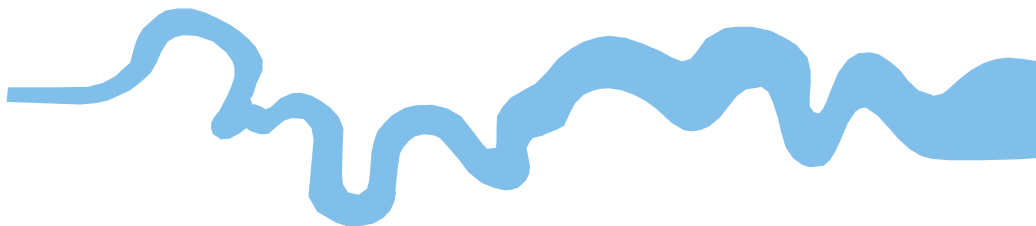


**T V A S**



**EAST MIDLANDS**

**Granham's Farm, Great Shelford,  
Cambridgeshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Joshua Hargreaves and Eleanor Boot**

**Site Code: GFG19/120  
(TL 4635 5310)**

# **Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Savills Ltd**

By Joshua Hargreaves and Eleanor Boot

TVAS East Midlands

Site Code GFG 19/120

**February 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

**Grid reference:** TL 4635 5310

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020

**Project coordinator:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Joshua Hargreaves

**Site code:** GFG 19/120

**CHET Event number:** ECB5923

**Summary of results:** Observations were made of the groundwork involved in underpinning existing walls of former farmyard buildings. No archaeological features were observed during the groundwork.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands, Wellingborough and will be deposited at Cambridgeshire archaeological archive store, with accession number CHET ECB 5922.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 14.02.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 14.02.20

# Granham's Farm, Granham's Road Great Shelford, Cambridge An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Joshua Hargreaves and Eleanor Boot

**Report 19/120d**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Granham's Farm, Granham's Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (TL 4635 5310) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Keir Dixon of Savills (UK) Ltd, Unex House, 132-134 Hills Road, Cambridgeshire, CB2 8PA.

Outline planning permission (S/2449/18/FL) has been granted by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the demolition of existing building and structures and conversion and construction of four residential dwellings including associated access and landscaping. The planning permission is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. As a consequence of the presence on the site of archaeological deposits identified during an evaluation, which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief during the underpinning of several barn walls.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District's Council policies on archaeology. This approach to field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET 2019), who acts as advisors to the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Joshua Hargreaves, Eleanor Boot and Anne-Michelle Huvig episodically from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. The site code is GFG 19/120.

The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands, Wellingborough and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire archaeological archive store Cambridgeshire archaeological archive store with the accession number CHET ECB 5922.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Granham's Farm is located on the east side of Granham's Road, to the north of Great Shelford and approximately 4.5km south of Cambridge (Fig. 1). A small stream, Hobson's Brook, is located to the west of the site and there are the remains of an earlier moat to the east and south (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately

15.3m above Ordnance Datum and is fairly flat although beyond Granham's Farm to the east the ground rises towards Clarke's Hill. The site is located on a spit of underlying geology, recorded as West Melbury marly chalk formation consisting of chalk, marl, and thin limestone with Second River Terrace Deposits, consisting of silt, sand and gravel to the west, and south, and Zig Zag chalk formation to the east (BGS 2002). The observed geology varied across the area of development.

## **Archaeological background**

The Archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk based assessment (Zeki 2015). In summary, Granham's Farm occupies the site of a medieval moated manor, some of the remains of which survive as earthworks. The earthworks were known as *Aldwerk* in the early 13th century (VCH 1982). Although no prehistoric activity has been recorded within the proposed development area, there is evidence of Roman settlement in the vicinity and the presence of a large villa (a scheduled monument) located 0.5km to the northwest of the site. Additionally, late Roman features were discovered during excavation of the medieval earthwork at Granham's Farm. Great Shelford is thought to have Saxon origins and a late Saxon *Sceldford* mint situated in the area has been suggested, dating to the 9<sup>th</sup> and or early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries (Hart 1995). Documentary evidence from Essex, however, suggests a pre-conquest defensive settlement nucleus developed in the area around Granham's Farm although its spatial extent is unknown.

