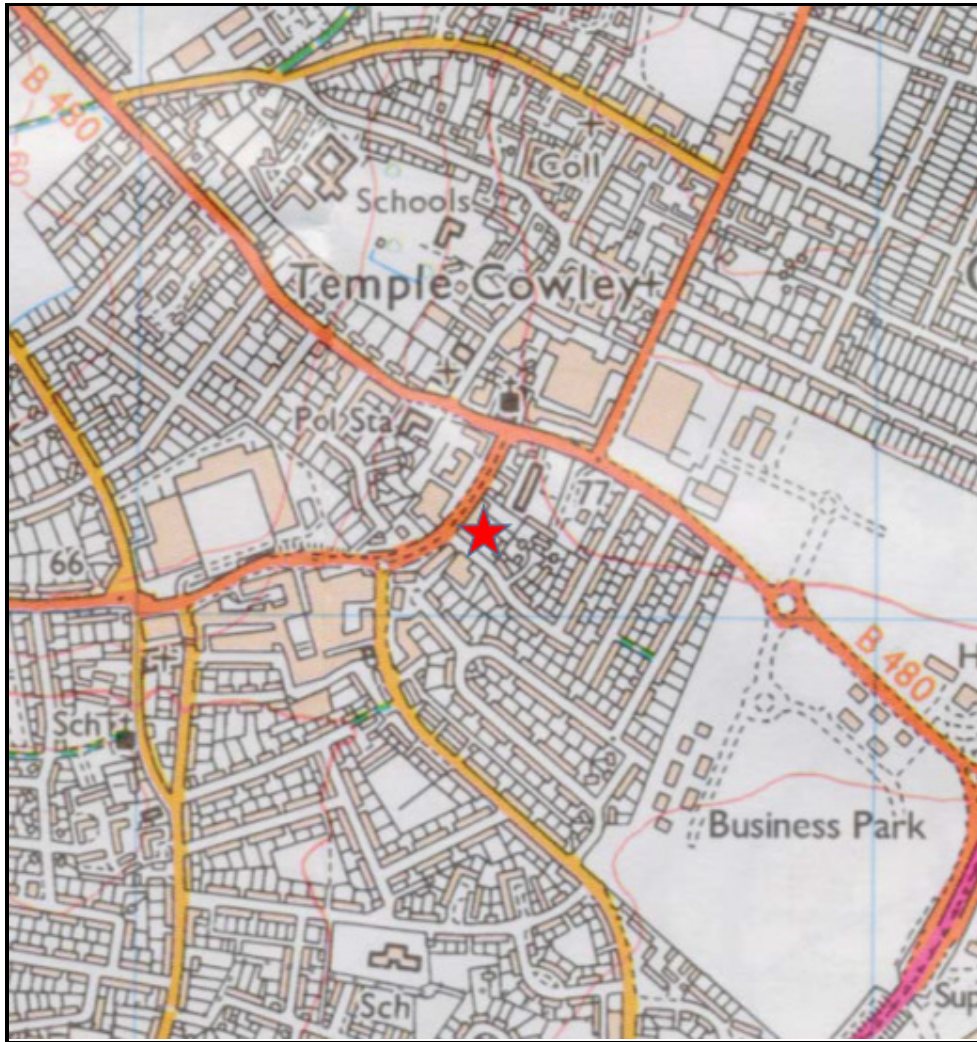


Figure 1. The location of the site, marked by a red star.

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2019.

3. AIMS OF THE ASSESSMENT

3.1 The aims of the assessment were to identify the likely scope of the area's archaeological heritage and its sensitivity to development. This was to be done by characterising the archaeology of the site through all periods to the modern day, suggesting the likely range and locations of the archaeological evidence, and establishing areas where archaeology is unlikely to survive due to modern disturbance.

4. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

4.1 Oxford City Council made available information relating to heritage assets in the vicinity of the site following a search of the Oxford City Historic Environment Record on 28/8/15. These included old finds of archaeological material and the results of recent archaeological investigations in the area. Historic maps were consulted to gain a view of land use over the last 400 years. Oxford City Council have produced an *Archaeological Resource Assessment* for the main periods of the city's history together with an *Archaeological Research Agenda* which sets out the questions that remain unanswered about the City's past. Both were consulted.

5. SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

5.1 The site lies to the east of Between Towns Road, to the northeast of Cowley, on the corner of Between Towns Road and St Luke's Road, at Ordnance Survey Grid reference 454481 204101 (fig 2).

5.2 The natural topography of the area is fairly level with a gradual slope down to the west. A spot height of 74.6m OD is recorded in Between Towns Road adjacent to No 17

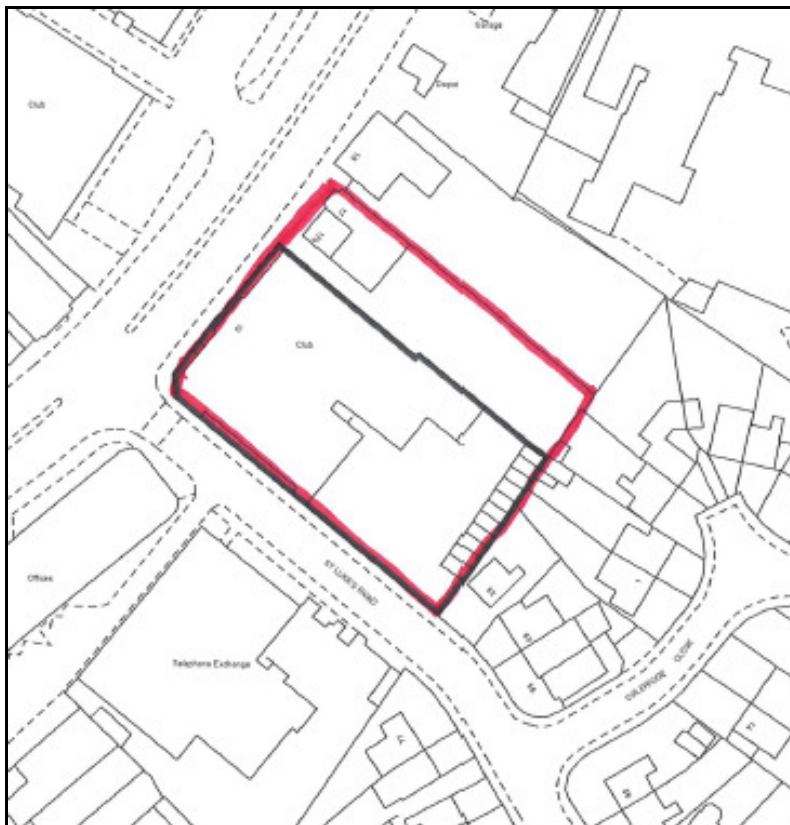


Figure 2. Location of the site, outlined in red.

