

Church Cottage
Lawrence Lane
Burford
Oxfordshire



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology

9th April 2002

Client Name: Mr Paul Smith

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1163

Planning Ref N^o: W2001/1089

NGR: SP 2525 1242

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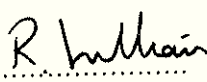
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Prepared by: James Mumford

Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: 08th April 2002

Checked by: Jon Hiller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 08th April 2002

Approved by: Robert Williams
Position: Director, Head of Business and Operations
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Signed..... 

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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

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Church Cottage, Lawrence Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In April 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Church Cottage, Lawrence Lane, Burford Oxfordshire (NGR SP 2525 1242). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Smith the owner, in advance of the construction of a two storey extension on the side of the cottage. The watching brief revealed an old garden soil which had been disturbed by the construction of outbuildings on site prior to the cottage construction in 1937.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April 2002 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Church Cottage, Lawrence Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Smith the owner, in respect of a planning application for the construction of two storey extension on side of the cottage (Planning Application No. W2001/1089)
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer for Oxfordshire County Council.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2002).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development site is located in Lawrence Lane on the east side of the High Street (A361), adjacent to the Parish Church of St. John at NGR SP 2525 1242.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at c. 101 m OD and the underlying geology is alluvium over gravel and limestone with clay patches.

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, 2002) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 This development site is within the historic core of Burford, close to the Church of St. John that is recorded in Domesday, though it may have Saxon origins. The Anglo-Saxon/early medieval settlement probably centered on the church and the crossing over the River Windrush. The settlement extended southward from the river in the early medieval period.
- 1.3.3 An archaeological watching brief on the south side of Church Lane, south of the development site (opposite Rose Cottage), revealed medieval and post-medieval pit features. Some Saxon pottery was recovered though no features of this date were certainly identified.

- 1.3.4 A watching brief at Rose Cottage south of the church revealed ditches containing medieval pottery. One ditch contained Roman material and may date to that period.

1.4 Acknowledgements

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 area of the site was cleared and a mini excavator lowered the ground to 0.3 m below new floor level. The foundation trenches were then excavated to a depth of 1.2 m below ground level and were between 0.7 – 0.8 m wide.
- 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

- 3.1.1 The north foundation trench of the extension cut along the remains of an earlier dry stone wall (8) (Figs 2 & 3) built on a footing of large limestone blocks laid on a first course of pitched limestone fragments. This was the rear wall to the 19th century outbuildings on the site prior to the present cottage. This was cut into dark brown silty clay loam (4) cultivated soil.
- 3.1.2 The east foundation trench exposed a stone lined drain/soakaway of limestone dry stone construction bonded to wall (8) (Figs 2 & 3) and built on a north east to south west angle from it. It consisted of two walls (6 & 7) which had been filled with a series of layers (9) of ash, cinders, lime and silty clay loam which represented material silting up and being dumped. The drain had been built in a vertical sided cut (5) measuring 1.6 x 1.2 x 1 m, the base being below the level of impact. This cut a number of soil layers consisting of a construction layer of compact dark yellowish brown silty clay (3) with limestone fragments, which overlay the old cultivated soil horizon of dark brown silty clay loam (4). The garden soil (1) and patch of ash and cinders (2) overlay these.
- 3.1.3 The south foundation trench also cut through garden soil (1) overlying a 0.2 m thick construction layer from the cottage. This sealed a well (10) that measured 0.12 m Ø

x 1.1 m (Fig. 2). It had a limestone lining that was 0.26 m wide. The well had been filled to a depth of 1.1 m and reused as a soakaway for the south east corner of the cottage. This cut into the old cultivated soil horizon (4).