The site has witnessed several archaeological investigations. A small scale evaluation was carried out on the site (OA2011) and a study also made of the earthworks (Roberts 2000). Very recently, a comprehensive evaluation has taken place within the current site and revealed multiple linear features of archaeological origin. These features were poorly dated but a medieval date seems most likely (Manisse and Huvig 2019 a and b). A record has also been made of the extant farm buildings prior to their renovation (Elliott 2019).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the development. This involved monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundwork's during the underpinning part of development.

The specific research aims of the project were;

1. To determine if archaeological relevant levels have survived in the affected areas of site

2. to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present
3. To determine if archaeological deposits relating to the medieval moated manor house and its landscape have survived in this area of the development
4. the potential and significance of any such deposits will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in Historic England Heritage Research Agenda (HE 2017), or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary

Any archaeological features observed would be cleaned and recorded using appropriate hand tools by an experienced archaeological officer.

## **Results**

Underpinning of walls was observed in three separate locations around the outbuildings of Granham Farm (Fig. 2). These buildings are being conserved in-situ, as stipulated in the planning permission granted by South Cambridgeshire county council.

### **Barn 2** (Figs. 3 & 6; Plates 1-4)

Barn 2 is located in the northwestern corner of the farm yard with underpinning being carried out, within bay 1, using a small 360° machine with a toothed bucket and hand power tools, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Before the pits for underpinning could be dug; the removal of a c. 0.1m thick brick floor was carried out. No deposits of archaeological significance were recorded.

Three pits at 1.5m by 1m were dug internally along the SW wall, excavated to a depth of 1.4m. The stratigraphy of the pits consisted of 0.65m of redbrick bonded by lime mortar in seven courses. This overlay 0.4m of compact gravel, which sat on 0.35m of natural geology; a light bluish grey clay. A stratigraphy similar to that, recorded along the SW wall of Barn 5.

Two pits were dug externally around the western corner of Barn 2. These pits were 1.5m by 1m and excavated to a depth of 1.05m. The stratigraphy observed was similar to that witnessed in the internal pits, with 0.65m of red-brick coursing overlying 0.4m of compact gravel and rubble levelling deposit.

### **Barn 5** (Figs 4 & 6; Plates 5-6)

Barn 5 is in the southwestern corner of the farm yard. Underpinning was carried out using a small 360° machine with a toothed bucket and hand power tools, under the observation of an archaeologist. The surviving walls were located at the south eastern end of a long barn which was mainly demolished. The surviving structure measured

7m in width by 6m in length and was underpinned using alternating 1msq pits which ran all around the inside of the structure.

Groundwork pits along the SE wall of the surviving barn were excavated to a depth of 1.15m, exposing 5 courses of a redbrick foundation, bonded by lime mortar at a depth of 0.6m; situated in a foundation trench cutting the natural geology, a light bluish grey clay. Excavation also exposed a floor makeup consisting of mixed concrete and rubble of 0.6m overlying the natural geology. The wall in its entirety was 7m in length.

The groundwork pits along the NE wall which is 6m in its entirety also contained the same floor makeup as that found along the NE wall.

Groundwork pits along the SW wall were excavated to a depth of 1.35m. They contained a stratigraphy of 0.6m of red-brick courses bonded with a lime mortar which was overlay by 0.55m of compact rubble and gravel, which sat on 0.2m of light bluish grey natural geology.

No deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the ground works in barn 3, with modern objects being the only finds present.