5.3 The British Geological Survey records that the site lies on the Corallian Ridge to the south of Oxford. The bedrock is the Beckley Sand Member. This is a sedimentary sandstone formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, when the area was covered by shallow seas (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

5.4 Archaeological observations on the south corner of St Luke's Road and Between Towns Road in 1981-2 recorded that the natural was red/brown soil to a depth of c. 2m merging into yellow sand containing rafts of calcareous grit (Green 1983, 3). Archaeological work to the north of the site found similar deposits (Russel & Vasileiadou 2018).

6. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The name Cowley, probably with a meaning of Cufa's clearing or meadow, can be dated back to the Anglo-Saxon period (Ekwall 1960). The Domesday Book records 47 tenants of which 33 or more were probably in Church Cowley (VCH 1957).

By the 12th century the parish had three concentrations of activity and population based around two manors. These were: Church Cowley, located around the parish church; Temple Cowley around a preceptory of the Knights Templars; and Hockmore Street or later Middle Cowley. The land of Church Cowley is recorded in the Domesday Book as held by Roger d'Ivry of Bishop Odo of Bayeux. It was given to the church of St. George in Oxford castle who in turn gave it with the church of St. James to Oseney Abbey in 1149 (*ibid.*). This manor and rectory seem to have formed one estate, sometimes known after the Dissolution as the rectory manor. In 1542 the whole property was given to Christ Church. Part of Church Cowley was probably called Westbury in the Middle Ages. The historic core of the settlement lay close to the parish church.

Temple Cowley manor was made up of land granted to the Templars by King Stephen's Queen, Maud Countess of Boulogne in 1139 (*ibid.*). On the suppression of the Templars in 1308 their land passed ultimately to the Knights Hospitallers, and in 1541 the Hospitallers were themselves dissolved. It is thought that the early settlement of Temple Cowley was probably situated along Temple Street and part of Temple Road, as Between Towns Road did not exist until the inclosure of the area. All traces of the Templars' preceptory, which stood near Temple Street, have gone although their fishpond was discovered when the public library was built to the north of Cowley Road (*ibid.*).

The road is said to be named after a local field called "Betwixt the Towns", dating from around 1630, subsequently spelled "Between Roads" in 1853 when the road was created. It was originally known as Surman's Lane, then High Street, Cowley. The road was named "Between Towns Road" in 1930 (Symonds & Morgan 2010, 74).

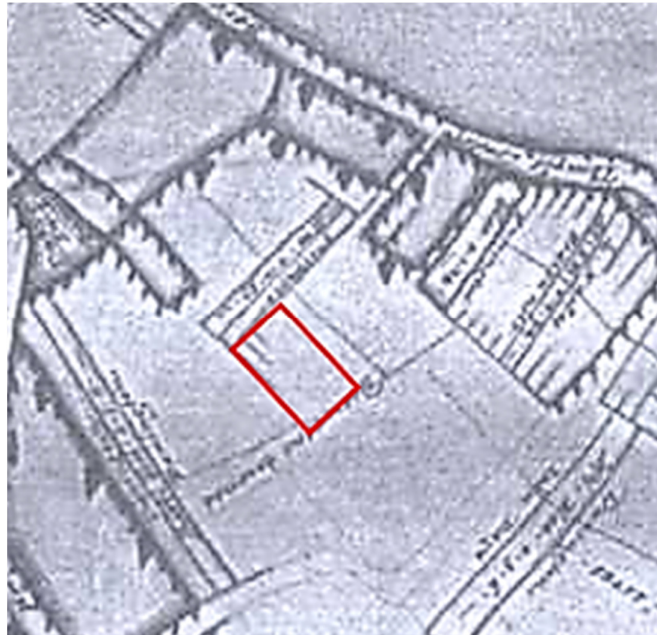
The 19th century saw a general growth of the area and the beginnings of urbanization. The railways arrived in the area with the opening of the line between Oxford and Thame in 1864. Cowley College was established in 1841 and in 1876 the school buildings were sold to the Oxford Military Academy. This was accompanied by the construction of The Barracks, a large building containing a keep, officers' and married men's and men's separate quarters, a canteen and hospital as a military centre for the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (VCH 1957). The school went bankrupt in 1896 and the site was sold in 1899. Extensive building began to take place at the Oxford end of the parish about the middle of the 19th century and Morris Garages took over the Ox and Bucks site in 1912 leading to the start of the area's industrialization (*ibid.*).

7. CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

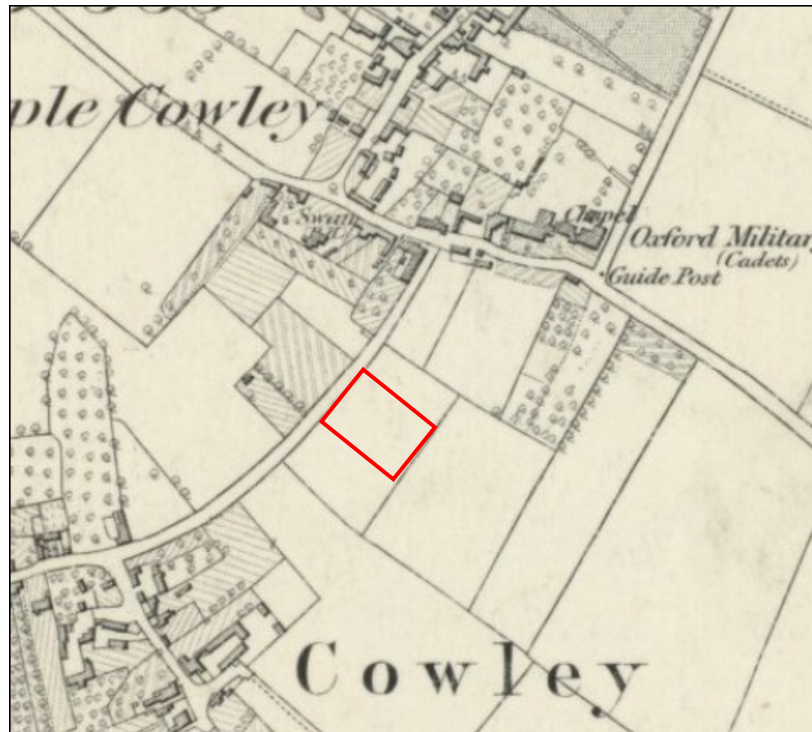
7.1 A brief overview of the known cartographic evidence from the late 18th century onwards follows.

