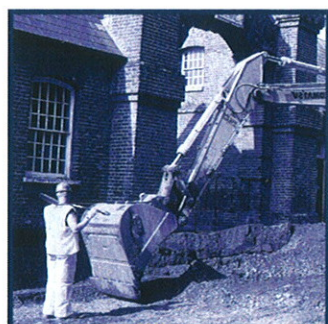


# Dove Cottage Wharf Lane Lechlade Gloucestershire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



**Oxford Archaeology**

July 2003

**Client: Mr R Smith**

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OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1869

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## SUMMARY

*In June 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Dove Cottage, Wharf Lane, Lechlade, Gloucestershire (NGR SU 215 995). The work was commissioned by Mr R Smith in advance of new extension at the rear of the existing property. The watching brief revealed a number of rubbish pits from the post-medieval period (19th and 20th century).*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Dove Cottage, Wharf Lane, Lechlade, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned in respect of a planning application for new extension at the rear of the property (Planning Application No. CT.7762/A).
- 1.1.2 A Project Brief was set by Charles Parry Gloucestershire's Senior 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 a boundary of the second gravel terrace of the River Thames and River Drift Alluvium at 75 m above OD. The site is situated in the rear garden of Dove Cottage.

#### 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 The development site lies in the heart of medieval Lechlade close to the medieval parish church. Lechlade and its environs have an abundance of archaeological remains from the later prehistoric period and onwards.
- 1.3.3 Butler's Field is a nationally important site designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and it is located near the development site; it contains remains of early prehistoric date as well as a Saxon period cemetery. Several prehistoric monument types have been identified from aerial photographs including cursus monuments, henge-like monuments and a linear barrow cemetery. Other sites of potentially very early date have been identified within 1 km around the development area including trackways, field systems and pits. It would appear that Lechlade and its environs were a major focus of activity from the Neolithic period and throughout prehistory.

- 1.3.4 There is also much evidence of Roman activity in the area. Excavations at the nearby sites of Butler's Field and at The Loder uncovered evidence of substantial Roman settlement.
- 1.3.5 Excavations by OAU in 1985 revealed a large and very rich Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Butler's Field. This cemetery was dated from the mid/late 5th century to the late 7th century, and is perhaps the wealthiest ever found in the Upper Thames Valley. It is possible that the development site lies on the periphery of the settlement associated with the cemetery.
- 1.3.6 The earliest documentary reference to Lechlade is in 1066, when the 15-hide manor of Lechlade was held by Siward, probably Siward Barn, a great-nephew of Edward the Confessor. At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 the manor was held by Henry de Ferrers, and three mills, a fishery of 175 eels and 53 inhabitants are mentioned. There is no reference to a town; the earliest we hear of this is in 1210 when a market was granted to Lechlade. By 1235 Lechlade had become a borough, when a borough court is mentioned. The mainstay of economic life of the town was as a staging-post for goods and passenger traffic along the Thames.
- 1.3.7 During the Post-medieval period road and river transport continued to play an important part in the life of the town. By the late 17th century large quantities of cheese were being shipped down the river from Lechlade and after the opening of the Thames and Severn canal the inhabitants also traded in coal. During the 18th century there was considerable trade in malting and transporting corn to London by water.

## 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 site was first marked out and cleared of garden features (Fig. 2). Then the main wall foundation trench from the kitchen was excavated. The return wall for the new outbuilding was marked out and excavated followed by the ground reduction in the central area for the new floor.
- 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 foundation trenches cut into the natural of yellowish brown gravel (8). This had been cut by a number of features, which were only observed in section.
- 3.1.2 A rubbish pit (12) measuring 1.3 m wide and 0.84 m in depth was filled with a mid brown silty clay (13). Two more pits had cut this. Pit (14) had steep sloping sides and concave base (measuring 1.3 m wide and 0.8 m in depth) and was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay (15). Also seen was pit (9), which appeared to be sub-circular with near vertical sides, but base was below impact level. It measured 1.5 m x 0.1 m x 0.88 m and was filled by a light reddish brown silty clay (10), overlain by a light brown silty clay (18) (Figs 3 and 4, Sections 1 and 2).
- 3.1.3 Pit (14) had been cut by a wide foundation trench (16) with steep sloping sides and flat base for the existing outbuilding, which was filled by a compact mid brown silty clay (17) with a brick and stone rubble. Pit (9) had been cut by a large circular pit (6) with steep sloping and vertical sides, its base was below the impact level and contained two fills. The lower fill was a compact dark brown silty clay (7), overlain by a very dark grey brown silty clay (11). These had all been overlain by a 0.35 m thick layer of very dark grey brown silty sand (5) cultivated garden soil. This had been overlain by 0.3 m thick layer of fine very dark brown silty sand topsoil (1). This had been cut a 1 m wide cut (2) for the garden path, which was 0.3 m in depth and filled by compact sand and gravel (3) and topped by a surface of stone chipping (4) (Figs 3 and 4, Sections 1 and 2).

#### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 A number of finds were recovered during the watching brief from three of the pit fills and all dated to the 19th and early 20th century and are listed below:

Context 10      1 x Fragment of stone glaze ware.

Context 11      1 x Fragment of large bird bone.

1 x Red ware

4 x Fragments of Blue Transfer ware

4 x Fragments of White ware

Context 13      5 x Fragments of white glaze ware

1 x Glass fragment

#### 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 recorded a number of inter-cutting late post medieval rubbish pits at the rear of the cottage, which in turn were cut by the foundation trench for the small outbuilding and sealed below two layers of cultivated garden topsoil. The pits were dated to the late 19th to early 20th century and are probably associated from the time when the cottage was a pub providing trade to the work force working at the wharf at the end of the lane.

## 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       | 0.30 m       |              |               | Topsoil                   |              |
| 2              | Cut         | 0.30 m       | 1 m          |               | Cut for Footpath          |              |
| 3              | Fill        | 0.22 m       |              |               | Base of path              |              |
| 4              | Fill        | 0.1 m        |              |               | Footpath surface          |              |
| 5              | Layer       | 0.35 m       |              |               | Old topsoil layer         |              |
| 6              | Cut         | 0.84 m       | 2 m          | 0.6 m         | Rubbish pit               |              |
| 7              | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of pit 6             |              |
| 8              | Natural     |              |              |               | Gravel                    |              |
| 9              | Cut         | 0.80 m       | 1.5 m        |               | Rubbish pit               |              |
| 10             | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of pit 9             |              |
| 11             | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of pit 6             |              |
| 12             | Cut         | 0.84 m       | 1.3 m        |               | Rubbish pit               |              |
| 13             | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of pit 12            |              |
| 14             | Cut         | 0.9 m        | 1.3 m        |               | Rubbish pit               |              |
| 15             | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of pit 14            |              |
| 16             | Cut         | 0.4 m        | 0.75 m       |               | Foundation trench         |              |
| 17             | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of foundation trench |              |
| 18             | Fill        |              |              |               | Fill of pit 9             |              |

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2003 Dove Cottage, Lechlade, Gloucestershire Written Scheme of Investigation

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

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Dove Cottage, Wharf Lane, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

**Site code:** LEDOCO 03

**Grid reference:** NGR SU 215 995

**Type of watching brief:** Excavation of foundations and groundwork for new extension at rear of property.

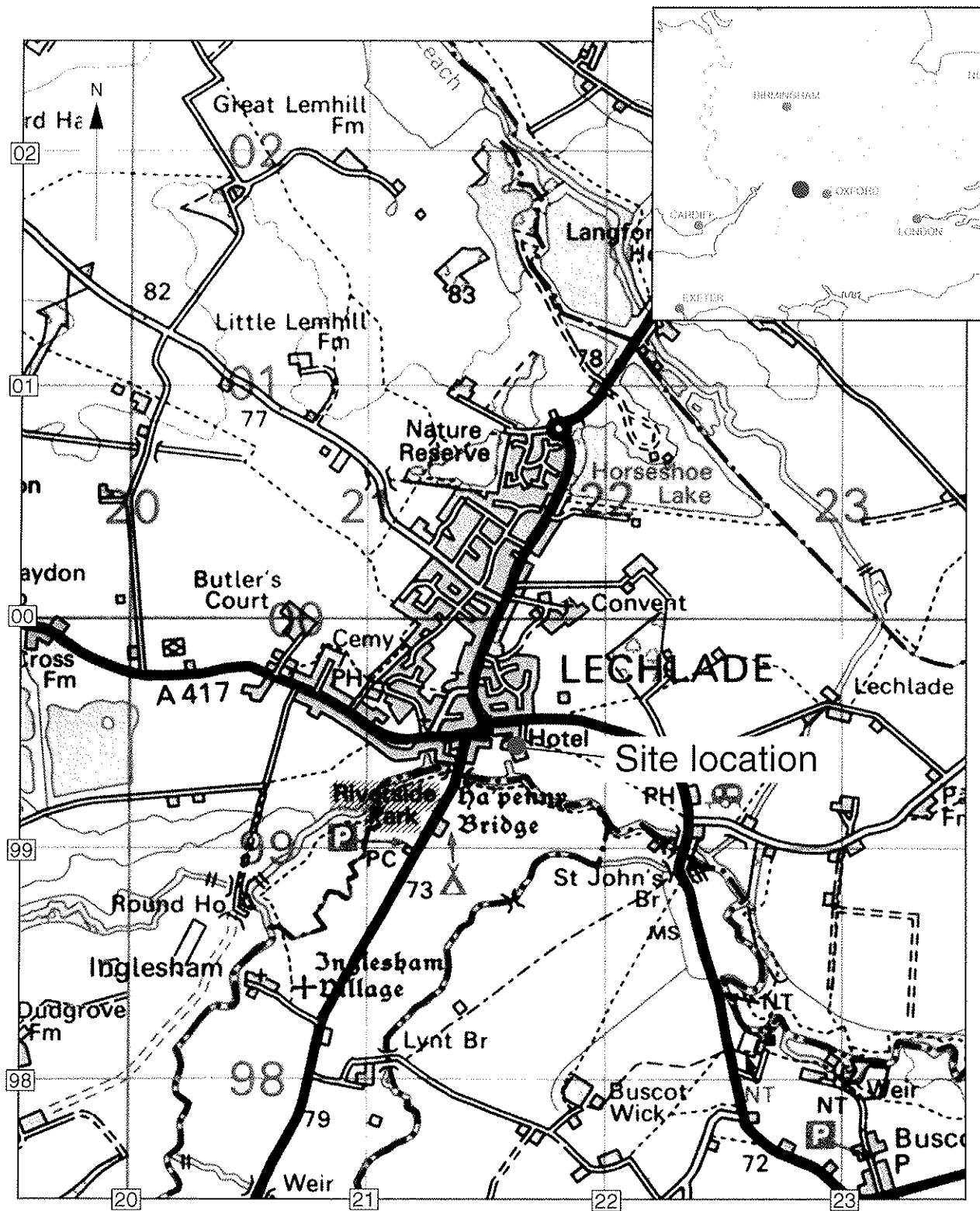
**Date and duration of project:** One site visit on the 26.6.03.

