

Grove Farm
Terrick
Buckinghamshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

June 2004

Client: Mr and Mrs Brunt

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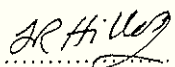
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Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Cover Plate: View of farm house viewed from the west.

SUMMARY

In June 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 836 081) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Brunt. The evaluation revealed a single ditch dating from the late medieval/post medieval period and is probably part of a small boundary or an enclosure within the area of this moated site (SAM 32115).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2004 OA carried out a field evaluation at Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Brunt in respect of a planning application for a two storey extension to the side of the house (Planning Application No.04/5556). A brief was set by and a WSI agreed with David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service. The site is situated within a Scheduled Ancient Monument, thought to be the site of a medieval moated manor (SAM 32115) and is approximately 1.5 km due west of Wendover, just to the west of the A4010 and the Aylesbury Road.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on overlying clay loam soils on Cretaceous chalk and friable limestone beds at 118 m above OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2004) and is reproduced below. The site itself has produced limited archaeological evidence.
- 1.3.2 The scheduled area comprises the medieval moat and associated fishpond and a post-medieval dovecote. It seems to be most likely that the moat is representative of the original manorial site under the honour of Wolverton, which was sub-divided prior to AD 1122.
- 1.3.3 It seems probable that the manor served the borough of Wendover, a short distance to the east of the site. Wendover is first mentioned as a settlement in its own right in a charter of c. 970 AD as *Waendofron*, and as *Wendouvre* in the Domesday book of 1086. At the time of Domesday, Wendover was a Royal Manor and was a considerable estate accounting for 24 hides, with land for 26 ploughs, meadow for 3 ploughs, 2 mills, and enough woodland for 2000 hogs (Morris 1978).
- 1.3.4 The exact date of the foundation of the borough of Wendover is not known, although the borough was certainly in existence by 1227 (NMR 903971). Wendover appears to have been a pre-existing market settlement, and not established as a new town by any explicit charter (Hepple and Dogget 1994). The borough appears to have been carved from the large and dispersed Parish of Wendover (West, 1909), and is located on the

staggered crossroads of the Old Icknield Way, and the main London to Aylesbury road, where it leaves the gap through the Chiltern Hills. From examination of later maps it appears that the core of the original medieval borough is likely to have been what is now Pound Street, South Street, High Street and North Street. There also appears to be a second, probably earlier core to the south focusing around the church, which has 12th century origins. The house fronts and burgage plots within the medieval core are likely to have been laid out sometime in the medieval period, including those plots along Pound Street.

- 1.3.5 It is thought therefore that the plots of both Sites A and B may date to this period, although it is not known whether they were ever built on at this time. Sites A and B lie at the back of these plots away from the street frontage where one would expect any houses to be. The burgage plots themselves would have been fully utilised by the occupants of the house, for gardens, storage, animals, workshops, domestic and human waste etc. The borough contained 121 burgages in the 13th century and extended over an area of 30 to 40 acres.
- 1.3.6 The 17th century Seytons Manor located immediately south-west of the moat is likely to be the post-medieval replacement of the earlier medieval moated manorial site.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 2.1.1 The evaluation consisted of a single trench measuring 4 m x 1.6 m (Fig. 2). The trench was shortened to fit within the patio and to limit disturbance to the garden. The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 2.2.1 The trench was cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

2.3 Finds

- 2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 2.4.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

3 RESULTS: GENERAL

3.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 3.1.1 The site of the new extension is located on the south side of the house and is currently a small conservatory and patio, bordered by a lawn.

