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**BUILDING RECORDING AT  
BRIDGE COTTAGE  
SHEPHERD'S WALK  
BELMESTHORPE  
STAMFORD  
RUTLAND  
(BESW08)**

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Work Undertaken For  
Mr and Mrs C. H. King

April 2008

Report Compiled by  
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

Planning Application: LBA/2007/1083  
National Grid Reference: TF 0425 1036  
Accession Number: OAKRM:2008.45

A.P.S. Report No. **47/08**


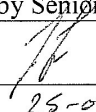
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**Quality Control  
Building Recording at  
Bridge Cottage,  
Shepherd's Walk,  
Belmesthorpe,  
Rutland  
(BESW08)**

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Building Recording	Vicky Mellor
Illustration	Vicky Mellor
Photographic Reproduction	Vicky Mellor
Analyst	Vicky Mellor

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 24/4/08	Date: 25-04-08

## CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

<b>1. SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.1 DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2.3 SITE LOCATION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3. AIMS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4. METHODS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5. RESULTS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>6. DISCUSSION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7. CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>9. PERSONNEL</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>10. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>11. ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	<b>4</b>

## Appendices

1	Project Specification
2	The Archive

### **List of Figures**

- Figure 1 General location map
- Figure 2 Site location map
- Figure 3 Detailed site location map
- Figure 4 Plan of recorded wall and annotated external elevation

### **List of Plates**

- Plate 1 Detail of north elevation of north wall of kitchen wing to be altered by extension, looking south
- Plate 2 View showing north elevation of kitchen wing to be altered by extension and main building of Bridge Cottage and outbuildings, looking southwest
- Plate 3 View showing north elevation of kitchen wing to be altered by extension and main building of Bridge Cottage and outbuildings, looking southeast
- Plate 4 Detail of south elevation of northern wall of kitchen wing to be altered by extension, looking north
- Plate 5 Examples of pigsty fodder trough arrangements in South Lincolnshire (Detail from Barnwell and Giles 1997, p63)

## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken prior to the construction of an extension at Bridge Cottage, Shepherd's Walk, Belmesthorpe, Rutland. The building is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Building of vernacular architectural and historic interest.*

*Part of the building was recorded prior to the construction of an extension. In the area of the proposed extension the structure, ground plan, external elevations and internal details were recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

*Presently in use as a kitchen, this wing may previously have functioned as a pig sty, although it is unclear whether it was purpose-built for that role. A single piece of wood within the surveyed wall may represent the remains of an opening for a pig feeding trough, although this remains unproven.*

*The wing butts, and is thus likely to be later than, the main building, which is of 17<sup>th</sup> century date. The materials used in the building are on the whole undiagnostic or possible additions, and so the dating of the surveyed wing remains unclear. A mid to later 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the wing is possible, although is suggested tentatively. Old Ordnance Survey maps show the wing was in existence by 1888.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of Archaeological Building Recording

Building recording is defined as:

*'... a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex*

*and its setting, including its buried components on land or under water.'* (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs C. H. King to undertake a programme of historic building recording at Bridge Cottage, Shepherd's Walk, Belmesthorpe, Rutland. A planning application (LBA/2007/1083) was submitted to Rutland County Council for the proposed construction of a single storey extension to the north of the dwelling. Permission was subject to conditions including the undertaking of building recording prior to the conversion works.

The building recording was carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council.

Bridge Cottage is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Building (LB ref: 187223). The house has an L-shaped plan and is of 1 to 1 ½ storeys and constructed from coursed rubble. The main part of the building is roofed in Collyweston slate and includes 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century elements.

### 2.3 Site Location

Belmesthorpe is located 18km east of Oakham and 3km northeast of Stamford in the county of Rutland (Figure 1).

Bridge Cottage is at the northern edge of the village, on the east side of Shepherd's Walk, at National Grid Reference TF 0425 1036 (Figure 2).

### 3. AIMS

In accordance with the specification, the aims of the work were to provide a record of the standing structure on the site, specifically the area of the proposed extension, prior to its alteration.

### 4. METHODS

Recording of the building was undertaken to Level 1 standard, according to the English Heritage specification (2006).

The building recording involved:

- A photographic survey showing the building in its context; details of the exterior; interior views of the principal rooms and circulation areas.
- The production of a dimensioned ground plan, incorporating details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest.
- A written record providing an account of the building's type, materials and possible dates.

Photographic recording was undertaken with a manual 35mm camera fitted with a macro lens and a digital camera. Black and white film was used whilst digital photographs were in colour. An index of the photographs was compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro forma recording sheets.

### 5. RESULTS

The Northern elevation of the northern kitchen wing of Bridge Cottage, Belmesthorpe was examined. Both internal and external elevations were recorded.

During the survey, this wing was found to

comprise a single storey kitchen area, although it had apparently previously functioned as a pigsty and toilets (Mrs C King, *pers. comm.*).

