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# 1 Church Cottages, Barkham Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Planning Ref: F/2013/1704  
Ref: 87982.05  
October 2015



**1 Church Cottages, Barkham  
Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Prepared for:**

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1 Church Cottages  
Church Lane  
Barkham  
Wokingham

**Prepared by:**

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**October 2015**

**Planning Application Ref: F/2013/1704  
WA Report Reference: 87982.05**



## Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	87982	<b>Accession Code</b>	-	<b>Client Ref.</b>	-
<b>Planning Application Ref.</b>	F/2013/1704	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	478440 166360		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
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\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# 1 Church Cottages, Barkham Berkshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### Contents

Summary .....	ii
Acknowledgements.....	iii
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Project background .....	4
1.2 The Site.....	5
<b>2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	5
<b>3 METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Aims and objectives .....	6
3.2 Fieldwork methodology .....	6
<b>4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7 CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 STORAGE AND CURATION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
8.1 Museum .....	8
8.2 Archive.....	8
8.3 Conservation.....	8
8.4 Copyright.....	8
8.5 Security Copy.....	8
<b>9 REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>9</b>
9.1 Bibliography .....	9
<b>10 APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT .....</b>	<b>11</b>

### Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench locations

### Plates

Plate 1: Shot of building footprint being excavated, view from the south.

Plate 2: East facing representational section of footings trench



# 1 Church Cottages, Barkham Berkshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### Summary

In March 2015 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Dexter (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the proposed site of a new garage at 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, Barkham, Berkshire, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 478430 166353.

A planning application (F/2013/1704) has been granted conditional consent by Wokingham Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)) for the demolition of the existing detached double garage and erection of a detached double garage in a revised position. The site of the proposed garage is adjacent to the Grade II Listed Building, 1 Church Cottages and lies within a medieval moated enclosure which is a designated Scheduled Monument. The scheme will create a new garage located at an increased distance from the moat with improved access which is more sympathetically related to the adjacent Grade II listed cottage.

The watching brief comprised the below ground excavation of the footings for the footprint of the new garage. The footings were excavated to a depth of 1.2m. The watching did not reveal any archaeological features and the only archaeological material found was modern ceramic building material from within the topsoil.

The watching brief was carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2015.



# 1 Church Cottages, Barkham Berkshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### Acknowledgements

The archaeological works were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Dexter, whose continued interest in the archaeology and heritage of their land and support throughout this project, is very gratefully acknowledged. Wessex Archaeology would also wish to acknowledge the collaborative support provided by both English Heritage and Berkshire Archaeology, in particular Chris Welch and Fiona Macdonald respectively.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Mike Dinwiddy and the reporting was undertaken by Simon Flaherty and Ruth Panes. Report illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon and the project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



# 1 Church Cottages, Barkham Berkshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Dexter (the Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief at 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, Barkham, Berkshire (hereafter 'the Site') prior to the proposed erection of a new garage, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 478440 166360 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 A planning application (F/2013/1704) has been granted conditional consent by Wokingham Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)) for the demolition of the existing detached double garage and erection of a detached double garage in a revised position. The scheme will create a new garage with improved access and be related more sympathetically to the adjacent Grade II listed cottage.
- 1.1.3 Conditions 8 and 9 of the planning consent relate to archaeology and state:
- (8) *No ground disturbance shall take place in association with this development at a depth greater than 150mm from the current ground surface.*
- (9) *No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant has secured the implementation of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority, advised by English Heritage.*
- 1.1.4 The Site lies within Scheduled Monument 12022, a medieval moated site and associated enclosure. A previous approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to cover a required archaeological watching brief (WA 2013a) has already been submitted to English Heritage in support of a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) application for the proposed development; SMC has since been awarded.
- 1.1.5 However, following the award of SMC for the proposed development, detailed structural engineering advice has since confirmed that the proposed garage will require foundations that will exceed the 150mm depth of impact, and likely to a maximum depth of 600mm below current ground surface. These will comprise trenched foundations on all four sides, with an additional foundation located down the middle of the new garage to provide load-bearing support for central roof pillars.
- 1.1.6 As a result, in consultation with English Heritage, it was deemed that advance mitigation was required to assess the potential risk to archaeological remains that this increased impact poses. This mitigation comprised limited trial trench evaluation within the portion of the new garage footprint that is outside the footprint of the existing garage (i.e. without the necessity to demolish the existing garage).

