

**UPPER BOCKHAMPTON FARMHOUSE,
LAMBOURN,
WEST BERKSHIRE**

NGR: SU 3318 7830

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse, Lambourn.

Grid Reference: SU 3318 7830.

Site Activity: Watching Brief.

Date and Duration of Project: 7th-8th June, 2010. 2 Days.

Project Manager: Roy King.

Site Supervisor: Jack Crennell.

Site Code: UBF10

Location of Archive: West Berkshire Museum (to be submitted)

Summary of Results:

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in June 2010 by Foundations Archaeology at Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse, Lambourn (NGR: SU 3318 7830). The work was commissioned by Mrs Angela Gosden.

In response to a condition of planning permission (Application Ref: 10/00133/LBC2) placed by West Berkshire Council in accordance with the principles of PPG15 and PPG16 and archaeological watching brief was required on proposed works. The watching brief involved the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with underpinning work carried out on the southeast gable of the farmhouse.

A total of seven under-pinning bays were to be excavated. The excavation of two bays was archaeologically monitored. Following agreement by Duncan Coe, archaeological advisor to West Berkshire Council, it was not necessary to monitor the remaining bays.

No archaeological features or artefacts were present within the excavated area. The monitoring work revealed that the gable of the farmhouse was built upon very shallow brick foundations, penetrating into the ground by one to three courses. The building was constructed on top of a thin soft clayey deposit which overlay the natural chalk. The internal floor of the gable was constructed atop low brick walls, also overlying the clayey deposit. No foundation cuts were visible.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *circa* AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Post-medieval

The period from *circa* AD 1500 onwards

Roman

The period from AD 43 to AD 410

Saxon

The period from *circa* AD 410 to AD 1066

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse, Lambourn (NGR: SU 3318 7830). The work was commissioned by Mrs Angela Gosden in response to a condition of planning permission (Application Ref: 10/00133/LBC2).
- 1.2 The watching brief monitored a series of under-pinning bays excavated along the southeast gable of Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (Foundations, 2010), approved by West Berkshire Council. The project was undertaken in accordance with the principles of PPG15 (Planning Policy Guidance note 15), Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and PPG16 (planning Policy Guidance note 16), all since replaced by PPS5 (*Planning Policy Statement 5*), the archaeological policies of West Berkshire Council, the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2008) and Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: *Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and conforms to the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The study area lies on the southeast edge of Lambourn and the farmhouse is bounded by Bockhampton road to its southwest and the River Lambourn (a designated Special Site of Scientific Interest, SSSI) runs approximately 20m to its northeast, bordering buildings within the farm's complex. (Figure 1). The farm is surrounded by fields but to the northeast, on the northern bank of the river, where lies a housing estate. The local geology consisted of chalk with flints.

3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed timber-framed building dating to the late 16th century. The barn to its northwest, Bockhampton Barn, is a 17th century aisled, timber-framed construction, also Grade II Listed.
- 3.2 The site of Bockhampton Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) lies approximately 250m to the southeast of the farmhouse. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 164, HER number MWB1675) part of whose delineation lies on the southeastern edge of Bockhampton Farmhouse, although the proposed work lies outside the scheduled area. The settlement comprises a deserted and shrunken village of medieval origins about which little is known. The settlement decayed in the 17th century, six houses at most

were present on the 1761 map, and was deserted by the late 18th century, probably mainly due to emparking and enclosure. The settlement can still be recognised in the form of medieval and post-medieval earthworks, one of which may be the site of a mill. There is a possibility that the site was contained within the historic Bockhampton village. The site of Bockhampton Chapel lies 250m south southeast of the site.

- 3.3 Lambourn itself is of early medieval origin and was possibly a royal Saxon vill. The centre of 10th century Lambourn lies 860m northwest of the site, although recent archaeological excavations at Bourne House Stables, Lambourn (Foundations, 2007) 680m north northwest of the site, suggest that the early Saxon centre of Lambourn could lie closer to the site. The site, however, lies outside the known extent of medieval and indeed post-medieval Lambourn (Astill, 1978).
- 3.4 A shallow trial pit has been excavated against the southeast end wall of the farmhouse by Michael Hammond Associates Ltd in 2009. This revealed that the foundation of the wall was just a half brick below existing ground, level set on top of soft clay natural.
- 3.5 The site therefore contains the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the medieval and post-medieval period. The monitoring work will focus on potential remains of features relating to medieval settlement of the area and on establishing evidence relating to the origin of Bockhampton Farmhouse. This will not prejudice the monitoring works against the recovery of finds and features relating to other periods.

