

Cobbler's Cottage  
Tingewick Road  
Buckingham  
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**



**Oxford Archaeology**

April 2004

**Client: MOH Properties**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1

OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 1177

Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: 00/2558

NGR: SP 6931 3368

**Client Name:** MOH Properties

**Client Ref No:**

**Document Title:** Cobbler's Cottage, Tingewick Rd, Buckingham,  
Buckinghamshire

**Document Type:** Watching Brief

**Issue Number:** 1

**National Grid Reference:** NGR SP 6931 3368

**Planning Reference:** 00/2558

**OA Job Number:** 1177

**Site Code:** BUTWR02

**Invoice Code:** BUTWRWB

**Receiving Museum:** Buckinghamshire County Museum

**Museum Accession No:** AYBCM 2002.10

**Prepared by:** James Mumford

**Position:** Supervisor

**Date:** 1st April 2004

**Checked by:** Alan Hardy

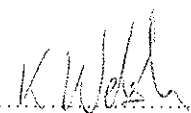
**Position:** Senior Project Manager

**Date:** 1st April 2004

**Approved by:** Ken Welsh

**Position:** Senior Project Manager

**Date:** 5th April 2004

Signed... 

**Document File Location:** U:\GAU\wbREPORTS\Buckinghamshire\BUTWR.doc

**Graphics File Location:** Server10: oaupubl-AioH \*BUTWR02\*BUTWRWB\*

Cobbler's Cottage, Buckingham\*RL\*29.03.04

**Illustrated by:** Robin Latour

**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 2004**

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

## Cobbler's Cottage, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, 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 .....	3
3.1 Description of deposits .....	3
3.2 Finds .....	3
3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains .....	3
4 Discussion and Conclusions .....	3
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory .....	4
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References .....	4
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	4

#### LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 OS Site location map  
Fig. 2 Sites of archaeological and historical interest mentioned in the text.  
Fig. 3 Plan of cottages  
Fig. 4 Section

## SUMMARY

*During July 2003 and January 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Cobbler's Cottage, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 6931 3368). The work was commissioned by MOH Properties in advance of a new extension to Cobbler's Cottage. The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 During July 2003 and January 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Cobbler's Cottage, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by MOH Properties in respect of a planning application for a new extension to Cobbler's Cottage (Planning Application No. 00/2558).
- 1.1.2 A project brief was set by Sandy Kidd MA MIFA, Senior Archaeological Officer of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Service.
- 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 site lies on cornbrash overlying Great Oolitic limestone at 85 m above OD. The site is situated towards the centre of the medieval town of Buckingham.

#### 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 (Fig. 2).
- 1.3.2 Buckingham is sited on a defensive position within a meander of the Ouse on a ridge of well drained land. Is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as a double-borough, fortified with a ditch and bank.
- 1.3.3 An entry in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle for AD 914 reads 'King Edward went to Buckingham with his army, and stayed there four weeks, and made both the boroughs on each side of the river, before he went away'. The town is listed in the Burghal Hidage and by the 10th century there was also a mint. It was an important centre in the late Saxon period when it was the county town complete with Minster church. A Viking iron spearhead is recorded near the site of the castle moat at the foot of castle hill (OA 8).
- 1.3.4 The site of this development may lie on or near to the defences of the Saxon burh established by Edward the Elder in 915 AD. The hill where the present parish church stands was the site of the Norman castle (OA 4), seat of the Giffards. Edward II

ordered the provisioning of the castle in 1312. The Victoria County History (VCH 3, 476) records that the Castle was 'seated in the middle of the town upon a great mound, of the very ruins of which scarce anything now remains'. The motte was flattened to create the present churchyard (see OA 5).

