

Beam End Cottage
Church Road
Penn
Buckinghamshire

**Archaeological
Watching Brief Report**



Oxford Archaeology

September 2003

Client: Mr S.W. Jones

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1863

Planning Ref N^o: 2003/16 (Amendment
to 02/1229)

NGR: SU 9095 9340

Client Name: Mr S W Jones

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Beam End Cottage, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: NGR SU 9095 9340
Planning Reference: 2003/16 (Amendment to 02/1229)

OA Job Number: 1863
Site Code: PEBEND 03
Invoice Code: PEBENDWB
Receiving Museum: Buckinghamshire County Museum
Museum Accession No: ABYCM 2003.122

Prepared by: James Mumford
Position: Supervisor
Date: 20th August 2003

Checked by: Jon Hiller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 20th August 2003

Approved by: Nick Shepherd
Position: Head of Fieldwork
Date: 4th September 2003

Signed.....



Document File Location U:/OAU/wbREPORTS/BUCKS/PEBEND.doc
Graphics File Location Server10:/oapubs 1/ItoQ*PEBENDWB*Beam End
Cottage,Bucks*AH*04.08.03
Illustrated by Amy Tiffany Hemingway

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/party using or relying on the document for such other 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/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2003

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 Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Beam End Cottage, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire***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	3
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains	4
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References	6
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	6

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Site plan
 Fig. 3 Site plan with features and sections
 Fig. 4 Sections 1 - 5

Cover Plate: Front of cottage prior to building of new extension.

SUMMARY

In July 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Beam End Cottage, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 9095 9340). The work was commissioned by Mr S W Jones in advance of renovations to the cottage. The watching brief revealed a number of features relating to the occupation and alteration of the cottage.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In July 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Beam End Cottage, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr S W Jones in respect of a planning application for renovation work to the cottage (Planning Application No. 2003/16 (amendment to 02/1229)). Proposed works comprised of demolition of existing rear extension and construction of new replacement.
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by David Radford, Buckinghamshire's Archaeological Officer.
- 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 pebbly clay and sand over chalk with flint at 60 m above OD. The site is situated on the north side of Church Road, in private grounds.

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 Penn forms an elongated 'ribbon-like' tail to High Wycombe and merges at its north end imperceptibly with Tyler's Green. Penn's origins lie in the medieval period and it is first recorded in the 13th century.
- 1.3.3 By the 14th century Penn had become famous for its production of floor tiles (Pevsner, Sherwood and Williamson, 1994, 594). The industry supplied high status sites such as Windsor Castle and the Palace of Westminster (Hohler, 1941).
- 1.3.4 Artefactual evidence recovered in the vicinity of this development site suggests that the main focus of the industry was situated near the junction of Beacon Hill, Stumpwell Lane and Church Road. Finds from here include roof tiles and decorated floor tiles (CAS reference numbers 4244-6 incl; 4761; 5156). A probable tile kiln is known near to this development site (CAS 4244).

- 1.3.5 A summary of finds relating to the tile industry in Penn has previously been compiled (Green, 2003). The compiler also noted tile fragments in the garden of Beam End Cottage.
- 1.3.6 The nearby Church of the Holy Trinity has a west tower of early 14th century date with additions to the roof and porch in the 15th century. Church Road is flanked by several fine gabled buildings dating after the turn of the 18th century (Pevsner, Sherwood and Williamson, 1994, 594-6).
- 1.3.7 The cottage itself has a tile with the date of 1660 set into the side of rear doorway. This was possibly placed there during a later rebuild of the roof being retiled or repaired and the lower timber frame walls being replaced in flint and tile.

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 The earlier extension was demolished and its services and foundations removed. The site was cleared and marked out (Fig. 3). The foundations for the new structure were then excavated with a 360° machine with a 0.7 m wide bucket. The foundations were excavated in two phases with concrete poured in the first phase prior to the start of the second. The watching brief monitored both phases of excavation.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 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

Extension

- 3.1.1 The groundwork exposed the natural reddish brown clay (3) with patches of flint and pebbles within it. This had been cut by a number of features, which consisted of the following.
- 3.1.2 A large sub circular pit (26) was partly exposed in the foundation trench. It measured 2.3 m x 0.40 m x 1 m with sloping sides. Its base was below impact level and it was filled by a light brown silty clay (27) (Figs 3 and 4, section 5). Just to the northwest of the house was a 1.2 m circular well (11) with a flint and clay bonded lining (12).

