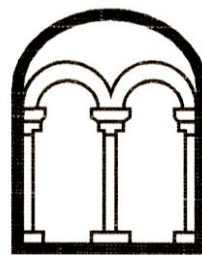


**WILTON COTTAGE  
RIVER HILL  
FLAMSTEAD  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**WILTON COTTAGE  
RIVER HILL  
FLAMSTEAD  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

Project: WCF2489  
OASIS no.: albionar1-190691  
Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum accession no.: DACHT 4602  
Document: 2015/29

Version 1.1  
Issue date: 26/04/2017

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Richard Gregson	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:  
Mr and Mrs T Wright



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*The figures are bound at the rear of the report*



## Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

## Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs T Wright and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Kate Batt, Historic Environment Advisor, Hertfordshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Richard Gregson with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	27/02/2015	n/a
1.1	26/04/2017	Edits following Historic Environment Adviser comments

## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
HER	Historic Environment Record of Hertfordshire County Council
HEU	Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd ed, 2001 Albion Archaeology
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Planning permission (4/01306/14/FHA) was granted by Dacorum Borough Council for a part two-storey, part ground-floor extension and internal alterations to Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead.*

*In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework, the County Council Historic Environment Unit (HEU) advised that a programme of archaeological works comprising watching brief during construction groundworks should be carried out in order to address Condition no. 5 on the planning permission.*

*The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 18th February 2015 by Albion Archaeology in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, approved by the HEU. The groundworks comprised the excavation of footings trenches up to 0.7m wide and up to 2.7m deep whose footprint covered an area of 6.2m x 6m.*

*The watching brief on the groundworks revealed garden deposits, construction-related deposits and geological deposits. No features or remains of archaeological significance were revealed.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (4/01306/14/FHA) was granted by Dacorum Borough Council for a part two-storey, part ground-floor extension and internal alterations to Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead.

Condition no. 5 on the permission stated that: “No part of the development hereby permitted shall commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.”

In accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework– Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*<sup>1</sup> and Policy CS12 of the Dacorum Core Strategy, the County Council Historic Environment Unit (HEU) advised that the programme of archaeological works required at the site should consist of a watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of the development. In accordance with this advice, Albion Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the methods and resources for the archaeological watching brief (Albion 2014).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 18th February 2015. The results are presented in this report.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Wilton Cottage lies off River Hill to the north of the centre of Flamstead (Fig. 1). It is centred on TL 0794 1477 and lies near the ridge of the southern slope of the valley formed by the River Ver at a height of c. 140m OD.

The underlying geology of the area comprises chalk overlain by Clay-with-flints Formation – Clay, Silt, Sand Gravel<sup>2</sup>.

The proposed extensions, along with the majority of the alterations, are located on the western side of the property.

### 1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

Wilton Cottage lies to the north of the historic centre of Flamstead which is recorded in the Domesday Survey and appears to have been focussed upon the medieval Parish Church of St Leonard (HER864) and its large rectangular churchyard.

The vast majority of the sixteen records recorded by the HER within 500m of the site (HER enquiry no. 153/14) refer to properties concentrated within the village to the south of Wilton Cottage. Many of these are still in existence,

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.

<sup>2</sup> Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014]



with some dating back to the 17th century. Of particular interest is a house (HER17917) shown on historical maps in the immediate vicinity of where Wilton Cottage now stands. On the 1879 OS map it is shown as being associated with a large orchard and is named 'The Priory', which is somewhat surprising as Flamstead Priory (HER2855) appears to have been located at Beechwood Park, c. 3km to the west. The house had been demolished by the time of the 1924 OS map.

The few archaeological investigations that have, to date, been undertaken within the village have revealed little evidence of the medieval settlement or evidence of earlier activity in the vicinity. However, the course of Roman Watling Street (HER4606) lies c. 500m to the north-east of Wilton Cottage and Roman bricks are recorded as being incorporated within the tower of the parish church (HER1372).

#### 1.4 Project Objectives

The immediate objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

The proximity of Flamstead's historic core suggested that, in particular, there was the potential for the investigation to contribute to regional research themes associated with medieval and post-medieval settlement and organisation of the landscape (Medlycott 2011, 70-71, 79).

#### 1.5 Methodology

All groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains were monitored on the 18th February 2015. These comprised the excavation of footings trenches up to 0.7m wide and up to 2.7m deep whose footprint covered an area of 6.2m x 6m (Fig. 2).