4 DESCRIPTION

4.1 Description of deposits (Figs 3 and 4)

- 4.1.1 The evaluation trench cut into the top of the natural of pale light brown sandy clay with lenses of green sandstone (1). This had been cut by a small linear ditch (4) with a rounded terminal. It had very steep sloping sides and a concave base, and it measured 1 m long, 0.65 m wide and 0.36 m in depth. It had been filled by a very dark grey brown silty clay (5) containing two fragments of late Medieval/Post medieval roof tile.
- 4.1.2 Cutting the edge of the terminus of the ditch was a small root hole (6). It was subcircular with uneven sides and base measuring 0.60 m x 0.65 m x 0.18 m and was filled by a grey black silty clay (7).
- 4.1.3 Overlying these features was a 0.10 m thick layer of old topsoil of a dark brown silty sand (2). This topsoil pre-dated the construction of the house (in the late 1940s) and had been cut by an old water pipe trench (8) and a storm drain (10) for the house. Both these trenches were filled by a light grey silty clay (9 and 11), which was sealed below a 0.15 m thick layer of very dark grey silty sand topsoil (3). Overlying this was a 0.10 m thick layer of sand and gravel, the base (12) for the patio.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 5.1.1 The evaluation trench did reveal a small ditch with a terminal containing fragments of roofing tile dating from the late medieval/post medieval period. This feature may represent a small boundary/enclosure ditch within the grounds of the moated site. If it represents a boundary terminus, then only the east side of a potential entrance was exposed within the trench. The opposite side of the entrance could be within the area of the new development.
- 5.1.2 No other features were exposed within the trench pre-dating the construction of the house in the late 1940s, the has been truncated and disturbed by features associated with the current building.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Length (m)	Comment	Finds
1	Natural				Natural	
2	Layer		0.10 m		Old topsoil	
3	Layer		0.15 m		Modern topsoil	
4	Cut	0.65 m	0.36 m	1 m	Ditch	
5	Fill				Fill of ditch	CBM
6	Cut	0.60 m	0.65 m	0.18 m	Small root hole	
7	Fill				Fill of root hole	
8	Cut	0.20 m	0.40 m	2.7 m	Service trench	
9	Fill				Fill of trench	
10	Cut	0.25 m	0.45 m	2 m	Service trench	
11	Fill				Fill of trench	
12	Layer		0.10 m		Gravel base	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Albion Archaeology, 2002 Earls Barton Quarry Western Extension: Environmental statement Desk-based Assessment

Countryside Agency 1999 Countryside Character Vol7: South East & London. Crown.

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Margary ID 1967 *Roman Roads in Britain*. John Baker. London

Morris 1978 (ed) *Domesday Book : Buckinghamshire* Phillimore & co. Chichester.

Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2002 Earls Barton Quarry: Western Extension Geophysical Survey and Fieldwalking plots Provisional Report

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual*, Oxford Archaeology

OAU 1999 The Ridgeway Historic Landscape Survey Eastern Section, unpublished Summary Report

OA 2004 Grove Farm, Aylesbury Road, Terrick, Buckinghamshire Written Scheme of Investigation

Reed, M 1979 *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*. Holder and Stoughton. Sevenoaks.

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Grove Farm, Terrick, Buckinghamshire