- 1.1.7 The evaluation was carried out in May 2015, and although no archaeological features were revealed, a trample layer potentially associated within the construction of the medieval moated site was observed in both trenches excavated, sealing what appeared to be *in situ* geology (though consideration was given to whether this basal deposit could have been clean upcast from the construction of the adjacent moat).
- 1.1.8 Whilst this deposit was recorded at a depth below the base level of the proposed garage foundations within Trench 2, within Trench 3 this was encountered between 0.35m and 0.53m below ground surface. However, it was also possible to ascertain from this trench that the base level for the concrete slab forming the foundation for the adjacent existing garage will have already removed this deposit across the remaining footprint for the proposed garage.

## 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated c. 800m to the south of the centre of Barkham, at the end of Church Lane and to the east of Barkham Street. The parish church of St James is located immediately to the north and the Site is surrounded by farmland. The Site is c. 6m to the north-east of the Grade II Listed 1 Church Cottages (**Figure 1**) and is currently occupied by an existing garage, which will be demolished and replaced by a new garage on a rotated alignment. The Site is flat, at a height of c. 54.50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS Sheet 268 - Reading)

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A heritage assessment and archaeological evaluation (WA 2013b) were undertaken in support of a planning application (LB/2012/1332) for the extension of the Grade II listed 1 Church Cottages to the east of the Site. A summary of the results is provided below.
- 2.1.2 The Site is located within a Scheduled Monument (National Monument Number 12022 / Berkshire County Number 155), identified as a moated site and associated enclosure, immediately south-east of St. James's Church, although the Site itself is excluded from the scheduling. A summary from the list entry description for the Scheduled Monument is as follows (Historic England 2015);
- Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, and are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside.
  - Although a large number of moated sites are known in England, relatively few survive in Berkshire. The Scheduled Monument, the probable site of the medieval manor, survives particularly well and its importance is enhanced by its proximity to the contemporary church of St. James.
  - The surviving moat is water-filled and in good condition. It has an irregular shape with external dimensions of approximately 75m north-east to south-west and 50m north-west to south-east with a causeway on the north-western side. The moat



varies in width between 5 and 7m while the island has dimensions of 50m north-east to south-west and 40m north-west to south-east.

- 2.1.3 Observations in 1982 (WAC 1982) suggested at least one recut of the moat and deliberate backfilling after the Middle Ages. Adjacent to the moat on the north-east side is a field surrounded on all sides by a ditch that stands 0.5m higher than the surrounding land. It is considered to represent a farmyard area of the original manor.
- 2.1.4 The original building formerly known as Barkham Court, Barkham Farm and Church Farm, now comprises two properties of the Grade II listed numbers 1 and 2 Church Cottages (NHLE ID 1319114). The building was built (or rebuilt) around the 1480s as a single Open Hall House within the existing moated site. It could therefore have replaced an earlier manor building. The building has undergone various alterations from the 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.1.5 The building is timber framed and encased in brick and has an old tile gabled roof. The end chimneys date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.1.6 An archaeological evaluation (WA 2013b) comprised of the excavation of a 4 m x 1 m trial trench within the footprint of the proposed extension to the cottage was undertaken in December 2012. No archaeological features and/or deposits or finds were encountered during the evaluation, which could have provided evidence for activity predating the 15<sup>th</sup> century building, and which may have been related to the scheduled moated medieval site. Further to this no evidence directly related to the current building and any early phases of construction were identified.
- 2.1.7 A second archaeological evaluation of the Site was undertaken in May 2014 comprising of two trenches located within the footprint of the proposed new garage (Wessex Archaeology 2014). The evaluation revealed that no in situ archaeological features or structures were located within this part of the proposed development.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 In accordance with ClfA guidance, the principal aim of the archaeological watching brief was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing at the site.
- 3.1.2 In pursuit of this aim, the following objectives were defined:
- *Achieve preservation by record of archaeological deposits exposed; and*
  - *Provide an opportunity to identify significant remains, and thus arrange for an appropriate level of investigation during the construction phase.*

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

- 3.2.1 The watching brief was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2013a) and the guidance and standards set outlined in the ClfA's *Standards and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and following Wessex Archaeology standard procedures. The works comprised of the monitoring of below grounds works in regards to the cutting of footings for a new garage on the property. The location of this excavation has been indicated within **Figure 1**.