7.2 The earliest map of the area is an enclosure map of 1605 (Map 1). It suggests the area had once been large fields divided into individual strip holdings, most of which were being amalgamated and enclosed into a smaller number of larger fields at that time. Between Towns Road probably developed as a way to access the fields behind those on the Cowley Road street frontage.

7.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1878 (Map 2) shows that the site was still fields at that date. By 1919 (Map 3) No 17 Between Towns Road had been built. By 1939 (Map 4) the Conservative Club had been built.



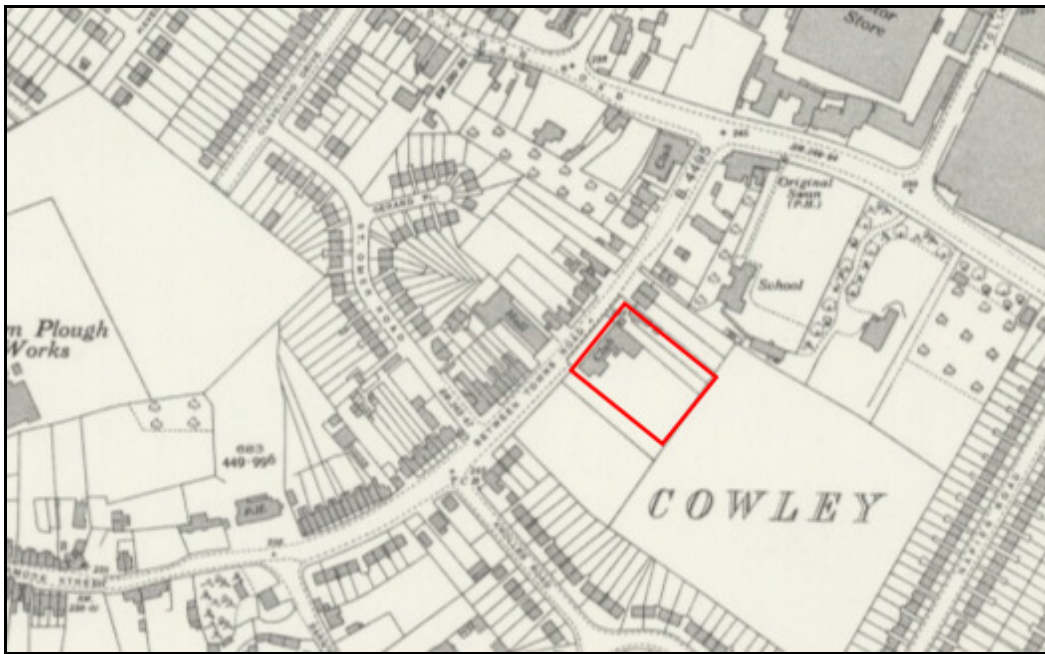
Map 1. 1605 enclosure map showing the surrounding area, with the approximate position of the site shown outlined in red.



Map 2 1878 Ordnance Survey Six-inch England and Wales, Berkshire sheet VI, with the approximate position of the site shown outlined in red.



Map 3. 1919 Ordnance Survey 25 inch England and Wales, Oxfordshire sheet XXXIX.8, with the approximate position of the site shown outlined in red.



Map 4. 1937 Ordnance Survey 25 inch England and Wales, Oxfordshire sheet XXXIX.8, with the approximate position of the site shown outlined in red.

8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

8.1 The Historic Environment Record for Oxford was searched for Heritage Assets on 28/8/2015. Each heritage asset is described below. Figure 3 shows the location of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites, Figure 4 shows the location of post-medieval sites.

Iron Age

3838 - MOX6266

Iron Age Gold Coin, Cowley

British gold coin from Cowley. Uninscribed plain and convex on obverse; horse disjointed to the right with wheel below on the reverse.

SP 5484 0436 (point)

26145 - MOX23545

Iron Age quarries at Barracks Lane

Evaluation recorded evidence of Iron Age limestone quarrying pits.

SP 547 048 (point)

26190 - MOX23597

Early to Late Iron Age features at Rose Hill

An evaluation revealed a series of Early to Middle Iron Age ditches re-cut on the same alignment. A number of Roman finds were also recorded.

SP 53580 03650 (point)

MOX26642

Iron Age enclosure

Iron Age enclosure at 76 Rose Hill, Oxford.