4 AIMS

- 4.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief are to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this will allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.
- 4.2 These aims will be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;

- iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
- iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
- iv) to attempt to identify any elements relating to medieval occupation of the area, with particular emphasis on Bockhampton DMV.
- v) to identify any historical fabric which could illuminate the construction type or origins of Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The layout of the groundworks is shown in Figure 2. All under-pinning bays were excavated by hand by the building contractor.
- 5.2 Prior to the start of the project, it was agreed between Duncan Coe, archaeological advisor to West Berkshire Council, and the client that the excavation of the initial under-pinning bays would be monitored by an archaeologist. Following this initial excavation, Foundations Archaeology would liaise with Duncan Coe as to the potential for archaeology/historic details of the construction of the farmhouse. In the event that little would be gleaned by archaeologically monitoring further under-pinning bays, the bays would be excavated without further supervision.
- 5.3 The first two of the under-pinning bays were observed by an archaeologist. It was subsequently agreed with Duncan Coe that no further monitoring was necessary.
- 5.4 When features or deposits of potential archaeological significance were noted, they were closely examined, defined, manually excavated (where appropriate) and recorded. Spoil tips were scanned for artefacts.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The underpinning work consisted of the excavation of seven bays beneath the southeast gable wall on Upper Bockhampton Farmhouse, of which two bays were excavated under archaeological supervision, as shown in Figure 2.
- 6.2 Bay 1 measured 1.0m in length, it projected out 0.60m from the outside of the wall and 0.50m beneath the farmhouse. The natural chalk was reached at a depth of 0.40m and was overlain by a layer (101). The foundations for the farmhouse were built into this layer which penetrated three courses of bricks, 0.18m, below the existing ground level in the northwest corner of the bay and one and a half courses of bricks, 0.09m, below ground surface at the southeast

corner of the bay. No foundation cut for the wall was visible and there were no archaeological finds or features.

- 6.3 Bay 5 measured 1.0m in length, projected out 0.70m from the outside of the wall and 0.60m beneath the building, and was 1.0m in depth. The natural chalk bedrock with common flint nodules was reached at a depth of 0.20m below modern ground surface. Layer (101) overlay the natural substrate and comprised light brown/grey friable chalk clay with small inclusions of gravel and stone. The southeast gable of the house is built into the top of this layer. The wall foundation at this point only penetrates 0.05m below the modern ground surface, about half a bricks depth. No foundation cut was visible. The internal floor of the farmhouse is laid upon small 0.20m high, one course wide brick walls which overlay (101). No archaeological features or artefacts were present in this bay.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the excavation area.
- 7.2 Examination of the excavations revealed that the southeast gable stood on minimal brick foundations which penetrated into the ground by up to 0.18m (three courses) in the south corner, under the southwest facing wall, but only by 0.05m-0.09m (one course) along the remainder of the southeast gable. The gable end was constructed upon a soft, clayey deposit (101), 0.20m to 0.40m thick, which overlay the natural chalk. This layer may represent an *in-situ* subsoil. No foundation cut was visible. The internal flooring of the gable was constructed atop low brick walls overlying (101).
- 7.3 In general, preservation conditions were good.