#### **Barn 7 (Figs. 5 & 7; Plates 7-8)**

Barn 7 is located on the east side of the cluster of farm buildings. The barn is 21.5m by 4.7m; underpinning was done by five slots measuring c.3m by 0.8m excavated to a depth between 0.65m and 0.8m. The pits ran along the NW wall extending up to 12m from the North corner, and along the entirety of the NW wall. The stratigraphy of these pits consisting of 0.3m pinkish brown silt which sat directly beneath the red brick barn wall. Below that was 0.28m of mid grey silt overlying 0.2m of chalk. All with foundation rubble inclusions.

No archaeology was visible in the underpinning, but the foundation trenches under the wall contained fragments of modern glass, brick and plastic.

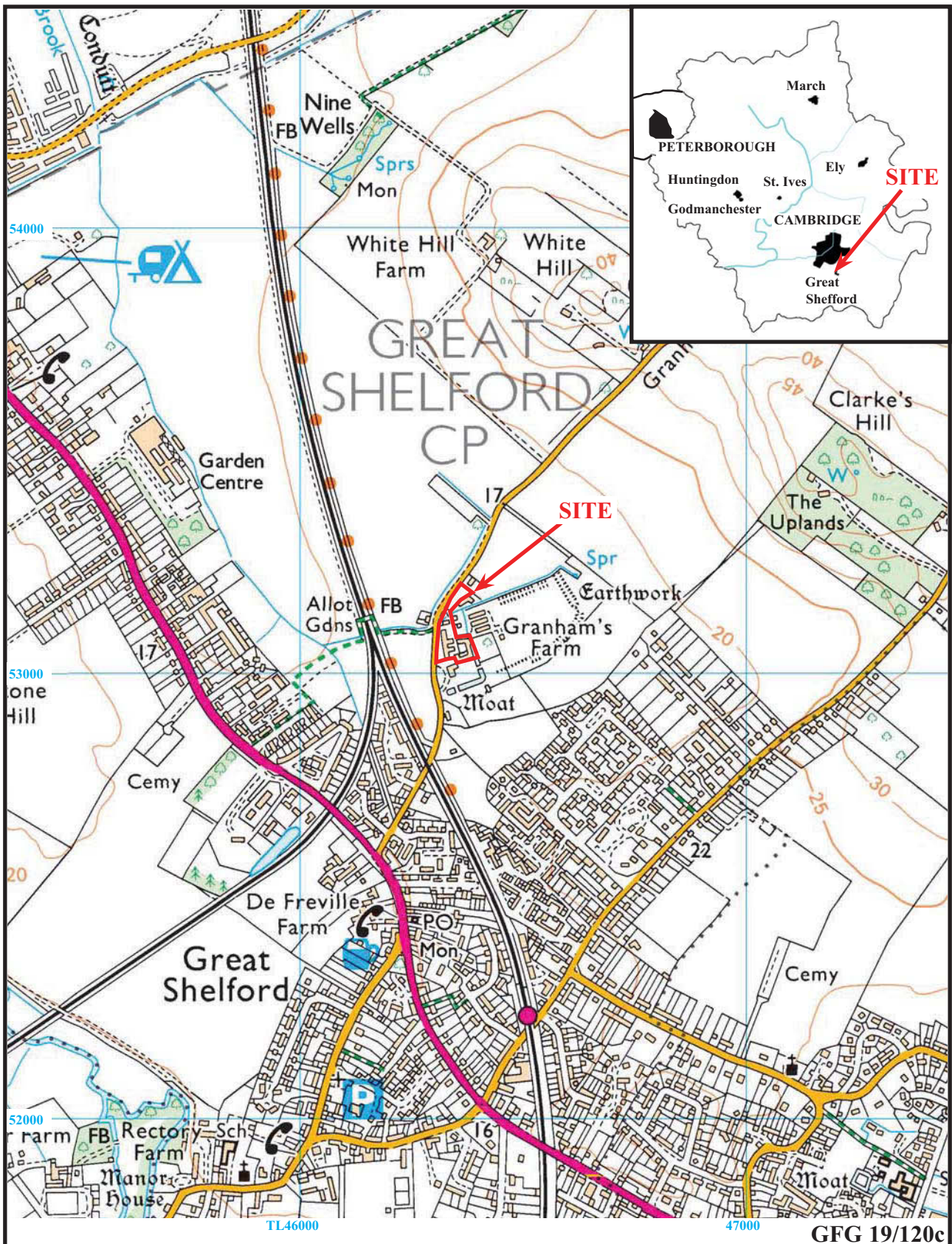
#### **Conclusion**

The watching brief carried out on the underpinning of the three retained barns revealed no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest.