- 3.2.2 Prior to machining, the area was scanned using a cable tracing device. The footings were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket (**Plate 1**).
- 3.2.3 Where appropriate, foundation trenches were cleaned by hand, planned and representative sections of the stratigraphic sequence encountered were recorded. All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's pro forma record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number.
- 3.2.4 A full photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief. Digital photography adhered to the National Monument Records Digital Imaging Guidelines. A full graphic record was maintained. The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

#### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

- 4.1.1 The natural geology (**1001**) was a stiff firm orangey brown clay, into which a relatively modern field drain had been cut. The topsoil (**1000**), present throughout, comprised a dark grey-brown soft silty-loam, ranging between 0.4m and 0.6m in depth (**Plate 2**). The interface between the topsoil and natural geology was sharp, and there was no evidence for any subsoil. A shallow layer of building debris overlying the natural was observed in the area previously covered by the concrete platform of the demolished garage. The evidence suggests that there has been a degree of landscaping e.g. stripping down to the natural, in the areas observed.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief.

#### **5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of modern ceramic building material was present in the topsoil (not retained).

#### **6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas.

#### **7 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence of archaeological remains on the Site. The location of the Site within a medieval moated enclosure and designated Scheduled Monument nonetheless confirm past human settlement and activity on the Site. The soil sequence on the Site implies that there has been a degree of landscaping undertaken in the past and the lack of archaeological remains could be attributed to earlier truncation from above. It should be noted that the area subject to groundworks and monitored during the watching brief works on the Site also covered a small area, (the proposed development footprint of the new garage), **Figure 1**. Hence it is possible there are archaeological remains present within the Site boundary, which are outside of the development footprint.



## 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

8.1.1 There is no identified receiving museum for this area, so the archive will be stored at the Wessex Archaeology Salisbury office until the time a suitable repository museum is found.

### 8.2 Archive

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Berkshire HER. A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (**Appendix 1**).

8.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the project code 87982, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics

### 8.3 Conservation

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

### 8.4 Copyright

8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

### 8.5 Security Copy

8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



## 9 REFERENCES

### 9.1 Bibliography

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*Wessex Archaeology, 2014, 1, Church Cottages Church Lane, Barkham, Berkshire.  
Archaeological Evaluation Report. WA Ref: 87982.03*



## 10 APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID: wessexar1-226991

### Project details

Project name	1 Church Cottage, Barkham, Berkshire
Short description of the project	In March 2015 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Dexter (the Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the proposed site of a new garage at 1 Church Cottages, Church Lane, Barkham, Berkshire, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference 478430 166353. A planning application (F/2013/1704) has been granted conditional consent by Wokingham Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)) for the demolition of the existing detached double garage and erection of a detached double garage in a revised position. The site of the proposed garage is adjacent to the Grade II Listed Building, 1 Church Cottages and lies within a medieval moated enclosure which is a designated Scheduled Monument. The scheme will create a new garage located at an increased distance from the moat with improved access which is more sympathetically related to the adjacent Grade II listed cottage. The watching brief comprised the below ground excavation of the footings for the footprint of the new garage. The footings were excavated to a depth of 1.2m. The watching did not reveal any archaeological features and the only archaeological material found was modern ceramic building material from within the topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2015 End: 31-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	87982 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition



### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM BARKHAM 1 Church Cottages, Barkham, Wiltshire
Postcode	RG40 4PL
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 478440 166360 50.946625422844 -1.318878722627 50 56 47 N 001 19 07 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 55m Max: 55m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	Mike Dinwiddy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs Dexter

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Not yet transferred
Digital Archive ID	87982
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"