**Area of site:** 3.5 m x 2.5 m

**Summary of results:**

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course.





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Figure 1: Site location



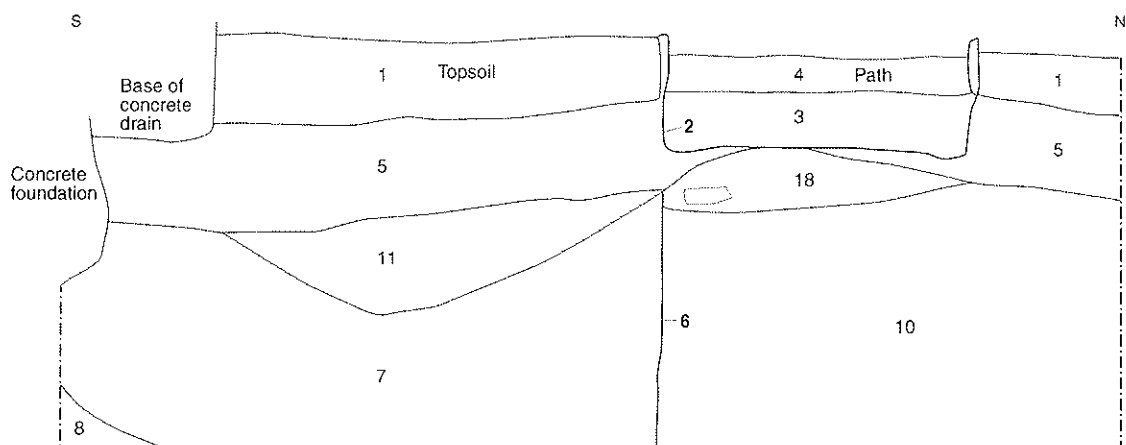
- Dove Cottage
- Location of extension

Figure 2: Site location showing new extension



Figure 3: Plan of foundation trench and location of sections

### Section 1



### Section 2

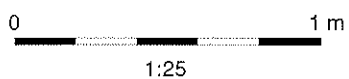
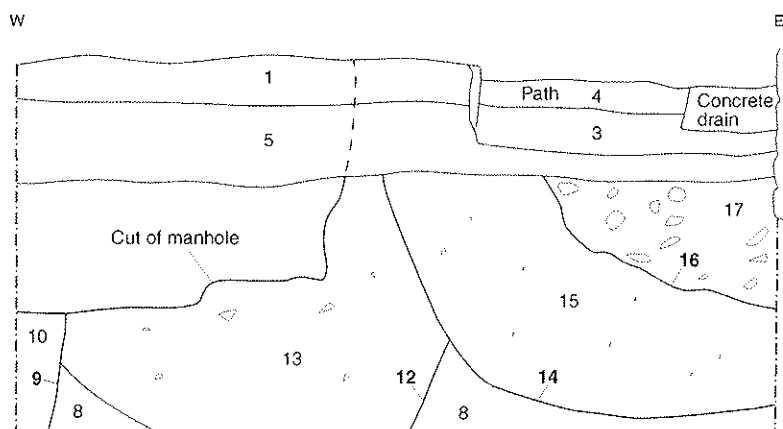
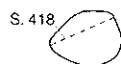


Figure 4: Sections 1 and 2



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



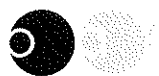
Hachures indicate inclination of slope  
inside excavated feature



Levels



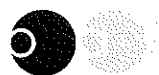
Grid point



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