SP 5357 0364 (point)

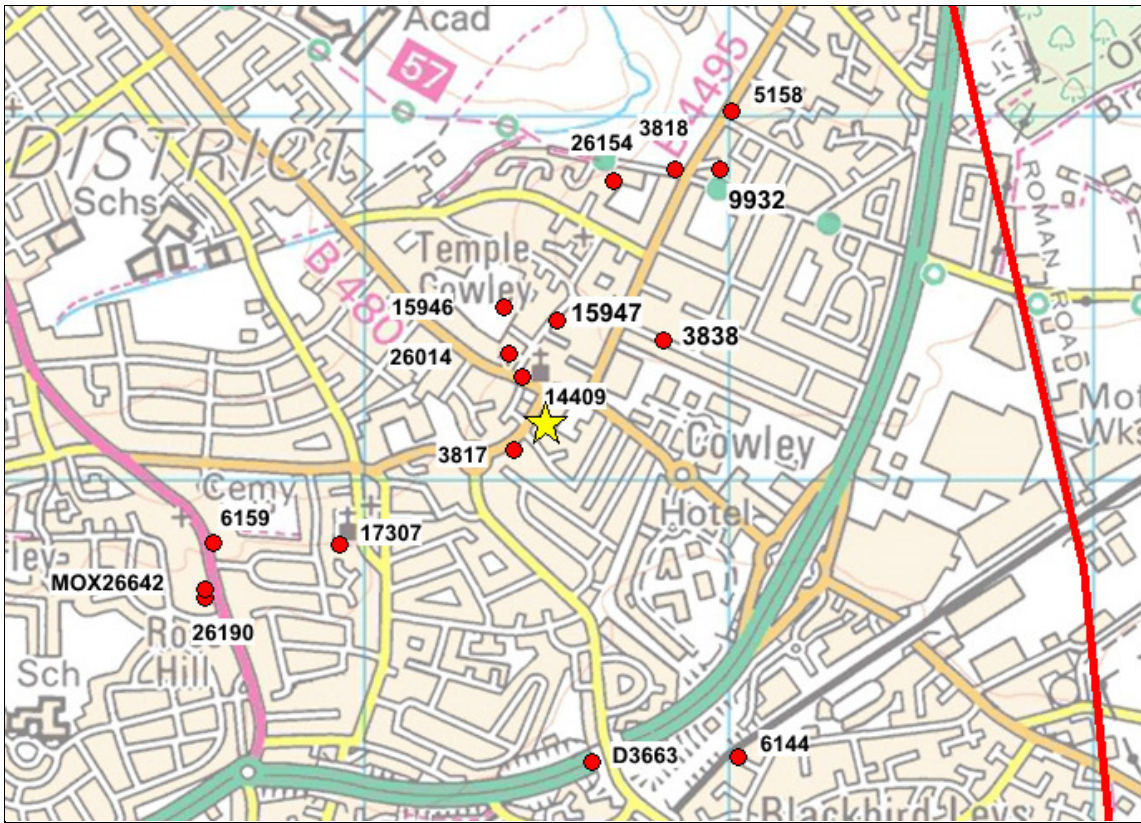


Figure 3: Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval Heritage Assets within 1km of the centre of the site. Site marked with a yellow star. The Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester is shown on the east side of the map.

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2019.

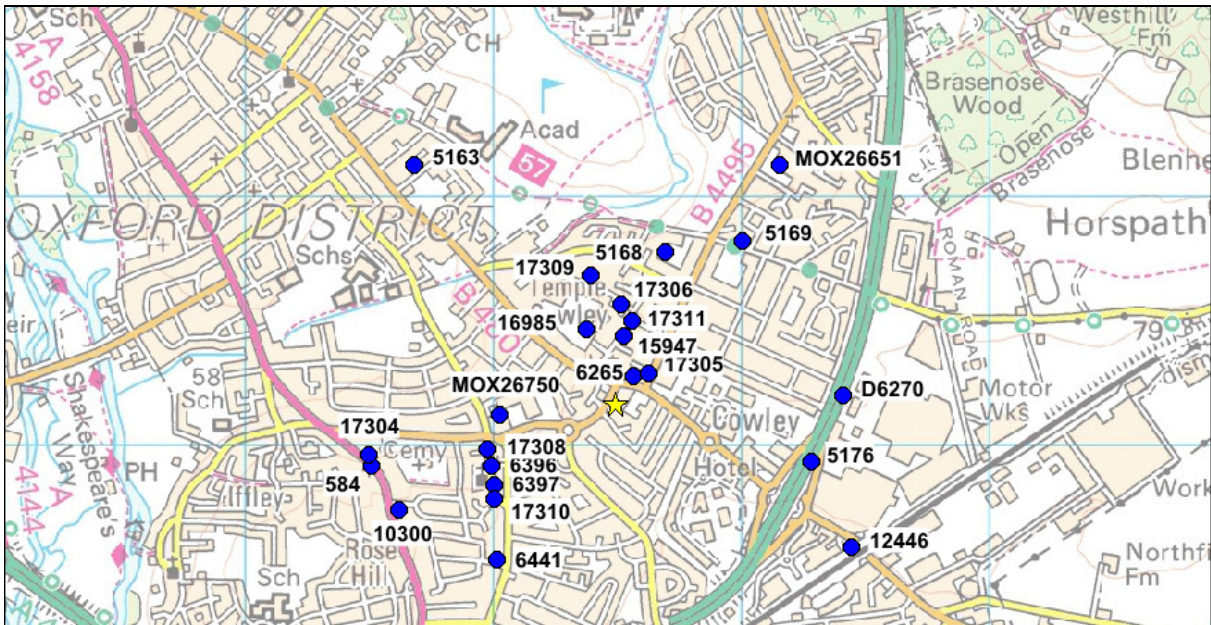


Figure 4: Post-medieval and modern Heritage Assets within 1km of the centre of the site. Site marked with a yellow star.

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Southampton City Council. LA 1000 19679 2019.

Roman

26190 - MOX23597

Roman finds at Rose Hill

An evaluation recovered a number of Roman finds.
SP 53580 03650 (point)

9932 - MOX5804

Roman Inhumation and finds, Cowley Barracks Quarry
Small, bronze spiked 'mace-head', skeleton and pottery found.
SP 5500 0483 (point)

3817 - MOX6250

Roman Pottery Kilns and Occupation Site (Between Town's Road/St Luke's Road, Cowley)
Site originally discovered 1934, partially excavated 1939-40 consisting of kilns, puddling holes, dumps and pit and late C1st to mid C4th pottery.
SP 5443 0405 (point)

14409 - MOX6253

Roman Pit near Cowley Road Police Station
Roman pit with sherds of C3/4 pottery.
SP 5445 0425 (point)

15947 - MOX6255

Roman Kiln
Evaluation trenches revealed stokehole of C2nd Roman pottery Kiln.
SP 5454 0441 (point)