This was excavated to a depth of 1.9 m, but was deeper and had been filled by a number of deposits of silty clays with building debris (13, 14 and 15) (Figs 3 and 4, section 2). These features had been sealed below a 0.2 m thick layer of dark reddish brown clay disturbed natural (2).

- 3.1.3 A number of features were cut into layer (2) and consisted of a small pit (4), which was seen in section with steep sloping sides and concave base. It measured 0.90 m wide x 0.50 m in depth and was filled by a light yellowish brown silty clay (5) (Figs 3 and 4, section 3).
- 3.1.4 A circular cut (8) with vertical sides and flat base. This had a brick lining (9) of bricks dating to the early 16th century with a bonding of light grey coarse grit mortar, laid in English running bond. This formed a soakaway at the rear of the house, which cut into the side of the old flint lined well (12). It had been filled in by a series of dark brown silty clay (10) with late 19th century pottery (Figs 3 and 4, section 2). The foundation cut (6) for the wall to the original cottage cut into layer (2) with near vertical side and flat base. It measured 0.2 m in depth and 0.05 m wide from face of wall (7) (Figs 3 and 4, section 4). The wall for the cottage was constructed of flint nodules, with a course of tile. This had a clay bond and 0.06 m offset on the lower course and a sarson corner stone.
- 3.1.5 To the east of the cottage a large feature was exposed in the foundations for the new conservatory. This feature (16) had vertical sides, which stepped to a flat base and would appear to be a cess tank for the cottage. Its true size was undetermined as only 4 m x 2.9 m x 1.5 m was observed in the trench. It had a wall lining of broken tile (18) with a fill between the cut and wall of loose mortar and tile fragments (17). The base of the cess tank contained a series of very clean silty clay deposits (23, 24 and 25). The upper fill (23) overlaid a deposit of material of red sandy clay with tile fragments from the construction of wall lining (18). Sealing these was a series of deposits of silty clay loams with building debris (20, 22 and 19) dumped into the cess tank to fill it in (Figs 3 and 4, section 1). Overlying all these features and sub soil layer was a 0.2 - 0.3 m thick layer of very dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (1), which had been intensively disturbed in the area of the old extension by its construction and the services to it.

Car Port

- 3.1.6 The site of the carport was leveled and the foundation trenches were excavated. These were 0.5 m wide and 0.3 m in depth and cut through the topsoil (1) and into the disturbed subsoil/natural (2). No archaeological features were observed (Fig. 2).

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 A number of finds were recovered from the backfill (10) of the brick lined soakaway (9). These consisted of:

Context 9 1 x Brick dating from the late 16th to early 17th century

Context 10 1 x Fragment of 19th century Red ware

10 x Fragments of 19th century White ware and blue transfer ware

2 x Fragments of Glass

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 revealed a number of features relating to the early construction of the house. These consisted of a number of waste pits, a flint lined well, which had been filled in and cut by the construction of a early brick lined soakaway. To the northeast of the house, a large pit with a lining consisting of broken roof tiles was partly exposed and is thought to be a cess tank for the house.
- 4.1.2 The well was filled-in with building material including quantities of tile and brick. The cesspit was lined with roof tile, which could suggest that the cottage was extensively rebuilt, with the roof being retiled or repaired and the lower timber frame walls of the cottage being replaced in flint and tile walls built onto the earlier foundations. This could date to the mid 17th century based on the tiles dating to the 1660's. The cottage had been altered in the 19th century with the southeast wall and chimney being rebuilt in brick.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>
1	Layer	0.2 - 3 m			Topsoil	
2	Layer	0.2 m			Disturbed natural/subsoil	
3	Natural				Clay with flint	
4	Cut	0.5 m	0.9 m		Pit	
5	Fill				Fill of pit	
6	Cut	0.2 m	0.05 m		Foundation trench	
7	Structure				Wall of cottage	
8	Cut	1 m	1.55 m		Cut for soakaway	
9	Structure	1 m	1.55 m		Brick lining	Brick
10	Fill				Fill of soakaway	Pottery and glass
11	Cut	1.9 m	1.4 m		Cut for well	
12	Structure	1.9 m	1,4 m		Flint lining	
13	Fill				Fill of well	
14	Fill				Fill of well	
15	Fill				Fill of well	
16	Cut	1.5 m	2.9 m	4 m	Cess tank	
17	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
18	Structure		0.55 m		Tile wall	
19	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
20	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
21	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
22	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
23	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
24	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
25	Fill				Fill of cess tank	
26	Cut	1 m	0.4 m	2.3 m	Pit	
27	Fill				Fill of pit	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA 2003 *Beam End Cottage, Church Road, Penn, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire Written Scheme of Investigation*