- 3.1.4 When the ground surface was reduced in the centre of the new extension the old soak away for the north east corner was located. This was a 1m² hole filled with limestone rubble with a 3" ceramic pipe running to it from the corner of the cottage.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Three fragments of pottery dating from the late 19th and early 20th century were recovered from the drain fill (9). These consisted of two fragments of blue transfer ware and white glaze ware.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 No environmental samples were taken from the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The results from the watching brief revealed that the site had been extensively disturbed by the construction and then demolition of the outbuildings on the site. These buildings are shown in a old photograph and the owner has records of them being demolished and used in the construction of the cottage in 1937. A number of structures relating to these buildings were observed in the foundation trenches and were dated from the late 19th century.
- 4.1.2 These overlay or cut into a cultivated soil horizon. No dating evidence was recovered from this layer. This layer properly overlay any archaeological features and deposits and was observed from a depth of 0.4 m from the surface and represented old garden soil.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Length	Width	Height	Comments	Finds
1	Layer	0.3 m				Topsoil	
2	Layer	0.1 m	1.8 m			Dump of material	
3	Layer	0.5 m				Construction layer	
4	Layer	0.3 - 0.7 m				Old cultivated soil	
5	Cut		2.4 m	1.6 m	1 m	Cut for drain / soak away	
6	Wall		3 m	0.36 m	0.6 m	Wall of drain	
7	Wall		0.6 m		0.4 m	Wall of drain	
8	Wall		7 m	0.4 m	1.2 m	Rear wall of outbuildings	
9	Fill					Fill of drain / soak away	3 x pottery sherds
10	Well	1.1 m		1.12 m Ø		Stone lined well	

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

1985, Alan Sutton Publishing, *Burford in old Photographs* by Alfred Jewel, p106

OA 1992, *Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

OA 2002, *Church Cottage, Lawrence Lane, Burford, Oxon* Written Scheme of Investigation

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Church Cottage, Lawrence Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire

Site code: BULAWL 02

Grid reference: NGR SP 2525 1242

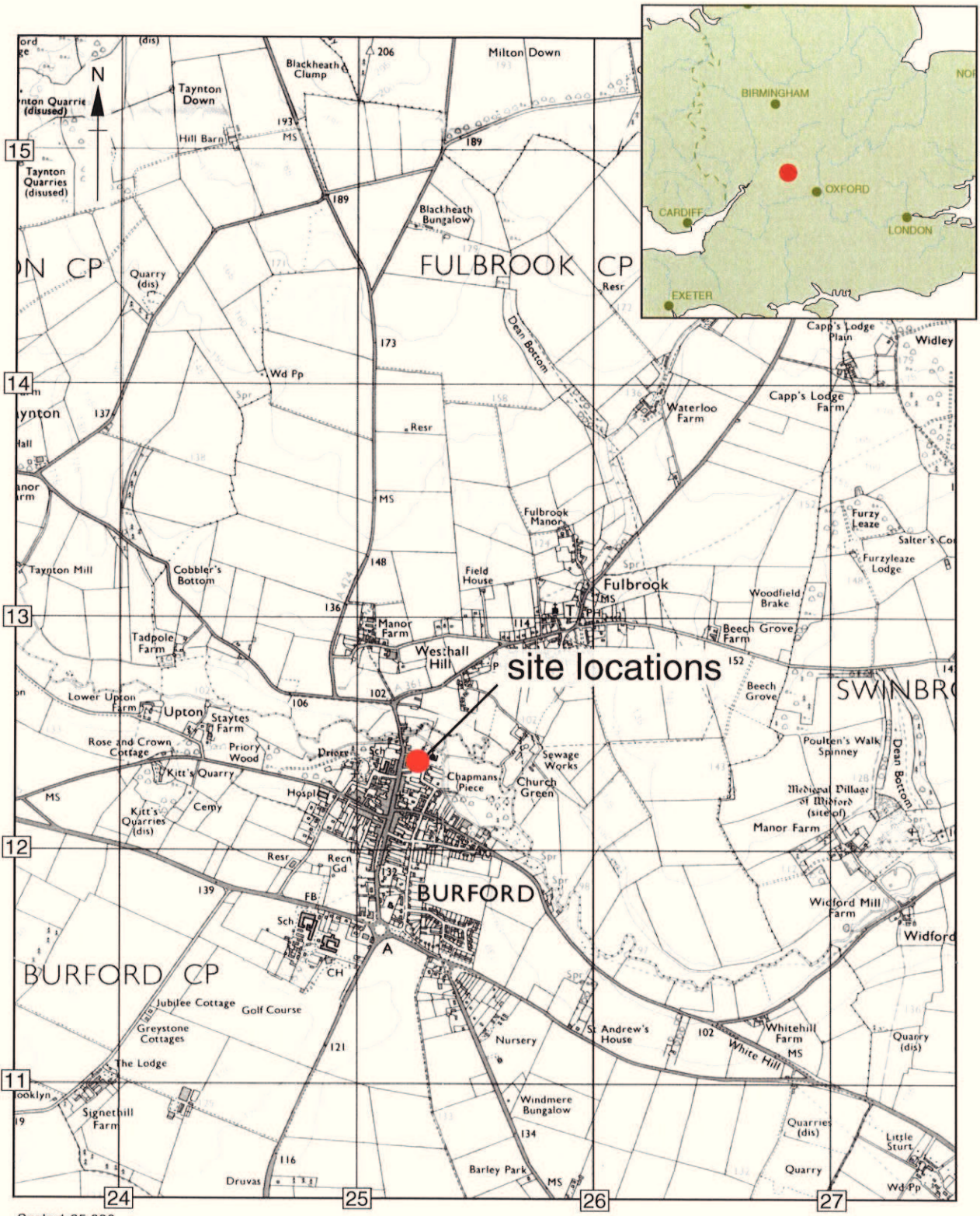
Type of watching brief: Foundation trenches for the construction of two storey extension on side of cottage.

Date and duration of project: One day on site on the 2nd April 2002.

Area of site: 4 x 6 m

Summary of results: Construction and demolition of outbuildings prior to the construction of the cottage in 1937, which overlay cultivated soil from old gardens.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: 2002.15



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site Location



Figure 2: Site Plan and Section Location

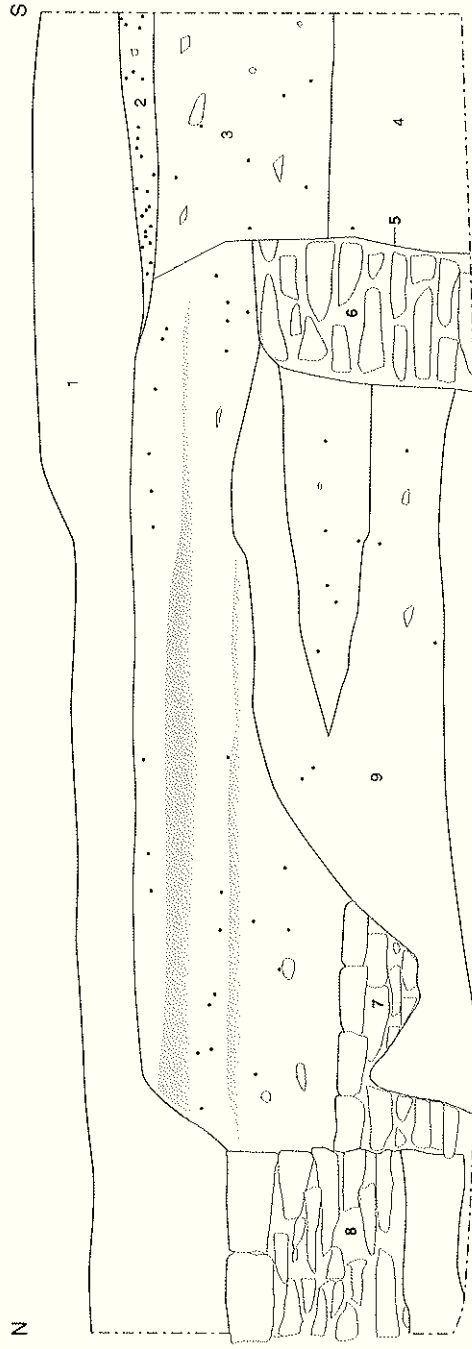


Figure 3: Section



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 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



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