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• ALGAO	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide</i> (2009)
	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2008)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011)
• CIfA	<i>By-Laws</i> (2010) and <i>Code of Conduct</i> (2012)
	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> (revised 2008)
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Excavation</i> (revised 2008)



## 2. RESULTS

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### 2.1 *Introduction*

The groundworks associated with the development revealed only garden deposits, construction-related deposits and geological deposits. These are summarised below and shown on Figure 2.

### 2.2 *Overburden and Geological Deposits*

On the western side of the development area, which was away from the house and outside the area covered by a recently demolished conservatory, the overburden comprised 0.25m-thick, dark brown-grey sandy silt topsoil (1), overlying 0.3m-thick, mid grey-brown clay silt subsoil (2).

In the area where the former conservatory had stood, there was a 0.6m-thick make-up layer comprising dark brown-grey clay silt (6) with occasional fragments of brick and ceramic tile. Overlying this, within the area of the former conservatory, was a 0.1m-thick sub-base layer of coarse grey aggregate (4). Overlying the make-up layer (6) on the northern edge, just outside the footprint of the former conservatory, was an external surface (5) of either grey brick or concrete slab paving up to 0.07m thick.

The underlying geological strata (3) were encountered in all of the footings trenches at depths of 0.45–0.7m. It comprised mid brown-orange clay with occasional medium to large pieces of flint.

### 2.3 *Conclusions*

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the monitoring of the groundworks.

The project archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum (accession no. DACT 4602). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-190691).





### 3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology, 2001 Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd ed.

Albion Archaeology, 2014 *Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead, Hertfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*, Document 2014/165

English Heritage, 2009, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*.

Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.



#### 4. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Flamstead		Parish: Flamstead
Planning application reference: 4/01306/14/FHA		
HER Enquiry reference: 153/14		
Client name, address: Mr & Mrs T. Wright, Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead AL3 8BY		
Nature of application: Extension to existing dwelling		
Present land use: Garden		
Size of application area: <i>c.</i> 36m <sup>2</sup>		Size of area investigated: <i>c.</i> 36m <sup>2</sup>
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 0794 1477		
Site code (if applicable): WCF2489		
Site director/Organization: R. Wardill / Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological watching brief on construction groundworks		
Date of work:	Start: 18/02/15	Finish: 18/02/15
Location of finds & site archive/curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum		
Related HER Nos: None		Periods represented: Modern.
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results: The groundworks associated with the development revealed only garden deposits, construction related deposits and geological deposits.		
Author of summary: R. Wardill		Date of summary: 26/02/15



## 5. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

**OASIS ID: albionar1-190691**

### Project details

Project name	Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Dacorum Borough Council for a part two-storey, part ground floor extension and internal alterations to Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework, the County Council Historic Environment Unit recommended that a programme of archaeological works comprising watching brief during construction groundworks should be carried out in order to address Condition no. 5. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Albion Archaeology. The groundworks comprised the excavation of footings trenches up to 0.7m wide and up to 2.7m deep whose footprint covered an area of 6.2m x 6m. The watching brief on the groundworks revealed garden deposits, construction-related deposits and geological deposits. No features or remains of archaeological significance were revealed.
Project dates	Start: 18-02-2015 End: 18-02-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WCF2489 - Contracting Unit No. 4/01306/14/FHA - Planning Application No. DACHT 4602 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE DACORUM FLAMSTEAD Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead
Study area	36.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 0794 1477 Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill



