

# CANAL HOUSE, BOTANY BAY, CHORLEY LANCASHIRE



## Archaeological Building Investigation



**Oxford Archaeology North**

March 2005

### **Mall Associates**

Issue No: 2004-5/348

OAN Job No: L9491

NGR: SD 59430 18814

Planning Application No:  
04/01318/FUL

**Document Title:** CANAL HOUSE, BOTANY BAY, CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE

**Document Type:** Archaeological Building Investigation

**Client Name:** Mall Associates

**Issue Number:** 2004-5/348

**OA Job Number:** L9491

**National Grid Reference:** SD 59430 18814

**Planning Application No:** 04/01318/FUL

Prepared by: Kathryn Blythe  
Position: Project Supervisor  
Date: March 2005

Checked by: Alison Plummer  
Position: Project Manager  
Date: March 2005  
Signed.....

Approved by: Alan Lupton  
Position: Operations Manager  
Date: March 2005  
Signed.....

**Oxford Archaeology North**

Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TF  
t: (0044) 01524 848666  
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

**© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd (2005)**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0EA  
t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

**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.*

---

## CONTENTS

---

<b>CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Circumstances of the Project .....	4
<b>2. METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Building Investigation.....	5
2.2 Archive.....	5
<b>3. BUILDING INVESTIGATION RESULTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	6
3.2 Arrangement of the Building .....	6
3.3 Fabric .....	6
3.4 External details.....	6
3.5 Conclusion .....	7
<b>4. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ILLUSTRATIONS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
List of Figures .....	9
List of Plates .....	9

---

## SUMMARY

---

Following a proposal by Mall Associates on behalf of Mr I B Hodson to demolish Canal House (SD 59430 18814) and build a new property (Planning Application No 04/01318/FUL), a programme of archaeological recording was requested by Chorley Borough Council. A verbal brief for the work was issued to Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).

The date of Canal House is uncertain, however it is thought to be contemporary with the Leeds and Liverpool canal, completed in 1777, and it appears on the 1847 First Edition OS mapping. The house is set back from the canal on Knowley wharf, which was used for most of the nineteenth century for the loading and unloading of goods.

The project was to consist of a level I-type Survey (RCHME 1996), which comprised a photographic record and written description of the outside of the building. The work was carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

Oxford Archaeology North would like to express its thanks to Mall Associates for commissioning the work on behalf of Mr I B Hodson. The building investigation was carried out by Kathryn Blythe who also prepared the report and produced the drawings. Alison Plummer managed the project, and also undertook the editing of the report, along with Alan Lupton.

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Mr I B Hodson submitted a planning application (No 04/01318/FUL) to Chorley Borough Council for consent to demolish his property known as Canal House (Fig 2) at Botany Bay, Chorley (SD 59430 18814) for the purpose of constructing a new dwelling on the site.
- 1.1.2 Planning permission was received on the condition that a building survey, comprising the photographic record of the exterior of the building with a written description, was carried out at the property prior to any work commencing. The Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) issued a verbal brief for this work. The building investigation was undertaken in February 2005.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the building investigation in the form of a short document.

---

## 2. METHODOLOGY

---

### 2.1 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 2.1.1 ***Descriptive Record:*** a written record using OA North *pro-forma* sheets was compiled of the principal exterior elements of the building. This was maintained to RCHME Level I-type standards. The property was occupied at the time of the investigation taking place.
- 2.1.2 ***Photographs:*** photographs were taken in both black and white 35mm print and colour slide format. In addition, pictures were taken using a digital camera. The photographic archive consists of both general shots of the building and shots of specific architectural details. The positions from which the plates used to illustrate this report were taken, are shown on Figure 3.

### 2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 A full archive of the building investigation has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited with Lancashire County Record Office (Preston) and a copy of the report will be deposited with the Lancashire County SMR in Preston.

---

### 3. BUILDING INVESTIGATION RESULTS

---

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 **Location:** Canal House is located to the immediate north-east of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the M61 motorway, at the north end of the town of Chorley, Lancashire (Fig 2).

3.1.2 The date of Canal House is uncertain, however it is thought to be contemporary with the Leeds and Liverpool canal, completed in 1777, and it appears on the 1894 First Edition OS mapping. The house is set back from the canal on Knowley wharf, which was used for most of the nineteenth century for the loading and unloading of goods (Hodkinson 1987). It is probable that Canal House originated as the wharf keepers cottage.