Site code: WENG 04

Grid reference: NGR SP 836 081

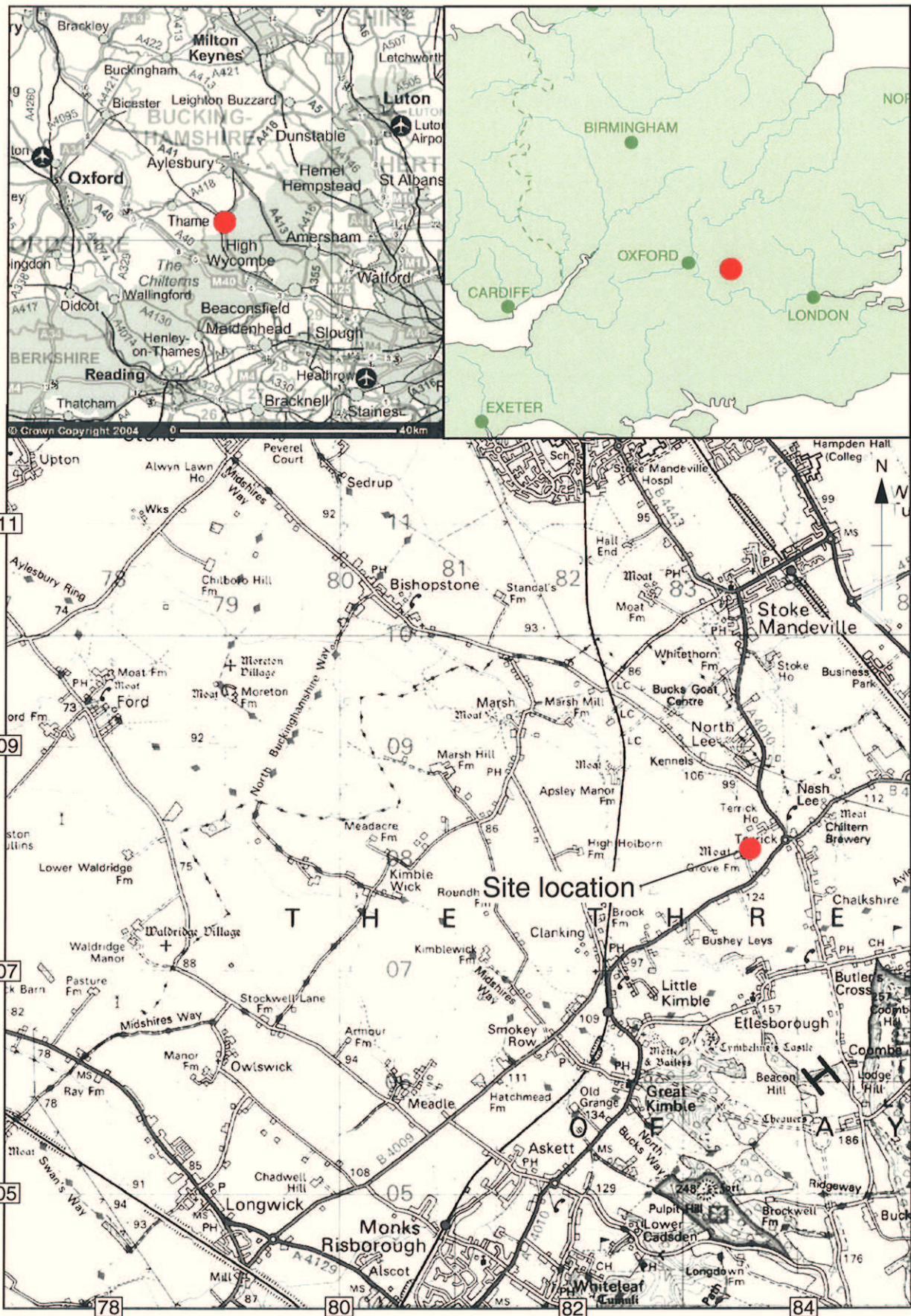
Type of evaluation: Evaluation prior to the construction of a new extension on the site.

Date and duration of project: One day on the 15/6/2004.

Area of site: 4 m x 1.6 m

Summary of results: A single ditch dating from the late Medieval/Post medieval period and probably part of a small boundary or an enclosure within the area of the moat.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: ABYCM:2004.56