Project supervisor Richard Gregson

### Project archives

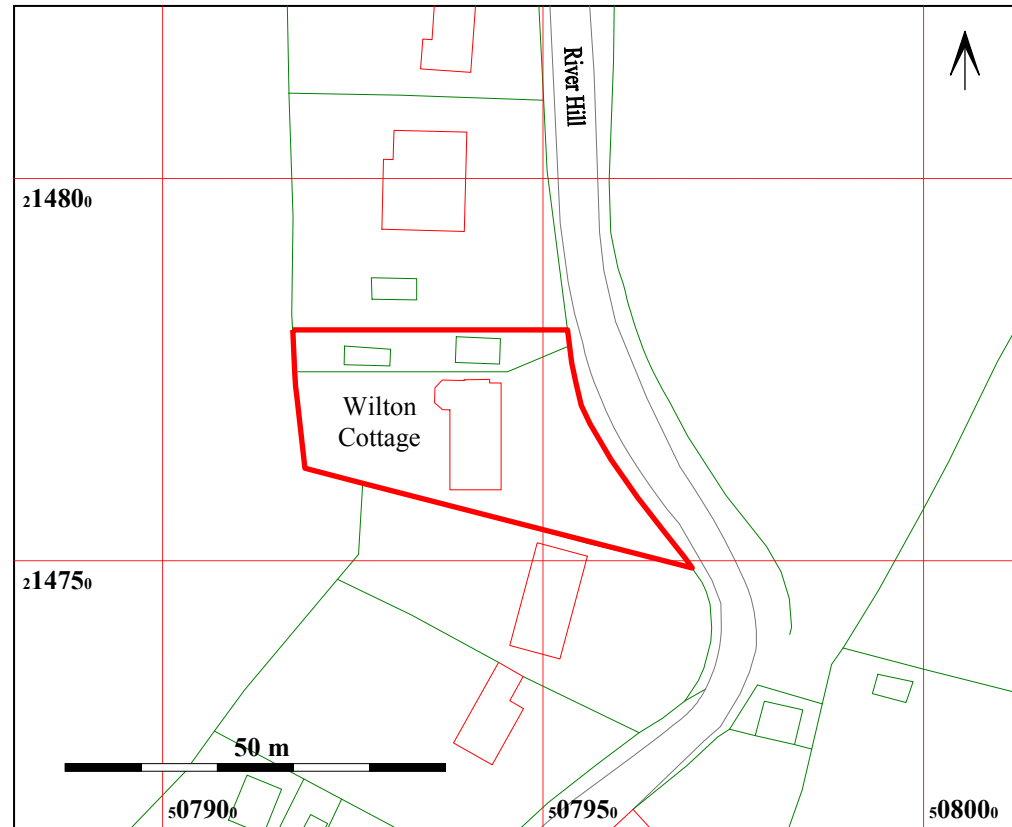
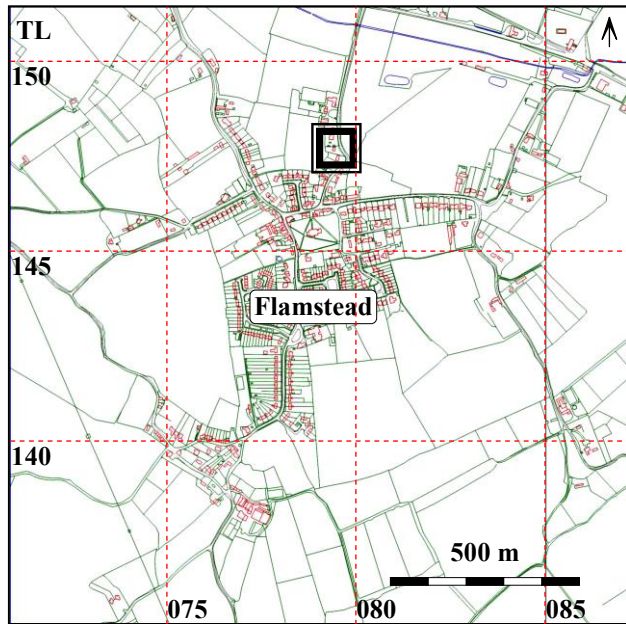
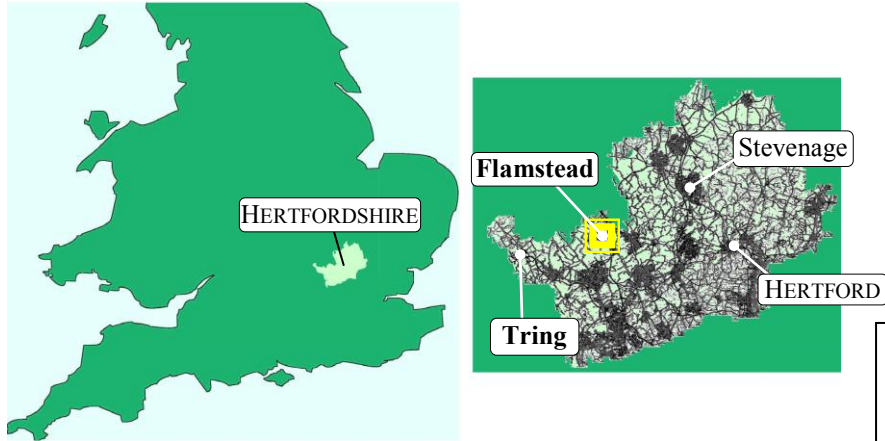
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum
Paper Archive ID	DACHT 4602
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Wilton Cottage, River Hill, Flamstead, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Gregson, R and Wardill, R'
Other bibliographic details	2015/29
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 26 February 2015