8 NATURE OF THE RECORD

- 8.1 The on-site methodologies used to recover any evidence were set out in the Foundations Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation (2010). In summary the following excavation methods were utilised; observation of all groundworks associated with the underpinning of the farmhouse. All site recording was undertaken in accordance with the WSI. The records are available in the archive.
- 8.2 Following the completion of the Watching Brief an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive has been compiled in accordance MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006). This archive is currently held at Foundations Archaeology and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum under an accession code to be confirmed within six months.
- 8.3 A summary of the contents of this report is available from Project OASIS at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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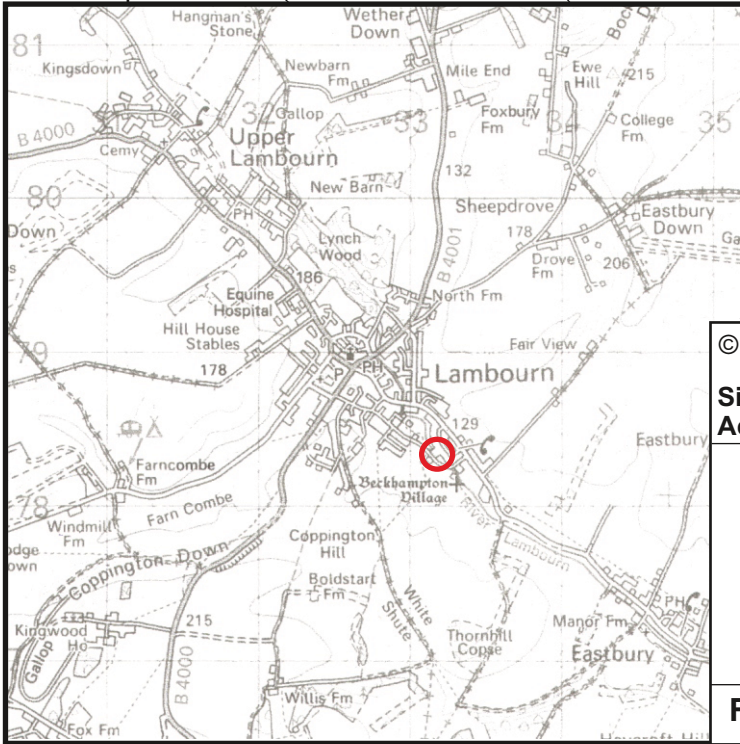
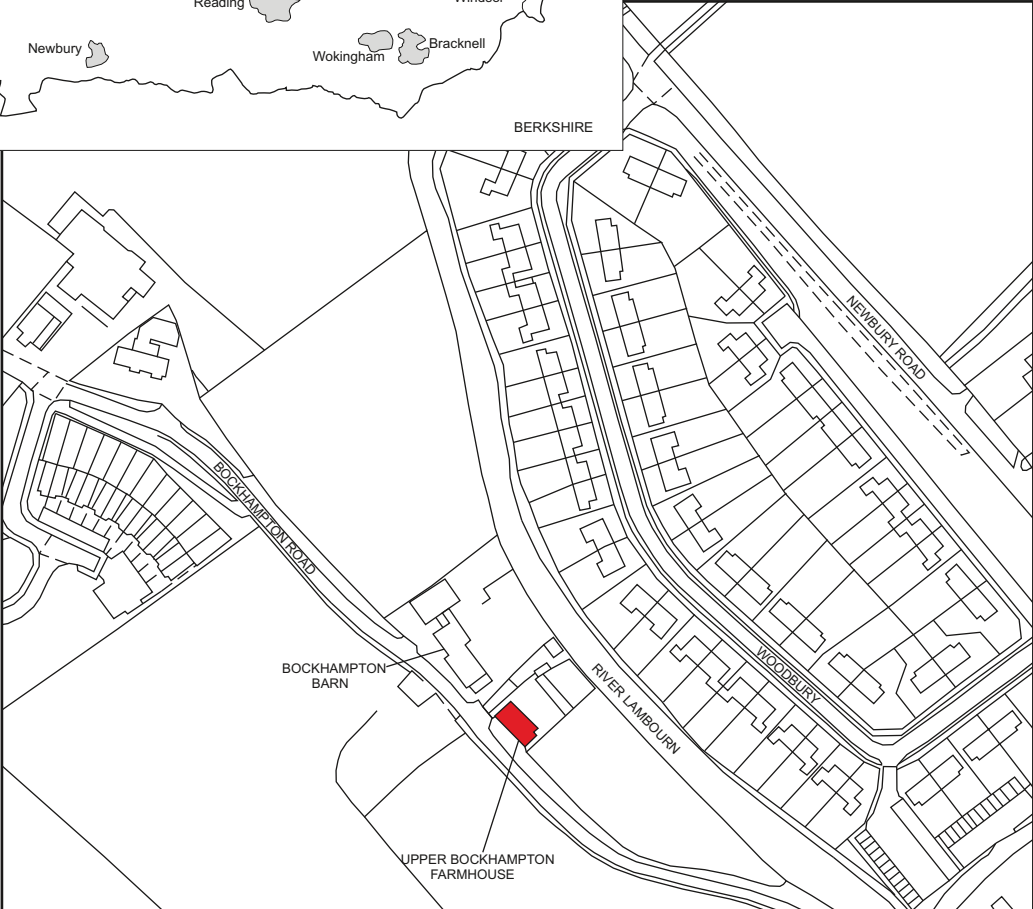
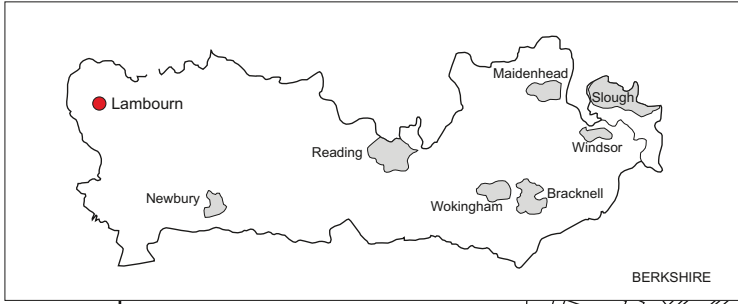
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10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Site Code: UBF10
Accession Code:

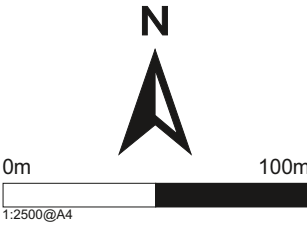
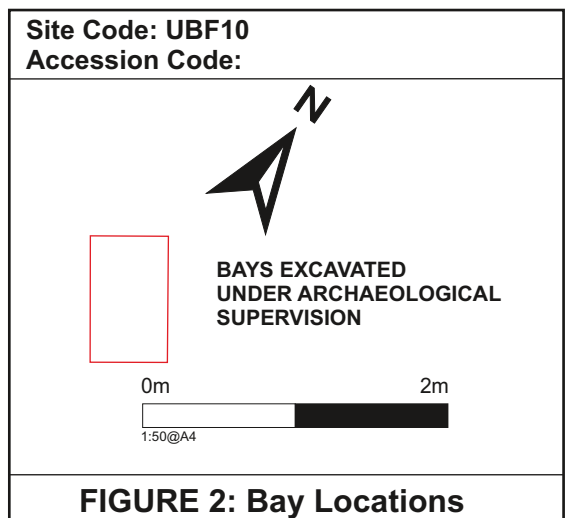
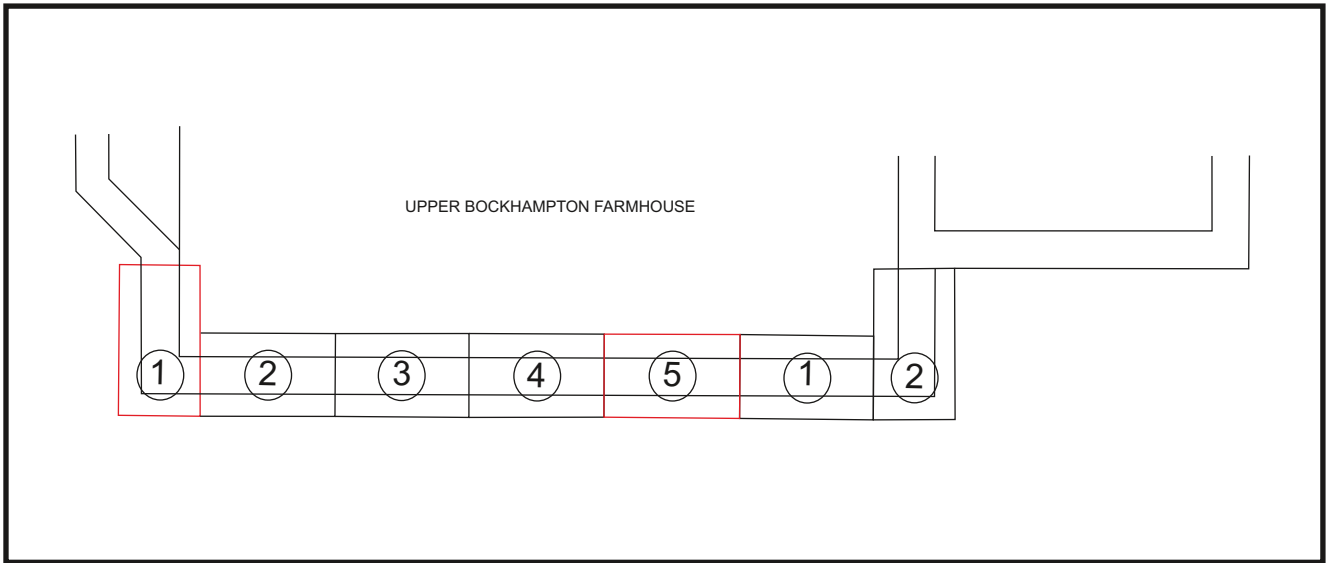


FIGURE 1: Site Location





Northeast facing shot of Bay 1, partially excavated.



Northeast facing shot of Bay 1, fully excavated.



Northwest facing shot of Bay 5, partially excavated.



Northwest facing shot of Bay 5, fully excavated.

Site Code: UBF10
Accession Code:

FIGURE 3: Photographs