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Figure 1: Site location

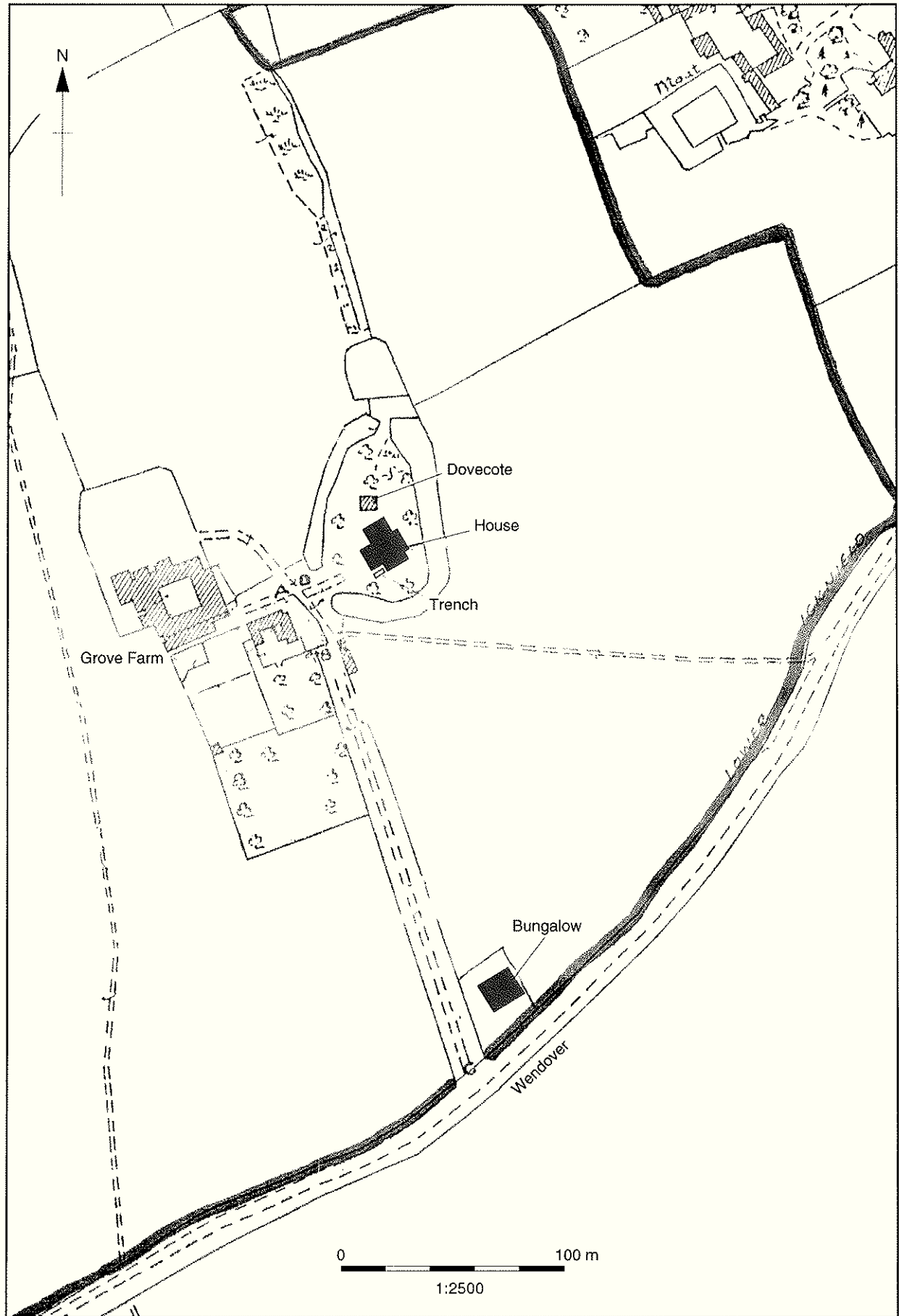


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

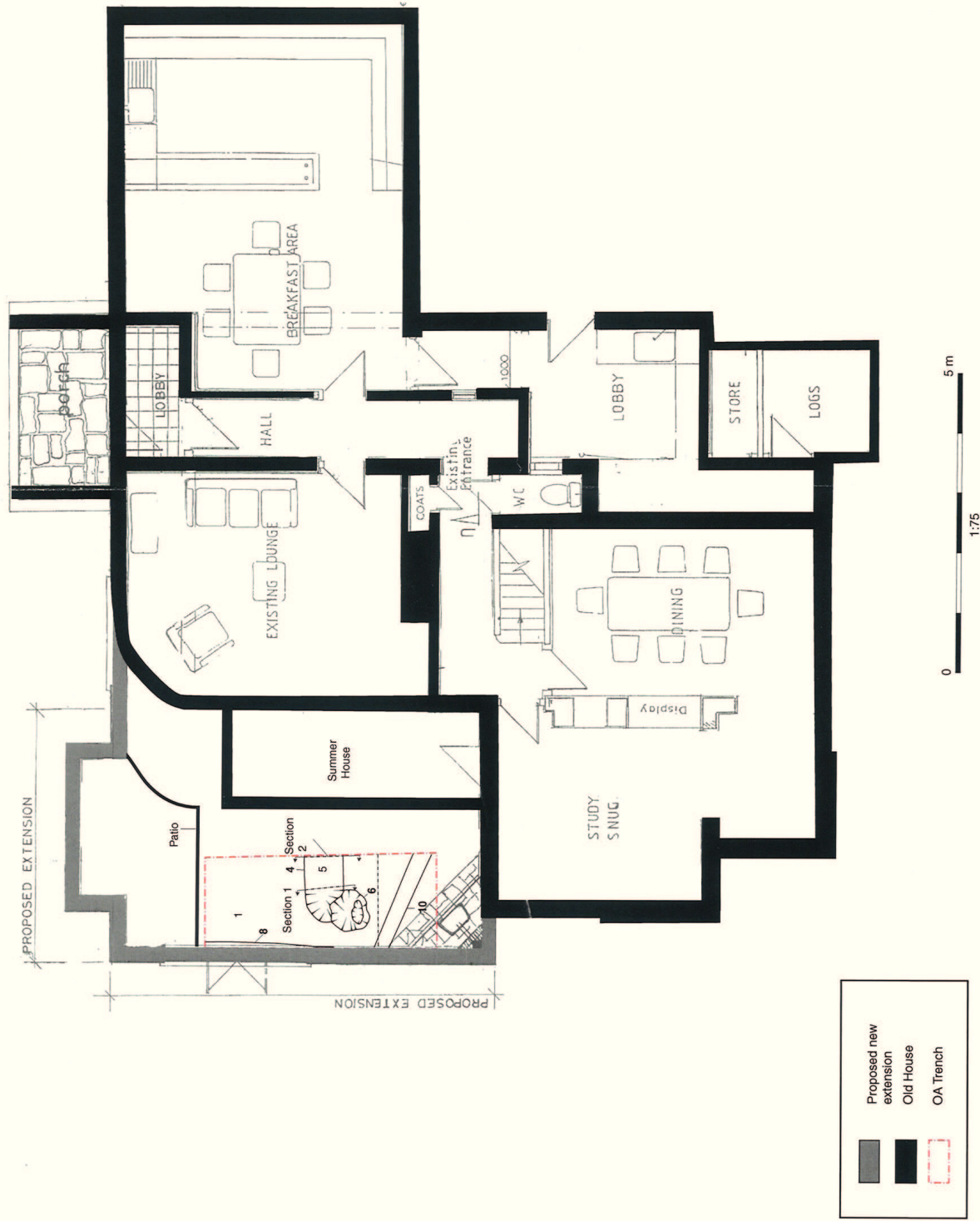