6159 - MOX6263

Roman Beaker, Single Tree Nursery
C2 Romano-British beaker found near kiln site, and burials.
SP 536 038 (point)

3818 - MOX6267

Roman Inhumations (Cowley Barracks Quarry, Barracks Lane)
On the eastern side of the valley in Cowley parish, in the quarry immediately north of the playground of the Military College there were found some years ago human skeletons with pottery which is described as Roman.
SP 5487 0483 (point)

D3663 - MOX12142

Roman Kiln Site on Eastern Bypass, Blackbird Leys Road
Roman pottery factory extending from SP 5460 0318 on the SW to SP 5467 0318 on the SE and SP 5465 0324 to the north exposed and destroyed during construction of Eastern Bypass. Kilns and footings for buildings observed.
SP 5464 0320 (point)

MOX26642

Roman activity and Kiln at Rose Hill
A small Roman kiln, two pits and a number of ditches were recorded in association with an re-used Iron Age enclosure at 76 Rose Hill, Oxford.
SP 5357 0364 (point)

Medieval

26145 - MOX23545

Early Medieval quarries at Barracks Lane
Evaluation recorded evidence of 11th century limestone quarrying pits.
SP 547 048 (point)

5188 - MOX5449

Site of Stone Quarry

Quarries in the Corallian beds. Stone used for the building of Oxford Colleges.
SP 55 05 (point)

6144 - MOX5794

Medieval Pottery and Iron Spearhead

Sherds of C13/14 pottery and an iron spearhead found when gardening c.1979.

SP 550 032 (point)

14409 - MOX6253

Roman and Medieval Pits near Cowley Road Police Station

Medieval pits. Activity is typical of settlement in the area and shows the spread of domestic activity along the Cowley Road.

SP 5445 0425 (point)

15946 - MOX6254

Medieval Features at St Christopher's School

Watching Brief revealed ditch of possibly C12 date, which may have been a field boundary associated with the medieval manor. Post-Medieval wall footing and building debris from demolished ?Med building.

SP 544 045 (point)

15947 - MOX6255

Evidence for Medieval Pits

Evaluation trenches revealed medieval pits.

SP 5454 0441 (point)

17307 - MOX15470

CHURCH OF ST JAMES, BEAUCHAMP LANE

Parish Church. Late C12 nave and chancel arch; rebuilding and alterations in C13-C19. Listed Grade II.

SP 53984 03826 (point)

26014 - MOX23124

Medieval pits and undated wall at Temple Road

Evaluation and watching brief revealed three phases of medieval occupation, 1) C11 - C12 pits and an enclosure, 2) the corner of a building related to the Knights Templar Preceptory and 3) a final phase of a paddock and field system.

SP 54410 04320 (point)

Post-medieval

5169 - MOX5788

Site of Clay Pit and Kilns at Cowley Barracks

Now covered by housing.

SP 550 048 (point)

5176 - MOX5790

Site of Post Medieval Clay Pit

Marked on sketch plan of Oxford clay pits. Site now covered by factory.

SP 553 039 (point)

D6270 - MOX5796

Site of Chapel of The Poplars, Cowley

Old Poor Law school in Cowley, founded 1831. Some buildings still remain in the middle of the BL Body Plant although the chapel has been demolished (1975).

SP 5543 0417 (point)

12446 - MOX5807

Site of Morris Cowley Station

On site of earlier Garsington Bridge Halt, abandoned and dismantled c.1922. New station opened by GWR in 1928 to serve Morris Motor Works. Closed 6/1/63.
SP 5546 0355 (point)

6265 - MOX6251

Site of Temple Cowley Manor

The Manor House was a C17 house, altered in C18. It became the Diocesan School in 1841 and a chapel was added in 1870. Later converted for the military college and a wing was added by Sir Thomas Jackson. Destroyed in 1957.

SP 5458 0425 (point)

15947 - MOX6255

Evidence for Post-medieval Cottages

Evaluation trenches revealed evidence of Post-medieval cottages.

SP 5454 0441 (point)

10300 - MOX6262

Milestone, Iffley

Rose Hill; Type P1.

SP 536 037 (point)

584 - MOX6264

Rose Hill Methodist Chapel

Datestone 1835.

SP 5350 0388 (point)

5163 - MOX9975

Site of Clay Pit and Stone Quarry on Cowley Road

Believed to have been between Cumberland Road and Glanville Road.

SP 537 051 (point)

5168 - MOX12147

Site of clay pits at Cowley Marsh Pit

Clay pits marked on sketch map on Oxford Clay; area marked now covered by houses and sports ground. Identified as Cowley Marsh Pit.

SP 5470 0476 (point)

6441 - MOX12155

Site of Sandpits under Mayfair Road, Oxford

1st ed OS maps shows sandpits under what is now Mayfair Road.

SP 5402 0350 (point)

17304 - MOX14832

Stone on Rose Hill outside number 37

56th milestone from London on the Turnpike. Listed Grade II.

SP 53516 03916 (point)

6397 - MOX14998

Nos 10-14 Beauchamp Lane

Row of 3 limestone-built cottages; early C17. Listed Grade II.

SP 54019 03813 (point)

17305 - MOX14999

The Nuffield Press, East Wing and attached former School House, Hollow Way, Cowley

Formerly school and military college, then car factory, now mainly offices for printing works. Listed Grade II.

SP 54639 04264 (point)

17306 - MOX15011
No 74 (Manor House), Temple Road
Early C18 stone-built house. Listed Grade II.
SP 54531 04544 (point)

6396 - MOX15316
No 8 Beauchamp Lane
C17 and late C18 stone-built house. Formerly Rectory Farmhouse, Church Street. Listed Grade II.
SP 54012 03853 (point)

17308 - MOX15679
No 1 Beauchamp Lane
Probable C17 stone rubble and thatch cottage. Listed Grade II.
SP 53988 03992 (point)

17309 - MOX15686
No 48 Temple Road
C17 stone cottage, modernized. Listed Grade II.
SP 54423 04592 (point)

17310 - MOX15688
No 11 (Benson Cottage), Beauchamp Lane, Cowley
Stone house. Second half C17; altered. Listed Grade II.
SP 54002 03796 (point)

17311 - MOX15782
No 76 Temple Road
Late C18 house in ashlar stone. Listed Grade II.
SP 54515 04513 (point)

MOX26651
Cowley Barracks, Hollow Way
Two ranges of barracks (Napier and Moore barracks) remain within the walled compound of Bullingdon Barracks, later known as Cowley Barracks, built in 1876.
SP 5517 0511 (point)

MOX26750
Oxford Steam Ploughing Company
Site of former Oxford Steam Ploughing Company.
SP 5401 0409 (point)

Modern

16985 - MOX12807
Air Raid Shelter at St Christopher's First School
Air raid shelter found during building investigation and photographic record at St Christopher's First School.
SP 54420 04450 (point)

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE SITE.