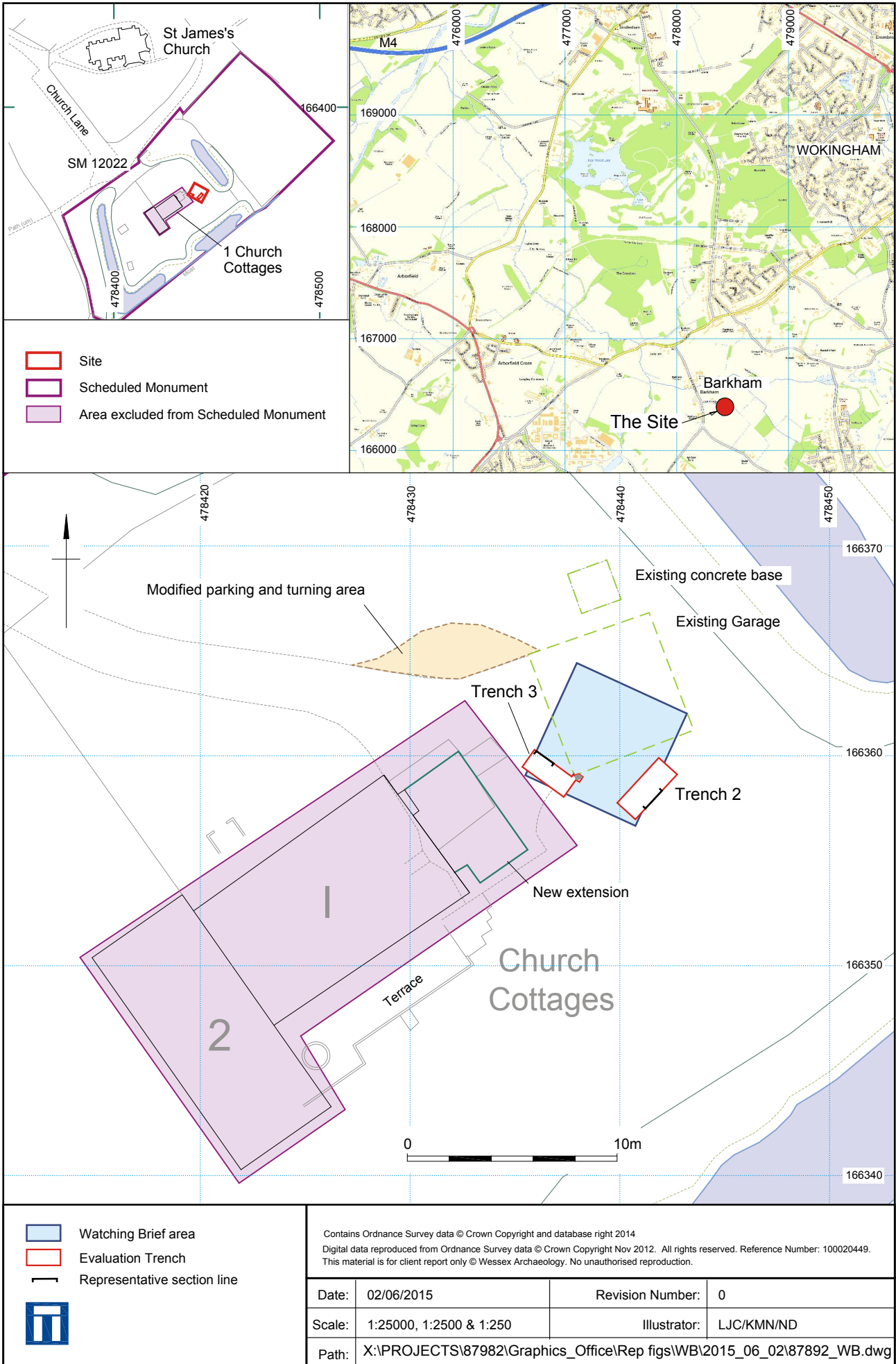
Paper Archive recipient	Not yet transferred
Paper Archive ID	87982
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1 Church Cottages, Barkham, Berkshire; Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wessex Archaeology
Other bibliographic details	87982
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Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report
URL	<a href="http://www.oasis.ac.uk">http://www.oasis.ac.uk</a>





Site and trench locations


Figure 1



Plate 1: Shot of building footprint being excavated, view from the south



Plate 2: East facing representative section of footings trench

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