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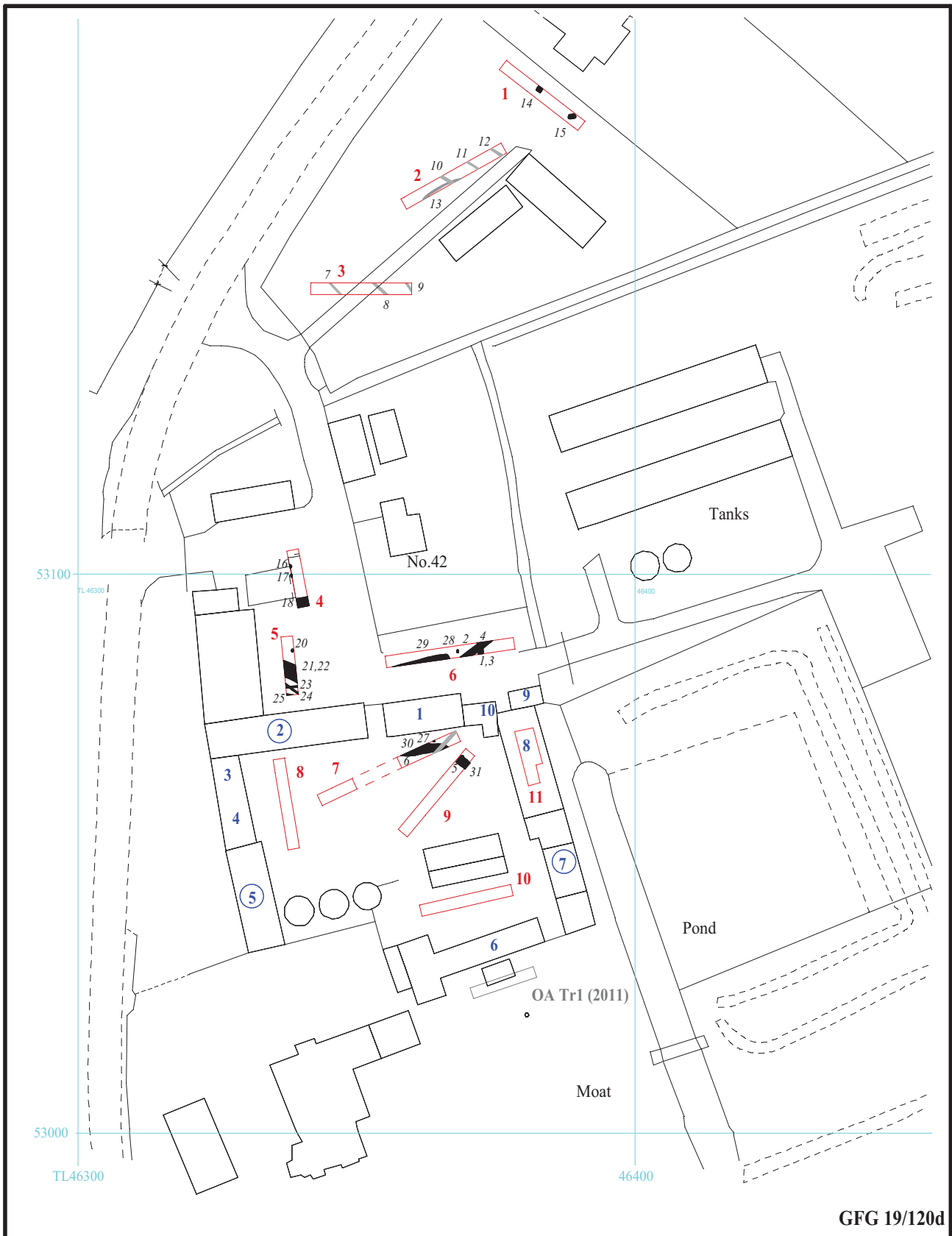
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Cambridgeshire, 2020**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Great Shelford and  
Cambridgeshire.