Figure 3: Plan of house showing new extension

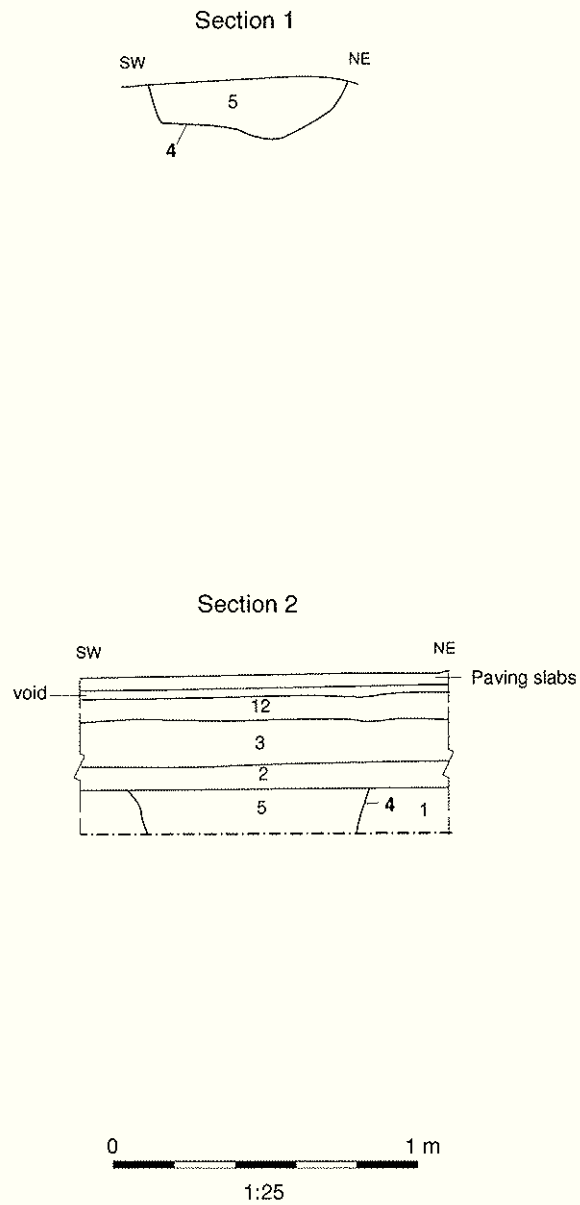
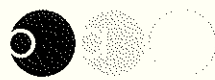


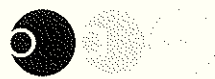
Figure 4: Sections 1 and 2



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