9.1 A number of archaeological investigations have taken place within the site or on adjacent plots. They are listed here in chronological order.

9.2 In 1934 when the Cowley Conservative Club was built at 19 Between Towns Road a quantity of pottery, mainly of 2nd century date, was recovered, including a distorted waster.

The material was donated to the Ashmolean Museum under accession number 1936.151 (VCH 1939, 335; Young 1973, 215).

9.3 In 1939 excavations for air-raid shelters revealed Roman remains on the southwest corner of Between Towns Road and St Luke's Road. Further excavations by RJC Atkinson in 1939-40 exposed two dumps of potting clay, five areas where clay was prepared, two pottery kilns, three dumps of pottery wasters, a pit and an area of occupation (Atkinson 1941). Young has suggested that the evidence showed the site had been used for potting from the early or mid-2nd century until the 4th century, and that throughout that period one of the major products was mortaria. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries the site produced a variety of other wares, and in the late 3rd and 4th centuries a large amount of red colour-coated ware and some coarse wares were made. Young also suggested that the 2nd century kilns lay to the north or east of the site, as only waster dumps of that date were found (Young 1973, 227).

9.4 Work to the rear of the Conservative Club, at 19 Between Towns Road, took place in 1969. Although no archaeologist visited the site pottery recovered during the works was shown to Young and identified as including late Roman colour-coated wares (Young 1973, 215).

9.5 In 1972 work to construct the telephone exchange in St Luke's Road was subject to a watching brief which recorded a pottery kiln and a large pit of the late 3rd century, a small depression and a post-hole. Much of the pottery recovered were colour-coat products and the very high proportion of flagons and beakers is considered unusual (Young 1973, 227).

9.6 In 1981-2 a watching brief on the redevelopment of the Between Towns Road frontage southwest of St Luke's Road revealed further pottery manufacturing activity. Production appeared to have started in the 2nd century and two waster dumps, a kiln, a pit, and a number of ditches were dated to that period. The presence of a number of stamped vessels suggested that perhaps five potters were working at the facility. Many of the wasters were mortaria of the potter Vossullus. In the late 3rd/4th century production continued and traces of three kilns, a drier, clay preparation areas and a stone structure (possibly a workshop) were dated to that phase (Green 1983).

9.7. Further archaeological work took place in 2014-2015 to the rear of the Cowley Conservative Club at 19 Between Towns Road. A geophysical survey in 2011 by Stratascan had identified a number of magnetic anomalies (fig. 5). Two were investigated by trial trenching (Trench 2) and proved to be a late Roman pit divided by a modern service. The late Roman pit contained only 9 sherds of pottery, although one was a rare whiteware face-mask flagon (Oxford Archaeology 2015). Trenches 1 and 3 did not locate any archaeology.

9.8 In 2015 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at 17 Between Towns Road in the north part of the proposed development. A 15m long trench was opened up, and the natural was found to be some 700mm below the surface. The only feature was a sheep/goat burial which included three sherds of transfer-printed china of 19th or 20th century date (John Moore Heritage Services 2015).

9.9 In 2017-18 archaeological work took place to the north of No 17. It revealed a number of ditched enclosures of late Roman date (fig. 7). The fills of the ditches were marked by large quantities of Oxford ware pottery, animal bone, and re-used stone architectural fragments (Russel & Vasileiadou 2018). Two of the ditches passed out of the site boundary

and must continue beneath the car park of no 17. One would expect one to have been found in the 2015 evaluation trench, but no trace was seen.

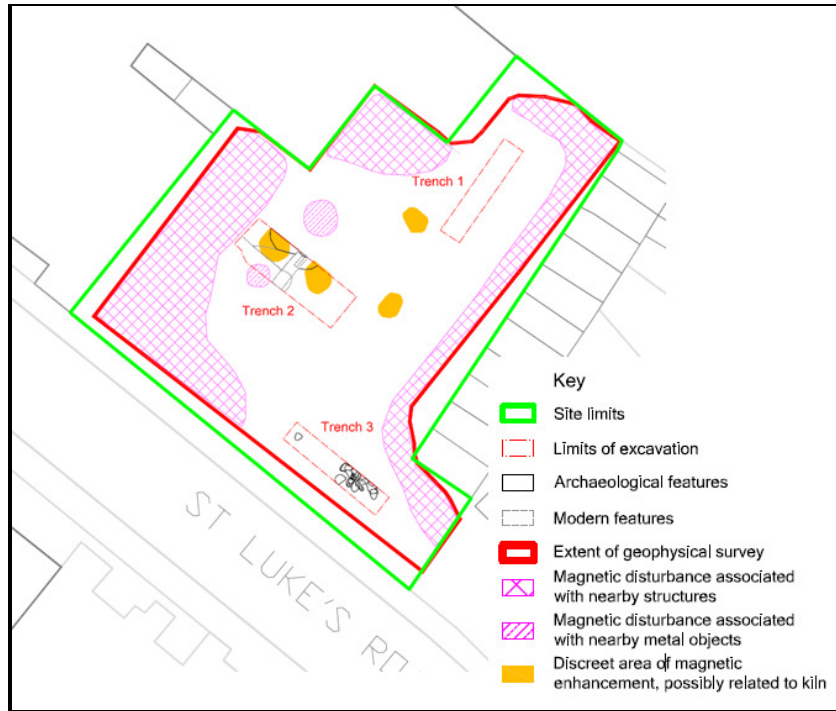


Figure 5. Plan showing results of the 2011 geophysics survey at 19 Between Towns Road, together with the trenches of the 2015 Oxford Archaeology evaluation (Oxford Archaeology 2015).