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Figure 2. Location of previous evaluation trenches and recorded buildings.  
Buildings subject to the watching brief are numbered within circles.

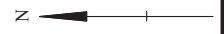


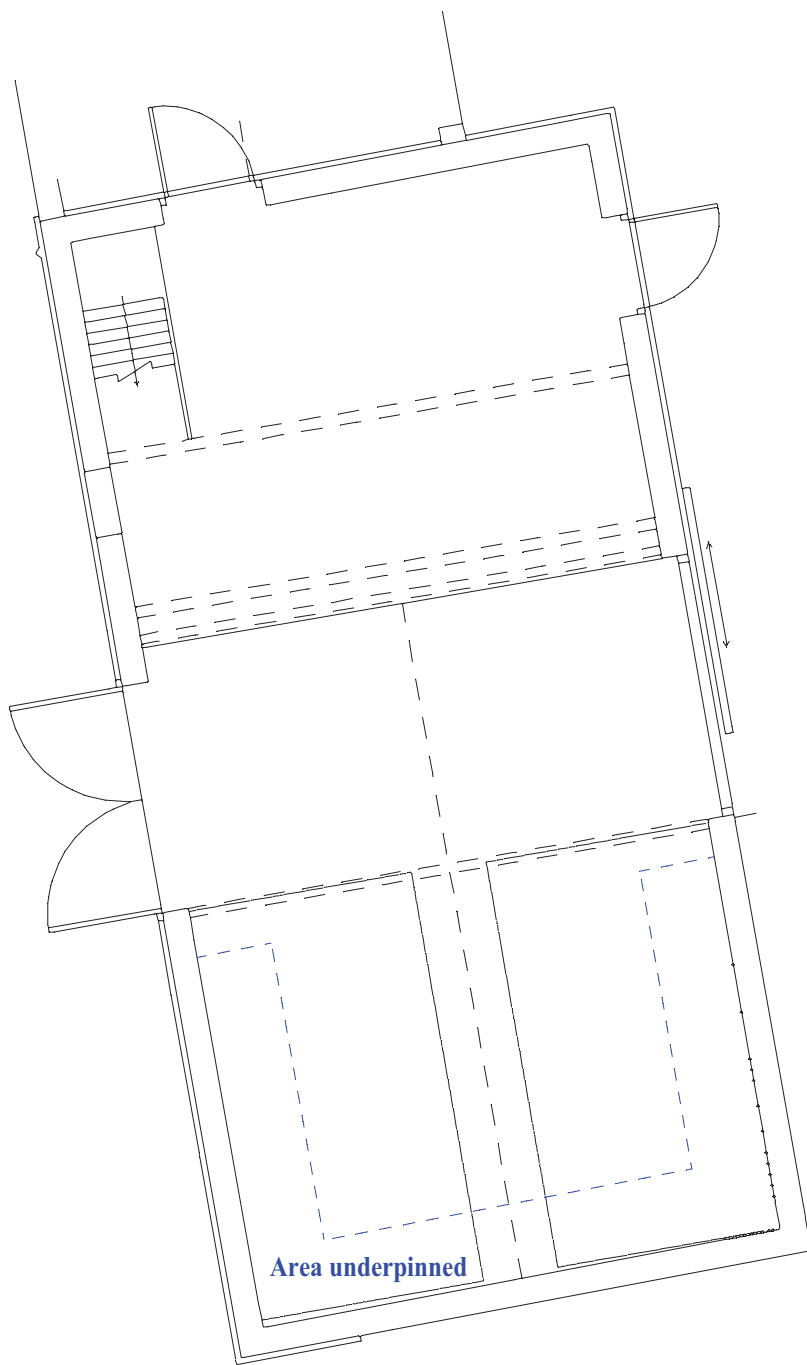


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**Granham's Farm, Granham's Lane,  
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Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Building 2