BCAS 2003 *Beam End, Penn. Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Green, M 2003 *Penn Tiles* (Unpublished Report quoted in BCAS)

Hohler, C 1941 *Medieval Paving tiles in Buckinghamshire, in Recs of Bucks*, 16 (1), 1-49

OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual* (1st edition, ed. D Wilkinson)

Pevsner, N, Sherwood, J with Williamson, E 1994 *The Buildings of England, Buckinghamshire*. Penguin.

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Beam End Cottage, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire

Site code: PEBEND 03

Grid reference: NGR SU 9095 9340

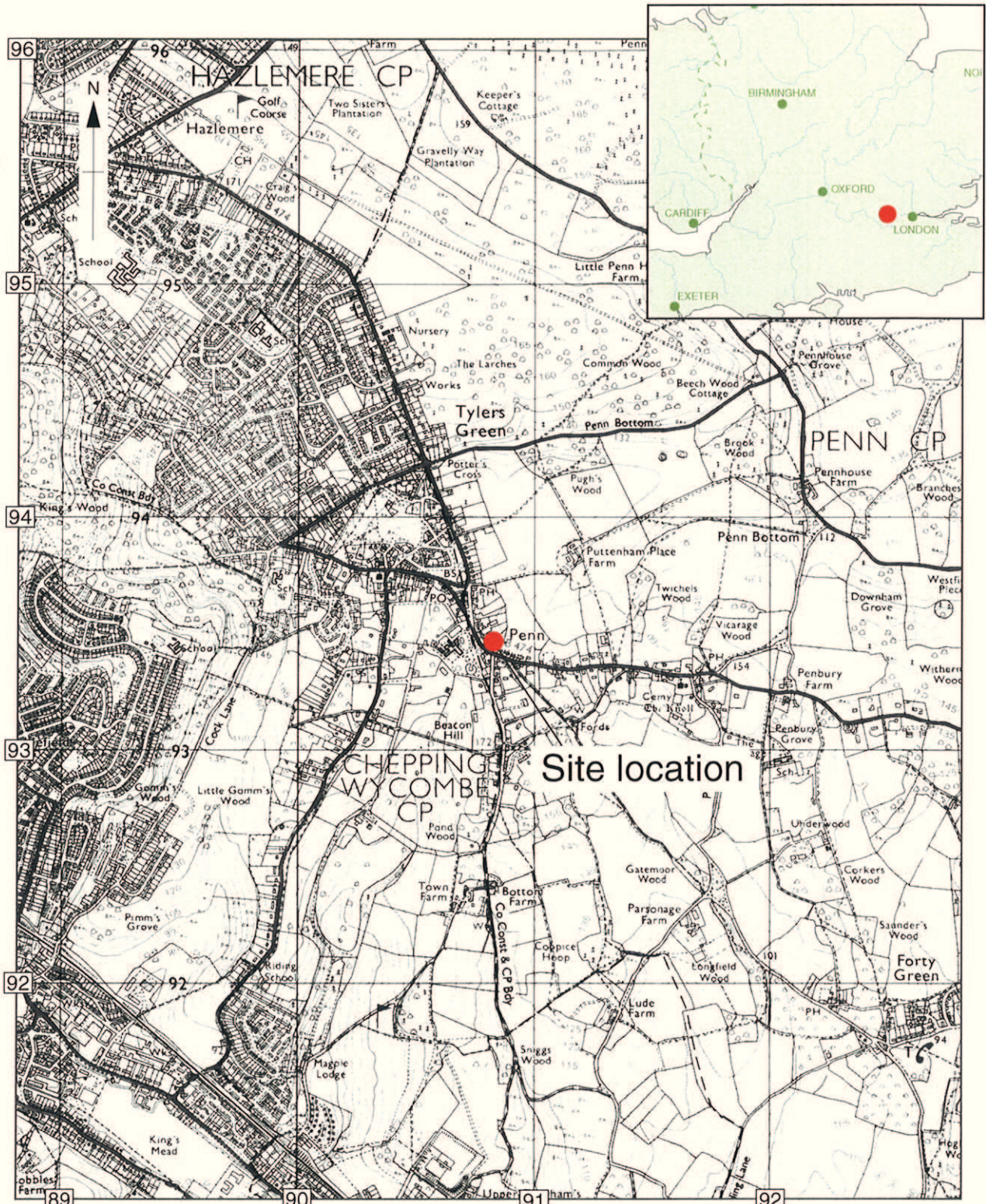
Type of watching brief: Monitoring of ground works of renovations to the cottage.