- 1.3.5 Remains of a possible settlement (OA 16) lie to the south-east of the development site. Saxon, medieval and post-medieval period remains were found during excavation in 1974. The area appears to have been divided into tenements in the early 14th century and a late Saxon bronze pin and a few Saxo-Norman sherds suggest earlier activity. A boundary ditch and part of a 14th century town house were investigated.
- 1.3.6 Medieval and post medieval settlement remains (OA 7) were found during a trial excavation north-east of the development site. The excavation area lay within the presumed site of the burh and revealed 2 m+ of deposits, including pits of 13th century date and a few pieces of Saxon-Norman pottery were recovered.
- 1.3.7 Immediately north of this development site, a plan of Buckingham from 1610 depicts a watermill (OA 20). Kelly's Directory suggests that the mill ceased working in 1915. Maps of 1788 and 1825 mark 'Castle Mills' and there were two mills attached to Bartons or Lambards manor (Castle House) in 1626.

## 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 marked out and excavated using a JCB excavator with a 1.2 m ditching bucket. This was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100 and, where excavated, their sections drawn at a scale 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

##### *General*

- 3.1.1 The ground work excavation reached the water table at 1.2 m below the ground surface. Because of the unstable nature of the ground, the excavation was stopped and the foundations altered and excavated to a depth of 0.65 m.
- 3.1.2 The ground works exposed the natural cornbrash (1) at 1.95 m below the ground surface. This was sealed below a 1.45 m thick layer of mixed dark brown clay loam (2) and rubble used to make up the ground level. Overlying layer 2 was a modern make-up layer 0.50 m thick, consisting of very dark grey brown silty clay (3), to which the foundations of the present cottage were laid (Figs 3 and 4).

#### 3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

#### 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 did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features. The sequence of deposits indicates that the ground had been made up in the in the post medieval period to reclaim ground from the river Ouse, an operation possibly related to the construction of the watermill just to the north of the site.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
1	Natural				Natural cornbrash	
2	Layer	1.45 m			Ground make up	
3	Layer	0.50 m			Ground make up	

## APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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

OA 2002 *Cobbler's Cottage, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, Bucks* Written Scheme of Investigation

## APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Cobbler's Cottage, Tingewick Rd, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire

Site code: BUTWR 02

Grid reference: NGR SP 6931 3368

Type of watching brief: Excavation of foundation for extension to cottage.