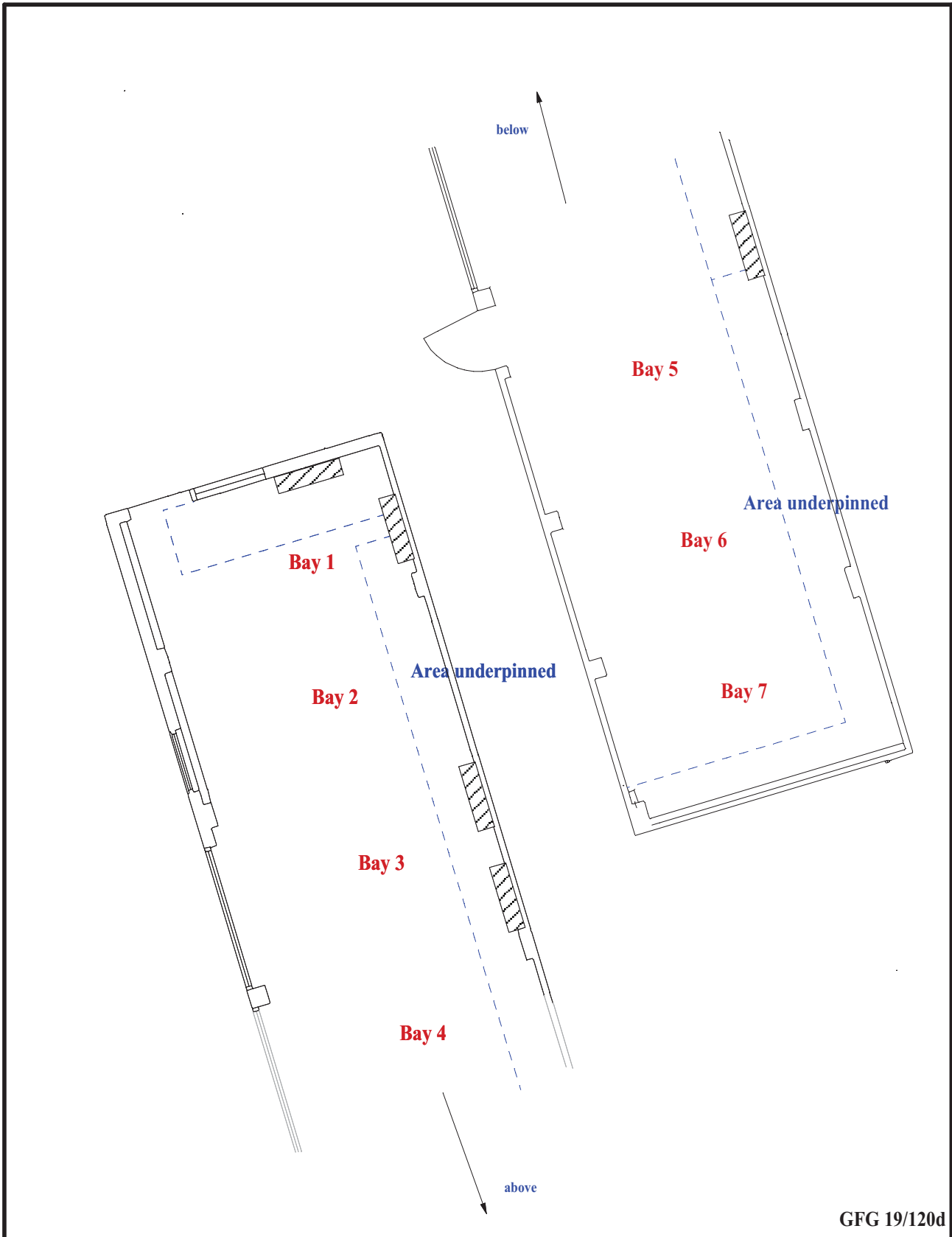
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Figure 4. Building 5