#### 3.2 ARRANGEMENT OF THE BUILDING

3.2.1 Canal House comprises a two-storey, two-unit dwelling with a two-storey outshut attached to its south-east end. A modern, square in plan, one-storey extension has, in turn, been added to the south-east end of the outshut.

#### 3.3 FABRIC

3.3.1 The entire building is of coursed heavily-pointed light pinkish-brown sandstone, although this is only exposed for the lower storey of the building, the upper storey having been rendered and pebble-dashed. The walls are furnished with long-and-short quoins. The roof on the main part of the building, the outshut and the porch (located at the rear of the property), was of concrete tiles and was added in 1958 (Mr Hodson pers comm). Chimney-stacks are present at opposing ends of the gabled roof.

#### 3.4 EXTERNAL DETAILS

3.4.1 **Front (south-west elevation):** (Plates 1-4) the main part of the cottage comprises a central doorway in the lower storey with a window to either side. On the second storey a further two windows are located directly above the lower windows. There is a door at the south-east end of the outshut and a window (approximately half the size of the windows on the main part of the building) in the second storey. All of the windows have stone sills, painted black, which protrude approximately 0.1m from the wall. The four larger windows each have two lights within a black wooden frame (1/4 lights above). The small window in the outshut has neither window-pane nor frame. Both doors have stone lintels above them.

3.4.2 **North-west gable:** (Plates 5-7) there is a bow window in this wall on the lower storey and to the rear. The window consisted of two lights divided vertically into two sets of six. The window sits on a stone sill protruding 0.05m from the



wall and the lintel can be seen beneath the render projecting from the wall. A chimney was built at this end, and broken pebbledash revealed that this was of red brick. There was also a stone or slate plinth running around the chimney, approximately two thirds of the way up. On top of the chimney was one ceramic chimney-pot.

- 3.4.3 **Back (north-east elevation):** (Plates 8-11) the lower storey had three identical bow windows, two in the main part of the building, and one in the outshut. The windows each had twelve lights, four over three, in black wooden frames. A porch-type roof stretched over the three bow windows at the top of the lower storey. A fairly modern black wooden door with a frosted window panel was located in the lower storey of the outshut between two of the bow windows. On the upper storey in the main part of the building were two windows each with two lights divided vertically by wooden frames. The outshut had a further window in the same design, but approximately half the height. The two larger windows each had stone sills, flat to the wall of the house, but the smaller window had a wooden frame only.
- 3.4.4 **South-east gable:** (Plates 12-13) this end of the main building was largely obscured by the outshut, which has a cat slide roof. Neither the outshut nor the main part of the building contained any windows in this elevation. There was a chimney at the apex of the gable of the same construction as the chimney on the north-east gable. This chimney had three ceramic pots of varying sizes. Most of the end of the outshut was obscured by a modern, square, flat-roofed extension (Plates 14-15). This had one large window on this end, a door on the south-west side and a window on the north-east side. The walls to this extension, plus the south-east wall of the outshut were all rendered.

### 3.5 CONCLUSION

- 3.5.1 The roof, extension, bow windows and porch appear to be later additions to the fabric of the cottage. It is likely that the outshut is original to the design of the dwelling, the pattern of quoins at its east end and the simple stone lintel above the door would certainly suggest this.

---

## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, London

Hodkinson, Kenneth, 1987, *Old Chorley "In the Footsteps of Wilson" A Pictorial Record of Bygone Days*, Chorley, Lancashire

RCHME, 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings : A Descriptive Specification*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, Swindon

---

## ILLUSTRATIONS

---

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Map showing Canal house

Figure 3: Plan to show position of photographs

### LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Front (south-west) elevation

Plate 2: Front elevation (west end)

Plate 3: Front elevation (middle)

Plate 4: Front elevation (east end)

Plate 5: North-west gable

Plate 6: Window in north-west gable

Plate 7: Chimney on north-west gable

Plate 8: Back elevation (west end)

Plate 9: Back elevation (middle)

Plate 10: Back elevation (east end)