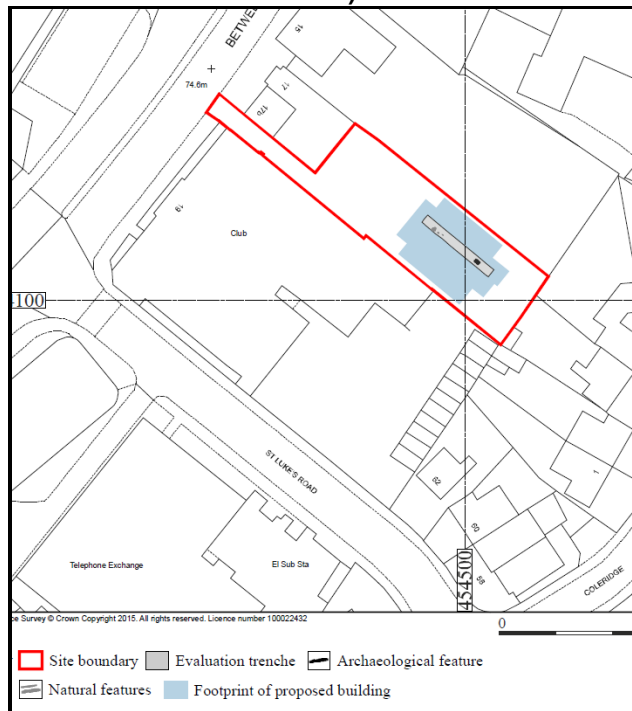


Figure 6. Location of the 2015 evaluation trench at 17 Between Towns Road (John Moore Heritage Services 2015).

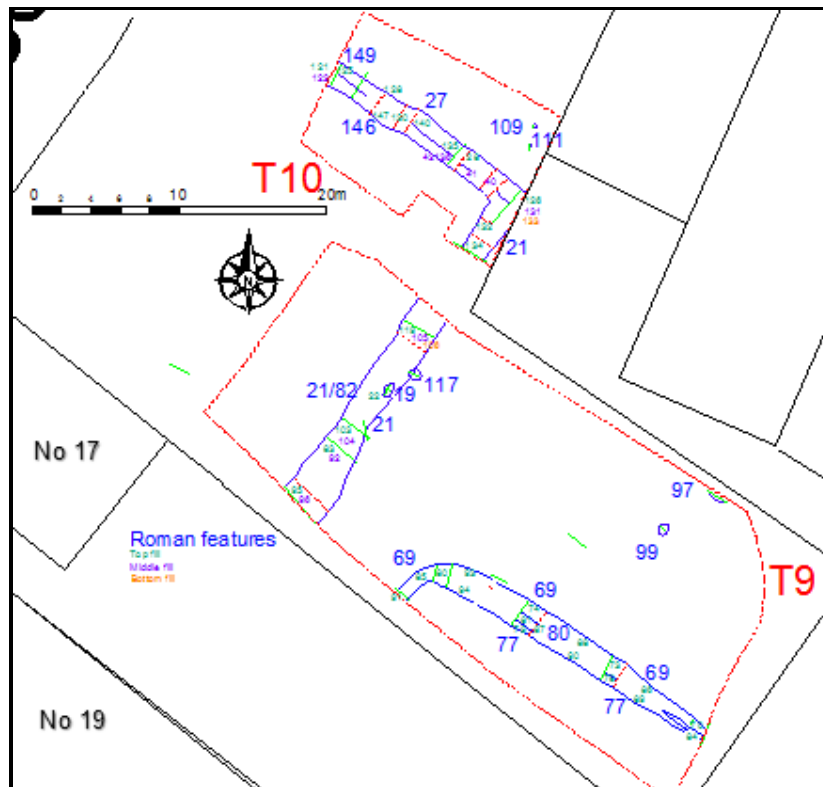


Figure 7. The Roman enclosures found at the south part of the No 1-15 Between Towns Road site, showing ditches and other features. Two ditches are heading towards No 17.

10. HISTORIC BUILDINGS

There are no historic buildings within the site. There are ten Grade II listed buildings within 1km of the site (see above Section 8), mostly located in the Beauchamp Lane Conservation Area to the west and the Temple Cowley Conservation Area to the northeast. None would be adversely affected by the proposed development.

11. SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

11.1 There are no scheduled monuments within the assessment area or within 1km of the site.

12. CONSERVATION AREAS

12.1 The site does not lie within a Conservation Area. The Beauchamp Lane Conservation Area lies to the west, beyond the Templars Square Shopping Centre (https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/download/10/beauchamp_lane_conservation_area). The Temple Cowley Conservation Area lies to the north, beyond Oxford Road (https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/264/temple_cowley_conservation_area_overview).

13. HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

13.1 There are no historic parks or gardens near the site.

14. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS

14.1 Oxford City Council has designated one Archaeological Area. This covers the city centre and does not include the site.

15. THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SITE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY

15.1 At present the southwest part of the site is occupied by the redundant 1930s Cowley Conservative Club building (fig. 6). The building was extended to the rear in the 1969 (fig 7). Given the soft nature of the ground in the area the disturbance caused by both phases of building is likely to be High. The row of single storey garages on the east boundary has probably had Slight impact on the archaeology. The car park between the Club and the garages will also have had Slight impact on the archaeology as shown by the presence of a Roman pit in the 2015 evaluation.



Figure 6. The west façade of the Conservative Club at No 19 (Google Earth).



Figure 7. The 1969 extension to the rear of the Conservative Club at No 19 (Google Earth).

15.2 The northeast part of the site is occupied by a 1930s house converted to business premises No 17 (fig. 8). The building was extended to the south in the post-war period and is now No 17A. Given the soft nature of the ground in the area the disturbance caused by both phases of building is likely to be High. A driveway gives access to the rear garden that has been tarmacked over for use as a car park. The impact of the car park on the archaeology is Slight as shown by the survival of a post-medieval animal burial in the 2015 evaluation.