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**Granham's Farm, Granham's Road,  
Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, 2020  
Building Recording**

Figure 5. Building 7



13.61m OD

**Barn Wall**

7 courses of  
barn wall

Stoney rubble  
foundation

Natural clay

**Barn 2**  
Typical section along  
the west wall

13.51m OD

**Barn Wall**

4 courses of  
barn wall

Stoney rubble  
foundation

**Barn 2**  
Typical section along  
the north wall

13.75m OD

**Barn Wall**

7 courses of  
barn wall

Stoney rubble  
foundation

Natural clay

**Barn 5**  
Typical section along  
the west wall

13.75m OD

**Barn Wall**

5 courses of  
barn wall

Natural clay

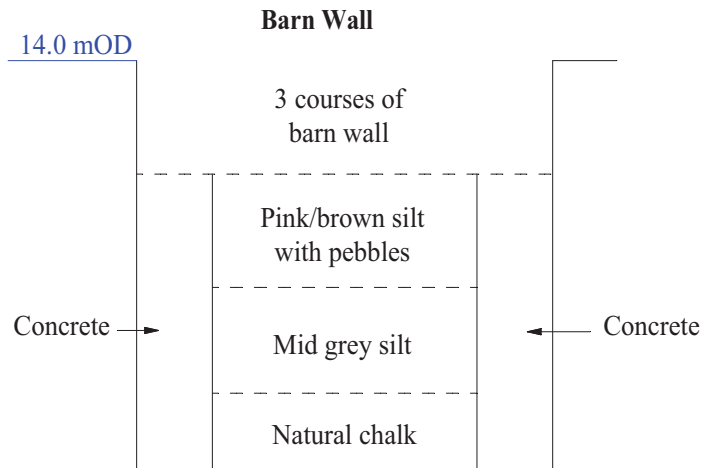
**Barn 5**  
Typical section along  
the south and east walls

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Figure 6. Representative sections, Barns 2 and 5.





**Barn 7**  
**Typical section along**  
**the north and east walls**

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Figure 7. Representative section, Barn 7.



THAMES VALLEY  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
 SERVICES



Plate 1. Barn 2 internal, looking South West, Scale 1m.



Plate 2. Barn 2 internal, looking South West, Scale: 1m.

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**Granhams Farm, Great Shelford,  
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Plates 1 and 2.**







Plate 3. Barn 2 external, looking South East, Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. Barn 2 external, looking South East, Scale: 1m.

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Barn 5 internal, looking North East, Scale: 1m.



Plate 6. Barn 5 internal, looking South East, Scale: 1m.

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**Granhams Farm, Great Shelford,  
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Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 5 and 6.**





Plate 7. Barn 7 internal, looking North East, Scales 2 x 1m.



Plate 8. Barn 7 internal, looking North West, Scale: 2 x 1m.

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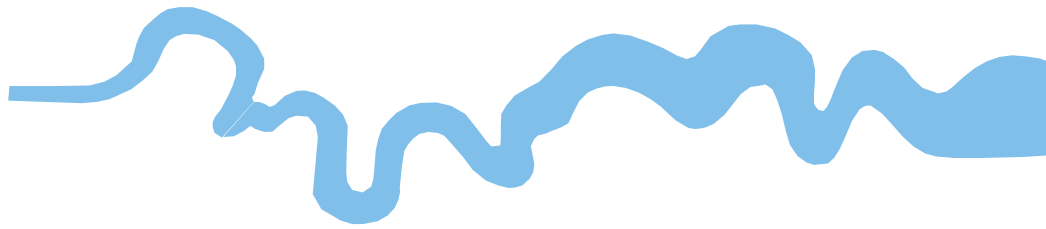
**Granhams Farm, Great Shelford,  
Cambridgeshire, 2020  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 7 and 8.**



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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