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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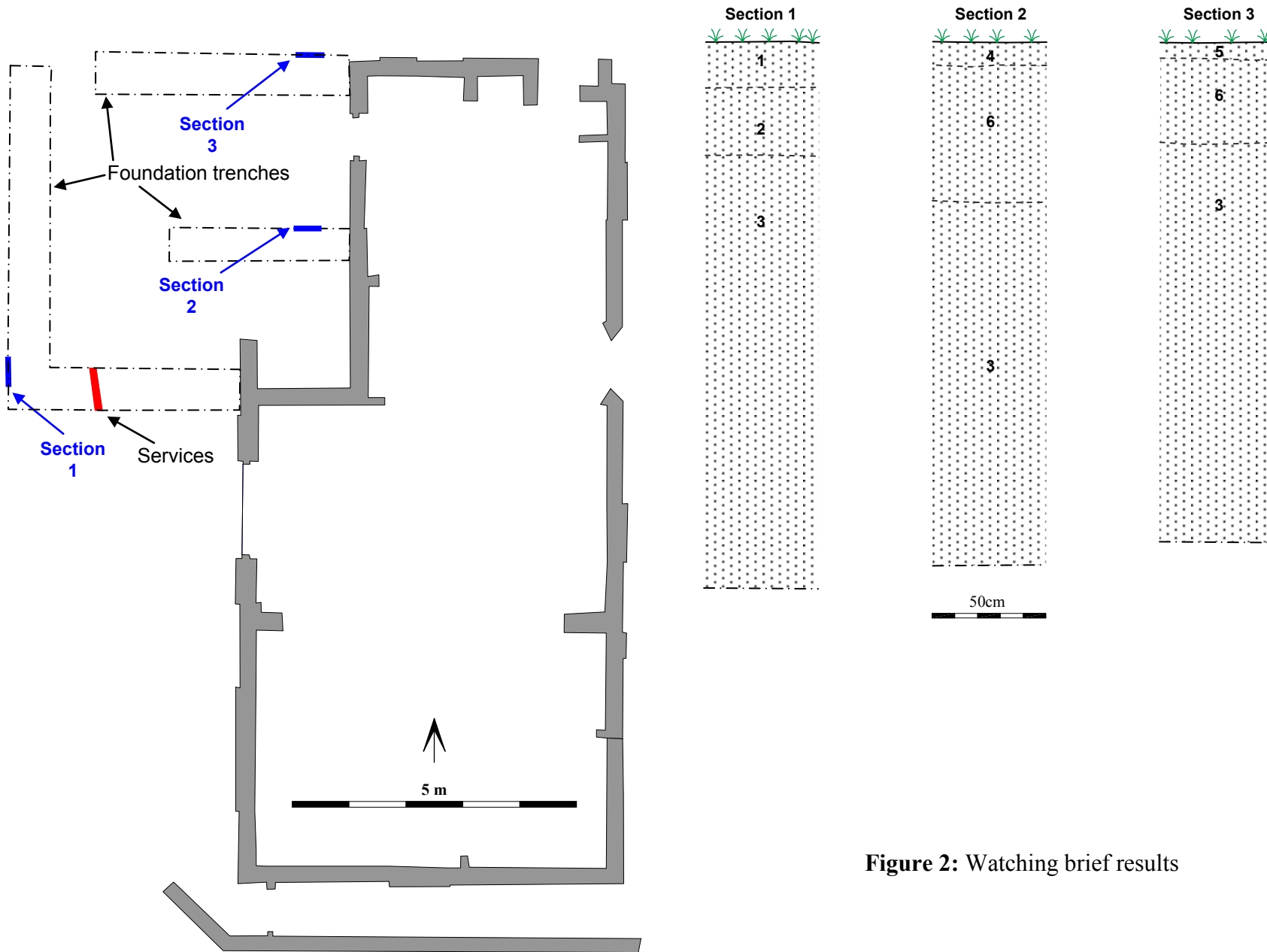


Figure 2: Watching brief results



**Figure 3:** General view of footings looking south-east



**Figure 4:** Section of footing trench, looking north. Scale 1m



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