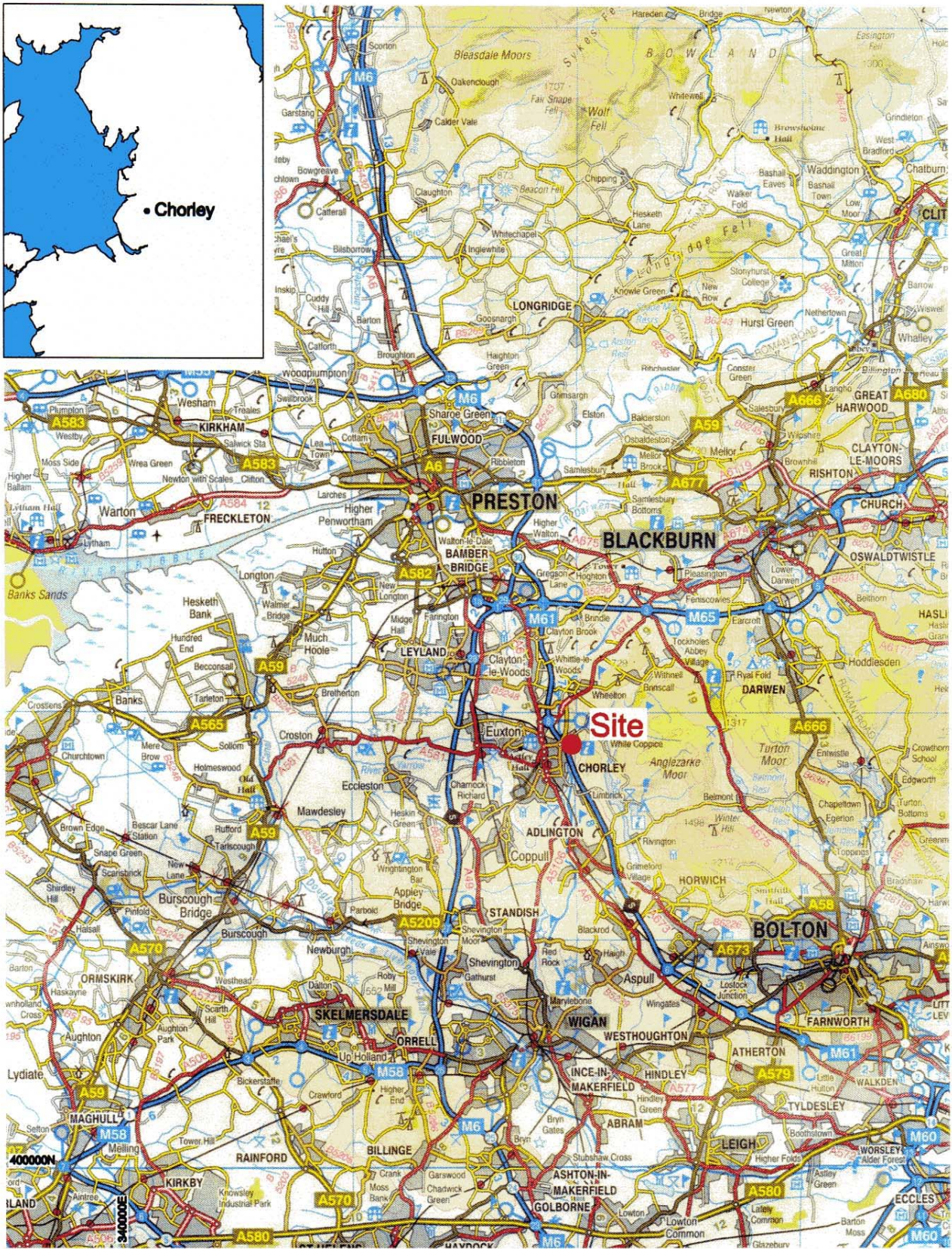
Plate 11: Porch on back elevation

Plate 12: South-east gable

Plate 13: Chimney on south-east gable

Plate 14: Extension on south-east elevation (north-east side)

Plate 15: Extension on south-east elevation (south-west side)



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:250,000  
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO  
 © Crown Copyright