Figure 8. The west façade of Nos 17 and 17A. (Google Earth).

16. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY

16.1 The development will consist of U-shaped block of student accommodation arranged around a central courtyard (fig 9).

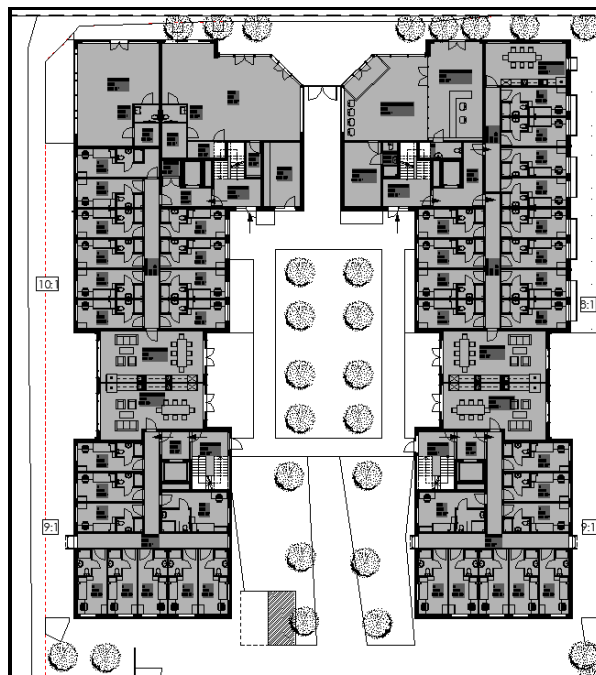


Figure 9: Ground floor plan of proposed development.

16.2 The building will be founded on piles, and all obstructions in the ground will need to be removed prior to piling. The ground is soft and a piling mat of at least 600mm will have to be laid to support the piling rig. The preliminary phase of construction will therefore be the removal of some 600mm across the entire site followed by the removal of obstructions with a toothed bucket. It is likely that the entire site will have to be dug over to a depth of 1m to ensure all obstructions have been removed. The piling mat will then be laid and compacted. This process will result in destruction of any archaeology that is present.

17. CONCLUSIONS

Historic maps show the site as lying on farmland between the settlements of Church Cowley and Temple Cowley. The site was first developed in the 20th century for domestic housing on the northeast side of the site, then by construction of a Conservative Club on the southwest.

The site lies on ridge of limestone and clay to the southwest of Oxford. The area has been utilised for stone, sand and clay extraction for some two thousand years and a number of archaeological sites lie to the northeast and southwest together with listed buildings relating to the villages of Church Cowley and Temple Cowley.

To the north of the site lies Temple Cowley, which formed around a preceptory of the Knights Templars in the medieval period. The exact location of the preceptory is not known, but it is unlikely to lie within the present site, which was probably fields in the medieval period.

Casual observations on the south part of the site in the 20th century found Oxford ware pottery. More specific archaeological work on the adjacent plot to the southwest of the site found evidence of Roman pottery production, including kilns, clay preparation areas, workshops and waster dumps. Archaeological work on the adjacent plot to the northeast in 2018 found part of a Roman field system, the ditches of which included much late Roman Oxford pottery, including wasters. These sites form part of the internationally important Oxford Roman Pottery Industry.

The Oxford Archaeological Research Agenda 2012 for the Roman period has identified a number of agendas to further examine aspects of the Roman settlement in the Oxford Area. It identifies the Corallian Ridge area, which includes the assessment site, as having High Potential to throw light on aspects of Chronology, Landscape and Agriculture, Settlement, Manufacture and Trade, and Transport and Commerce.

It is considered that the likelihood of finding further evidence of Roman pottery production or other activity on the site of No 17-19 is High. The development of the frontage of the site in the 20th century has probably destroyed most of the archaeology beneath the present buildings but archaeology should survive well under the car park areas, and probably under the row of garages which will have shallow footings. The magnetic survey of the car park area behind No 19 picked up possible kilns, but evaluation showed this was not the case.

Pre-application discussions have been undertaken with the David Radford, City Archaeologist, at Oxford City Council. He has requested a staged programme of works, commencing with a geophysical survey followed by an archaeological evaluation, with the aim of the characterising the archaeological remains on the site. The likely impact of the development on the archaeology would be assessed and if necessary a programme of mitigation would be drawn up. Should Roman pottery kilns survive then preservation in-situ would be the preferred option. It would be appropriate to secure such a programme of archaeological work by a condition on the planning permission.

18. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkinson RJC 1941 A Romano-British Potters' Field at Cowley, Oxon. *Oxoniensia* VI 9-21

Beckley, R and Radford D 2012 Oxford Archaeological Resource Assessment: Roman

[http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Planning/Archaeology%20\(43%20-%20410%20AD\).pdf](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Planning/Archaeology%20(43%20-%20410%20AD).pdf)

Beckley, R and Radford D 2012 Oxford Archaeological Research Agendas 4: Roman
[http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Planning/Archaeology%20\(43%20-%20410%20AD\).pdf](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Library/Documents/Planning/Archaeology%20(43%20-%20410%20AD).pdf)

Ekwall, E 1960 *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford

Green, S, 1983, 'The Roman pottery manufacturing site at Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford', *Oxoniensia* **48**, 1–12

John Moore Heritage Services 2015. *Archaeological evaluation of land at rear of 17 between Towns Road, Oxford*

OCC 1974, 'Beauchamp Lane Conservation Area, Cowley', Oxford City Council planning advice note

Oxford Archaeology, 2015, 19 Between Towns Road, Oxford Archaeological Evaluation Report

Russel AD, and Vasileiadou A 2018. *Archaeological Excavation at 1-15 Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford*. Southampton Archaeology Unit Unpublished Report No 1358

Symonds, AS & Morgan N 2010 "Between Towns Road". *The Origins of Oxford Street Names*. Robert Boyd Publications.

VCH 1939 *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, Vol I (ed LF Salzman)

VCH 1957, *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, Vol V (ed M D Lobel)

Young, C, 1973, 'The Roman Kiln Site at St Luke's Road, Cowley, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, **37**, 215-232