Date and duration of project: A total of six visits from the 9/7/2003 to 17/7/2003.

Area of site: 13 m x 8 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed a number of features relating to the 17th century occupation and alterations to the cottage.

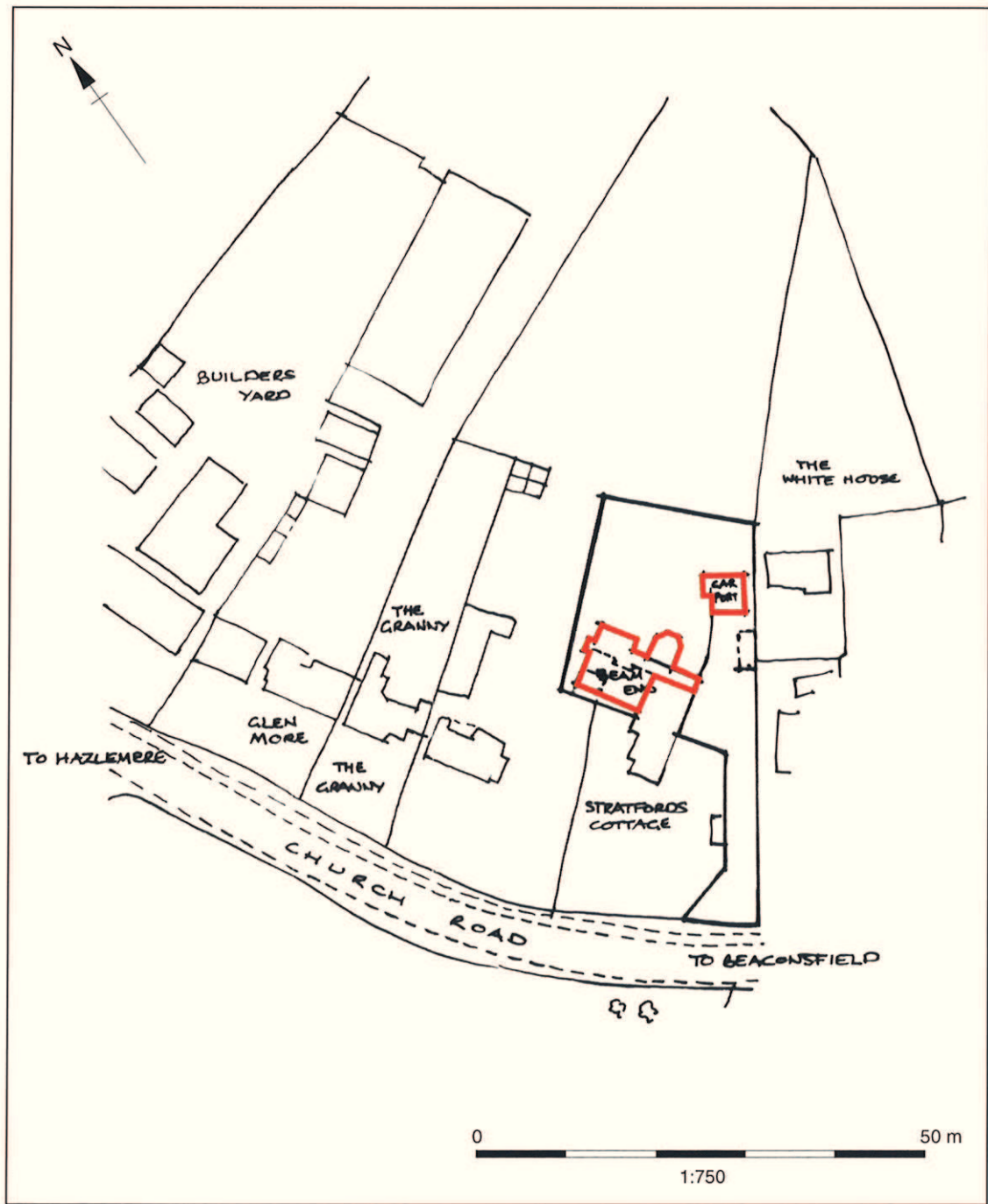
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum, Technical Centre, Tring Rd, Halton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5PJ in due course, under the following accession number: ABYCM 2003.122



Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1994. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10000569

Figure 1: Site location



— Site location

Figure 2: Site plan

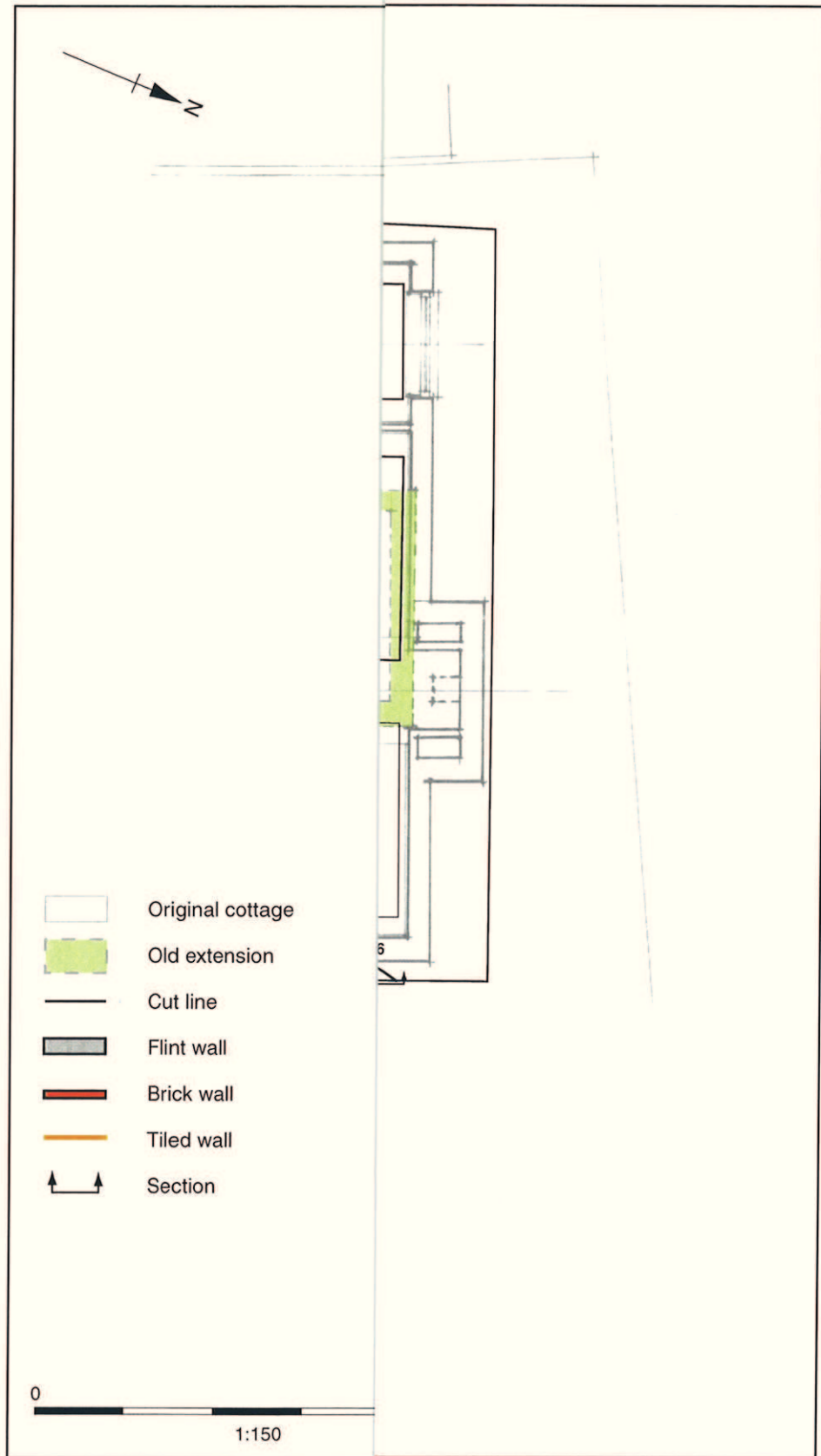


Figure 3: Site plan with features and sections

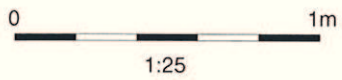
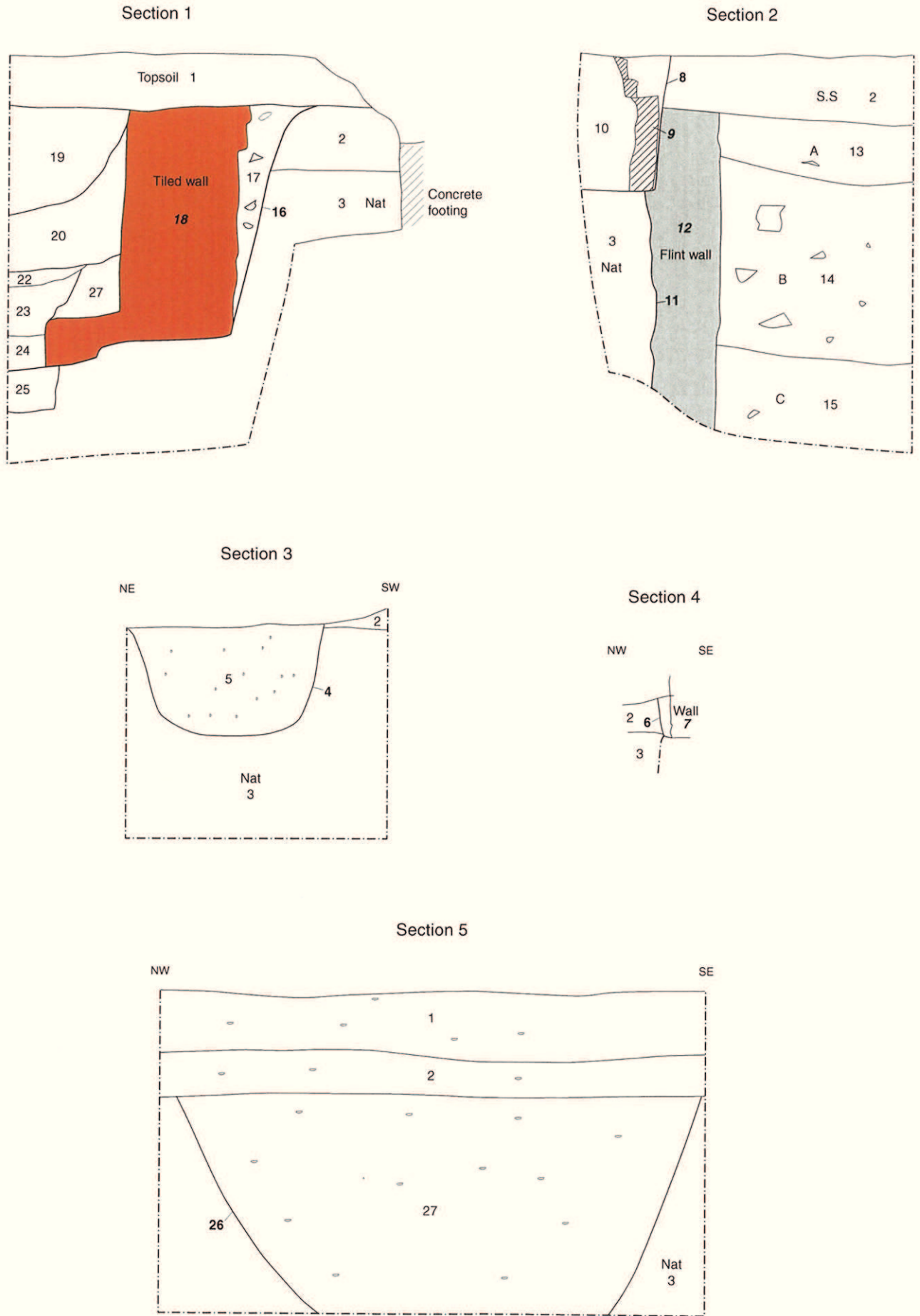

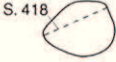












Figure 4: Sections 1-5

	Section line and number
	Interior section line and number
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
	Fill line and number
	Cut line and number
	Structure number
	Unclear boundary
	Stones
	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
	Levels
	Grid point



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, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES