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The Bull Stanford Dingley Berkshire

Buildings Analysis / Recording



Oxford Archaeology

10th December 2001

Client Name: Acess Architects

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1102

Access Architects

**THE BULL
STANFORD DINGLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

By Benjamin M Jeffs

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out analysis of three wall sections within the Bull at Stanford Dingley. These walls were found to be of historic construction although considerably altered from their original forms.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Three areas of the existing building were investigated prior to building works in these areas, these were:

The northeastern (rear) wall with exposed timber framing, and the southeastern (side) wall of brick construction.

The internal northwestern end of the northeastern wall of the bar (between the bar and kitchen), within the timber framed extension to the main building.

1.1.2 The works included surface inspection of both faces of the walls in question, as well as a small patch of render removal from the bar face of the internal wall.

1.2 Acknowledgements

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank David Leighton of Access architects for his help during the project.

2 AIMS

2.1.1 The general aims are:

- Investigation of the phasing and construction of the areas of the building detailed above.
- Assessment of the significance of material likely to be impacted by the development works
- Production of a record to mitigate development works should they take place.
- Production of a client report detailing the relevant findings.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of Analysis

3.1.1 The works were limited to three sections of wall as detailed above. The works included archaeological and historical analysis, although no documentary sources were consulted.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 *The Base Survey*

The base survey for the present programme of archaeological recording was previously undertaken by access architects

3.2.2 *The Drawn Record*

A series of annotations were made to the pre-existing survey drawings, with additional details added to allow the reconstruction of elevation and plan details.

Generally recording was in the form of measured and annotated elevation drawings of each elevation undertaken.

3.2.3 *The Photographic Record*

A full black and white negative and colour slide photographic record was made by OA of all features and details.

3.2.4 *The Written Record*

Written descriptions of the structure were made as part of the annotated drawings, additional notes were taken as appropriate.

4 REAR WALL DESCRIPTION

4.1 General Form

The walls in question fall into two sections: The north-eastern (rear) wall with exposed timber framing, and the south-eastern (side) wall that has been clad as part of the works to the front of the building, using a Flemish bond with flared headers.

In both cases, only the areas that are to be affected by the proposed works have been considered; these fall in the eastern corner of the building.

4.2 Rear Section

4.2.1 *Timber*

The rear wall consists of a plain, pegged timber frame, with a wall plate and eight uprights (two of which were obscured). The ground beam has been removed and replaced with brickwork.

The uprights have been horizontally braced, however the third and fourth braces from the northwest have been removed to introduce modern doorways.

Generally, where it remains, the timber is in sound condition, however it has been repaired, in several places, with a cementitious grout. An abundance of thick brown stain / paint obscures the boundaries between the repair and the sound timber.

4.2.2 *Masonry*

There are two types of masonry infill within the frame:

Type 1

Red bricks 225 – 230mm by 70mm with white lime mortar and penny struck joints.

Type 2

Red bricks 220mm by 60mm, with yellowish lime mortar; much of this type has been re-pointed with cementitious mortar.

Type 1 is almost exclusively limited to the upper panels, while type 2 forms the body of the masonry below the centre braces, including that which lies below the line of the old wall plate.

A great deal of the masonry of both types has been rebuilt with modern mortars, and the foundations below the brickwork have been excavated and replaced with concrete.

4.3 Side Section

The side section is entirely brick, though elements of the timber frame may remain behind the façade. Much of the work is Flemish bond with flared headers, forming a regular polychrome pattern.

This general pattern continues into the arch above the small window, and to some extent into the plinth. In-between these points the pattern has been disturbed and mostly removed by later work. This work continues to the limits of the proposed works, which coincide with the internal division of the property.

There have been considerable changes to the small window, possibly including shortening.

5 REAR WALL DISCUSSION

The simple form of the oak frame and its limited and incomplete nature make an assessment of its date difficult. It is certainly possible that the frame is pre-eighteenth century, however there is no direct evidence to suggest this.

The brickwork is all 18th century or later, and has been considerably altered in recent years. The presence of the two modern doors and the concrete foundations strongly suggest that much of the lower section of the wall has been reconstructed.

The side section of wall is complete to the period at which the building was faced, up to the top of the window. Below the window, the wall has been extensively rebuilt.

The rebuild does not include the plinth, though it does correspond with repairs to the window and a modern sill.

The major rebuild within this section of wall is firmly dated by an inscribed brick, which reads TP 99. It is uncertain as to the depth of this rebuild, however its coincidence with the internal division suggests that it is full thickness.

6 INTERNAL WALL DESCRIPTION

This wall is within a small extension to the building, believed to date to the 16th century.

The wall is outwardly entirely featureless, apart from a single timber tie for the roof, the fabric being covered by render in the bar area, and modern board in the kitchen.

To facilitate analysis a small section of render was removed from the surface of the brickwork in the bar area. This sample revealed very fragmentary brickwork, with bricks from various periods, the latest of which being mid 19th century.

Running down the centre of the sample section a vertical joint in the brickwork was observed.

The covering render was hard cementitious mortar, obviously recently applied.

There is one timber purlin exposed in the ceiling of this extension, which is roughly converted, with simple chamfers to its lower edges. This timber ends shortly before the wall in question, and is replaced by a more evenly converted timber.

There is one timber purlin exposed in the ceiling of this extension, which is roughly converted, with simple chamfers to its lower edges. This timber ends shortly before the wall in question, and is replaced by a more evenly converted timber.

The junction between these two timbers is supported by a brace that runs back to the tie within the wall; the brace is converted in a similar manner to the replacement purlin above.

7 INTERNAL WALL DISCUSSION

The main exposed purlin could be 16th century in date, though it is not associated with the dividing wall that it is proposed to remove.

At least the base of the wall is 19th century in construction, a date which would not be inconsistent with the smoothly converted timbers with which it is associated.

The main feature of interest is the covered vertical joint exposed in the sample section of render removal. The joint may represent some form of opening, though given the disturbed nature of the brickwork it may be that it is an anomaly.

The wall and timberwork all appear to be part of a later alteration and subdivision of the earlier extension.

8 PLATES



Plate 1 Internal Wall Plaster Removal



Plate 2 Internal Wall General Shot



Plate 3 External Side Wall



Plate 4 External Rear Wall



Plate 5 External Rear Wall

APPENDIX I SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Bull

Site code: SddbULLBS

Grid reference:

Type of evaluation: Building Analysis

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA,
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.

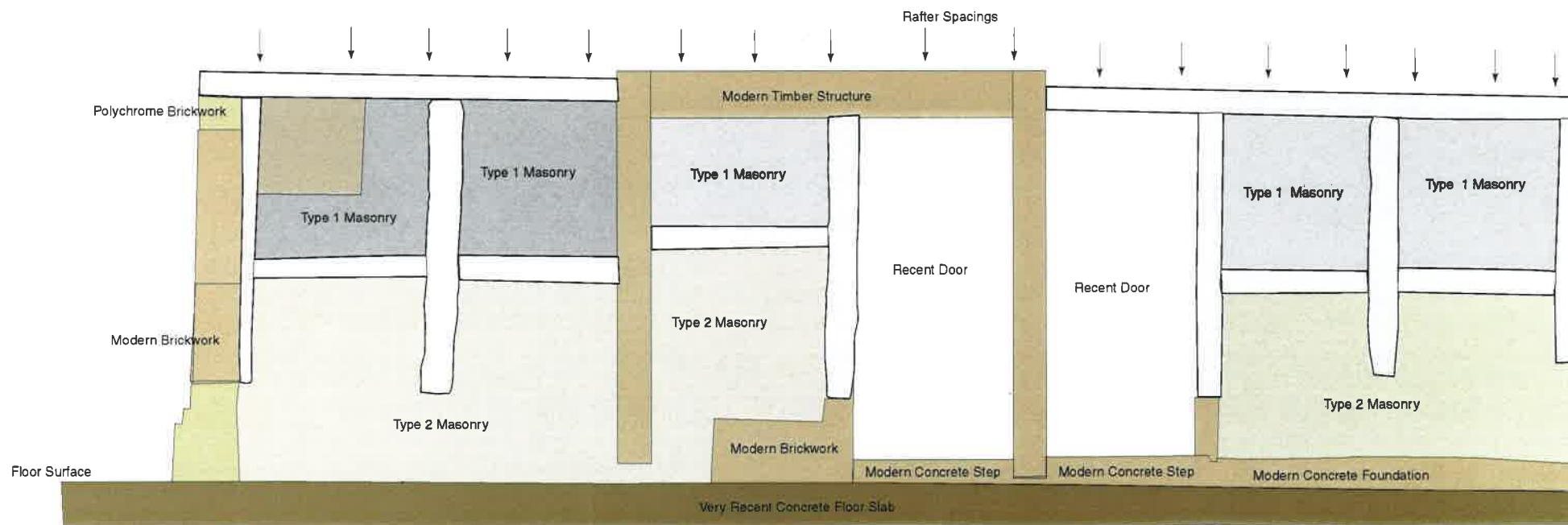


Figure 1 External Elevation Of The Back Wall Of The Bull



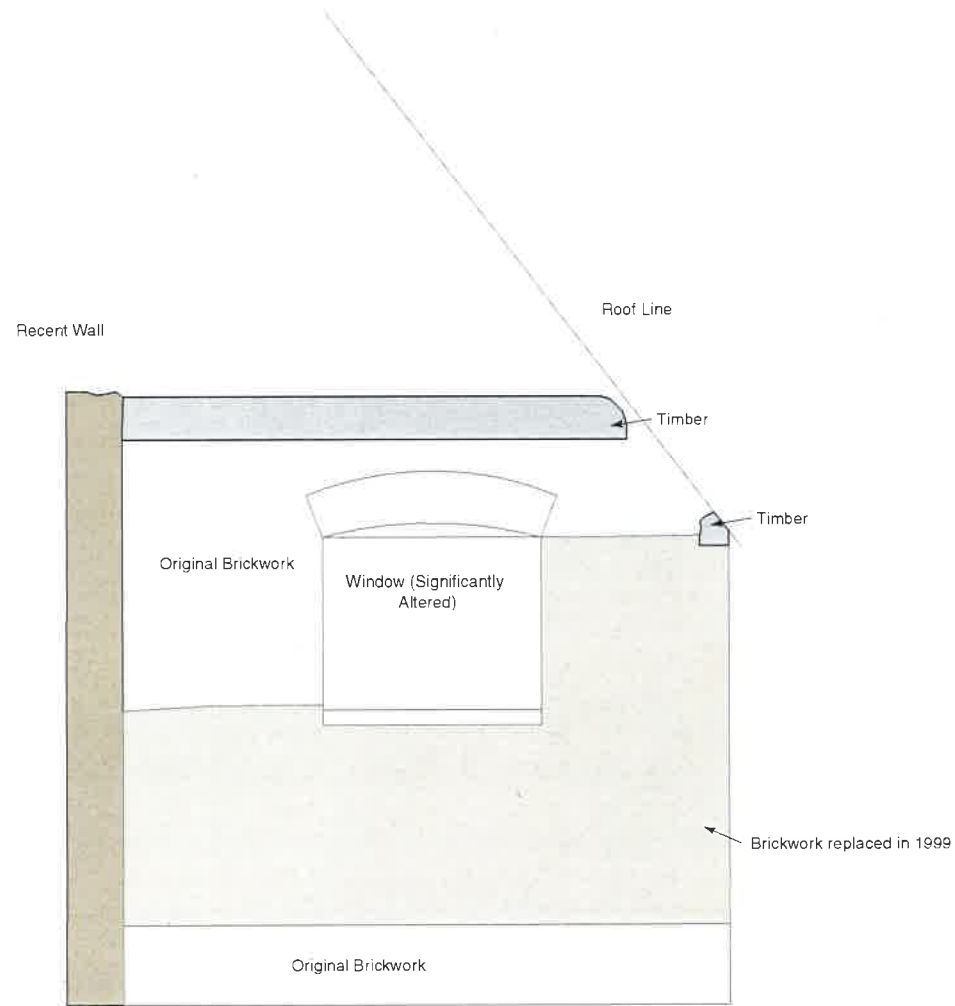


Figure 2 External Elevation Of The Side Wall Of The Bull