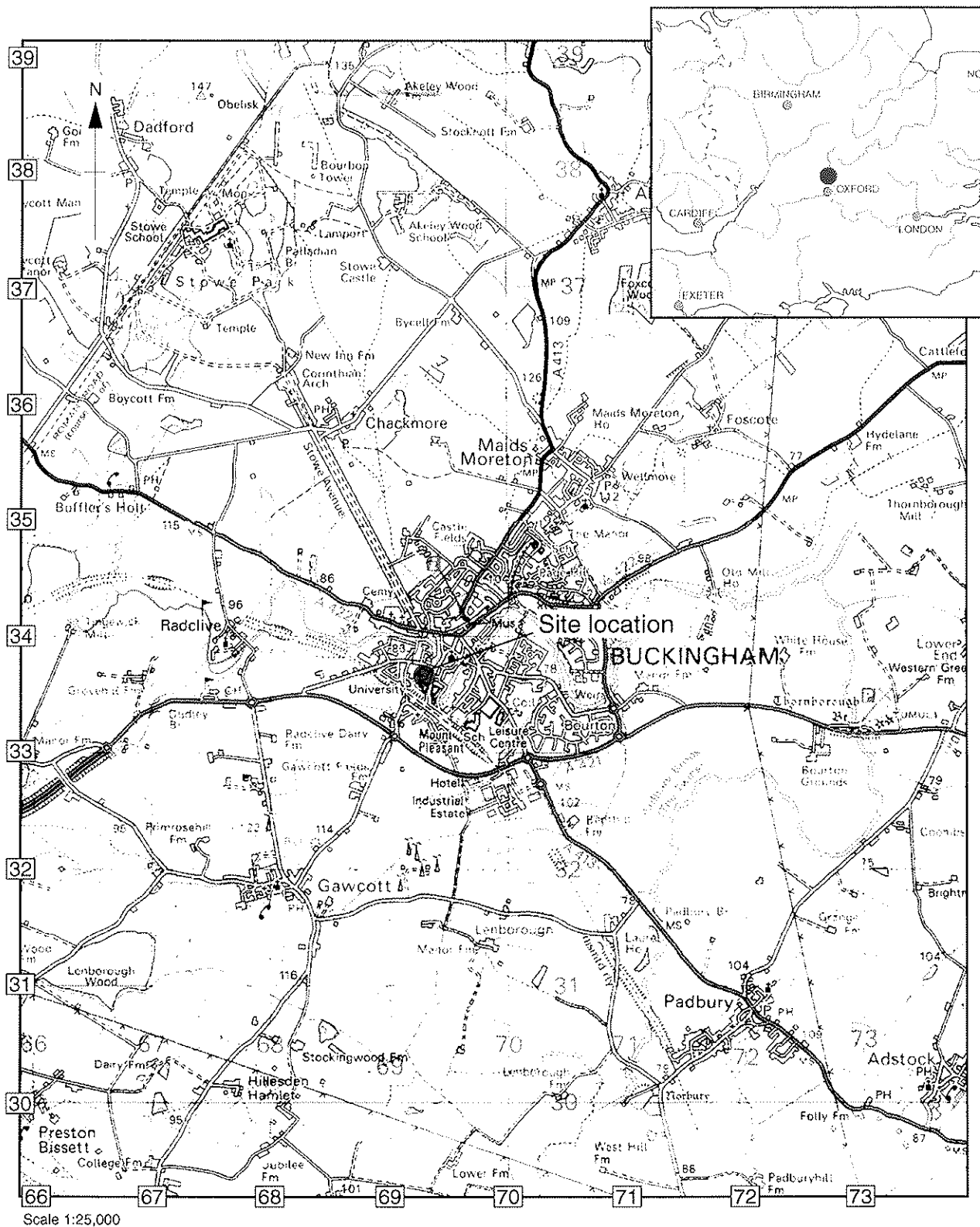
Date and duration of project: Two site visits on the 14/7/03 and 12/1/2004.

Area of site: 7m x 4.5 m

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at O.A. Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM 2002.10

Server 10:\campus\1\_Arch\BUTWR02\BUTWRWB\Cobbler's Cottage, Buckingham.RL\*29.03.04



Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location





Figure 2: Sites of archaeological and historical interest mentioned in the text



Figure 3: plan of cottages

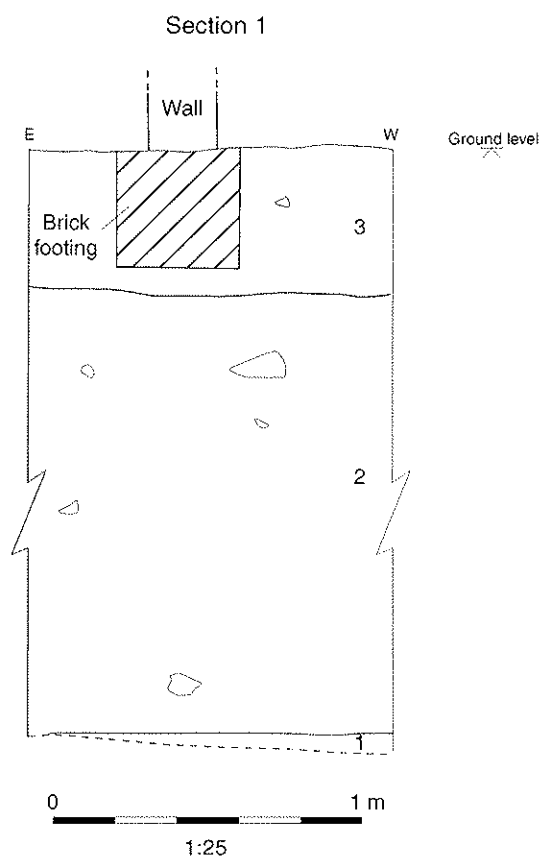


Figure 4: Section





### **Oxford Archaeology**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://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](mailto:lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627

**Registered Office:**

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