0 5000  
 metres

Figure 1: Location Map

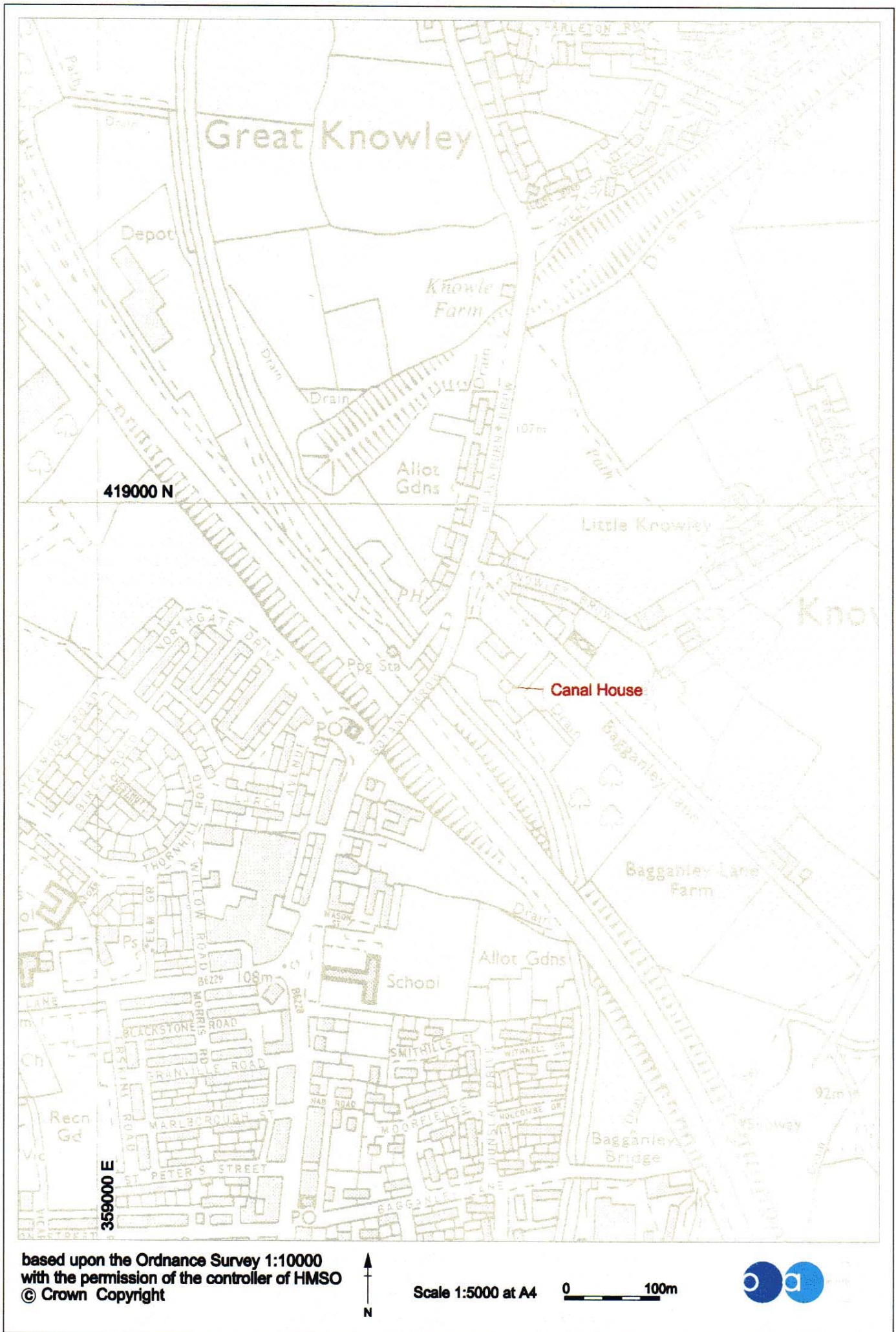


Figure 2 : Map showing Canal House

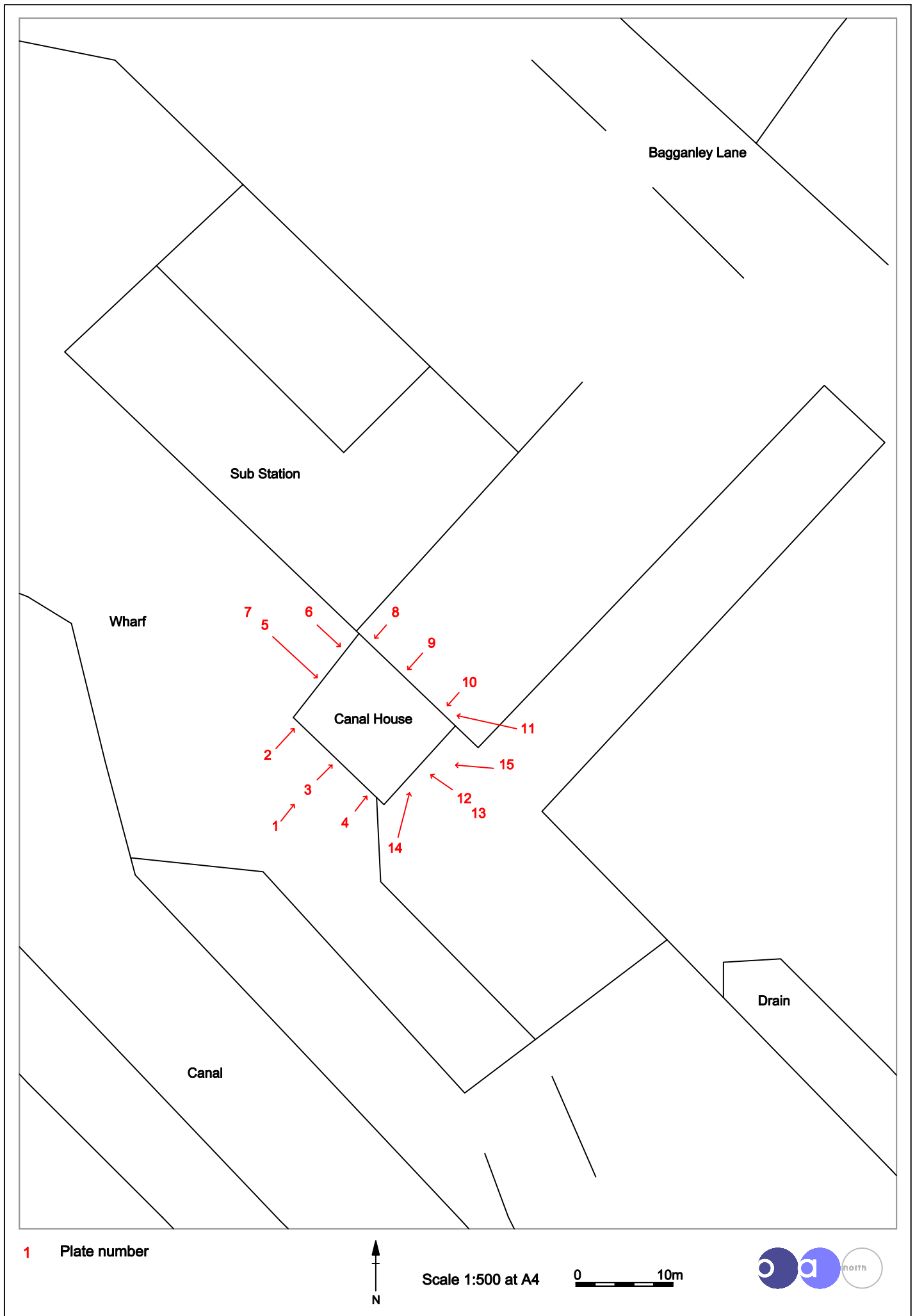


Figure 3 : Plan to show position of photographs



Plate 1: Front (south-west) elevation



Plate 2: Front elevation (west end)



Plate 3: Front elevation (middle)



Plate 4: Front elevation (east end)





Plate 5: North-west gable



Plate 6: Window in north-west gable



Plate 7: Chimney on north-west gable



Plate 8: Back elevation (west end)



Plate 9: Back elevation (middle)



Plate 10: Back elevation (east end)



Plate 11: Porch on back elevation



Plate 12: South-east gable



Plate 13: Chimney on south-east gable



Plate 14: Extension on south-east elevation (north-east side)



Plate 15: Extension on south-east elevation (south-west side)