Whilst the remainder of the northern wing was not examined in detail, it appears to butt against the main building, the eaves slightly overlapping a window of the main building (Plate 3).

Externally, the recorded elevation comprised a single storey gable end of stone, with a pitched roof of red pantiles (Figure 4). The stones of the majority of the wall were apparently roughly squared, although the shape of individual stones was obscured by mortar. At the western edge, the wall comprised larger blocks forming quoins (angular courses of stone at the corner of a building), whilst at the eastern edge quoins were only intermittently present. The overall thickness of the wall was c.0.49m.

Internally, the majority of the wall was obscured by fitted kitchen cupboards, sink and appliances (Plate 4). Where the internal wall was visible, this was plastered and painted and partially tiled.

A single opening in the wall contained a window with a wooden frame, the surround and lintel of which were of concrete (Figure 4).

Various areas of mortar were noted near the base of the wall, some surrounding existing plumbing. Other small patches of mortar here are also likely to reflect the presence of former plumbing.

Two plastic pipes were noted on the external elevation, to which a washing line and hosepipe rack were also attached.

There was no clear evidence for phasing or repair in the stonework, and no infilled openings were evident. However, any such

features are likely to be difficult to detect in a wall of this type of construction, and it is possible that there may have been a prolonged sequence of minor repairs and alterations. The area of stonework immediately to the west of the window was slightly less weathered than some of the surrounding areas of the wall, and this could indicate a relatively recent repair or alteration. It is possible that any such alteration might have occurred during the conversion of the wing to its current use.

A single piece of wood was visible near the western side of the elevation, sandwiched by the stonework (Figure 4). The wood was 1.00m long and 60mm high, its base being 0.34m above the present ground level. Whilst the function of this wood is unclear, it seems probable that it relates to the previous use of the building, and is likely to represent part of a blocked opening.

## 6. DISCUSSION

At present the single storey northern wing of Bridge Cottage is in a good state of repair and in use as a kitchen.

A single piece of wood within the surveyed elevation may represent part of a blocked opening and relate to the former use of the building.

Similar inclusions of wood in otherwise brick or stone-built walls are recorded in a study of farmsteads in South Lincolnshire (Barnwell and Giles 1997). Whilst such wood inclusions have a wide range of functions within farm buildings, these generally were used to either allow equipment to be attached to a wall or as part of an opening of some kind.

As the known history of the building includes its use as a pigsty, it is possible that the wood represents part of a sty.

Pigsties were usually placed close to the house so that swill, which was often prepared in a kitchen or outhouse, could be easily carried to the animals. In the Lincolnshire examples, in instances where there was no separate yard for pigs, one of the walls of the sty usually contained a feeding trough designed so that fodder could be tipped into it from outside. Examples of such trough structures examined in the Lincolnshire study are reproduced here as Figure 5. As these examples each incorporate at least one horizontal piece of wood similar to that noted in the recorded elevation, it seems reasonable to suggest a possible comparable function.

Whilst Bridge Cottage is of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, the surveyed wing is likely to be a later addition. The materials used in the northern wing give little indication as to the possible age of its construction, mainly comprising stone. In addition, the pantile roof may well not be original. The possibly comparable pigsties in the South Lincolnshire study tend to date to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and so a similar date might tentatively be suggested here. However, the original function of the building is unclear, and could be of greater age, even if it was used as a pigsty from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Building recording was undertaken on the northern wall of a single storey wing at Bridge Cottage, Belmesthorpe in order to provide a permanent record of the structure and its fixtures and fittings.

The recording involved a survey of the wall and this has provided a record of the appearance and arrangement of the structure, together with a brief examination of the history of the building.

Presently in use as a kitchen, this wing may previously have operated as a pig sty, although it is unclear whether it was purpose-built for that function. A single piece of wood within the surveyed wall may represent the remains of an opening for a pig feeding trough, although this remains unproven. The single window within the recorded elevation was surrounded by concrete, and is likely to be either a modern insertion or replacement.

The wing is likely to be later than the main building, the latter being of 17<sup>th</sup> century date. The materials used in the building are on the whole undiagnostic or possible additions, and so the dating of the building remains unclear. However, a mid to later 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the wing is possible, although it must be stressed that this is suggested purely on the basis that comparable pigsties have been dated to this period in south Lincolnshire.

Ordnance Survey maps of 1888 and 1904 were examined and were found to depict the house. The layout of the main building is the same as the present arrangement, the northern wing being shown. This indicates that a building was located in the area of the northern wing before 1888.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs C. H. King who commissioned the work. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. David Start kindly permitted access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Building Recording: Vicky Mellor

Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor  
CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor  
Analyst: Vicky Mellor

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barnwell, P. S., and C Giles, 1997, *English Farmsteads, 1750-1914*, RCHME

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice*

IFA, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Services	Project
DoE	Department of Environment	of the
IFA	Institute of Archaeologists	of Field
OS	Ordnance Survey	
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England	



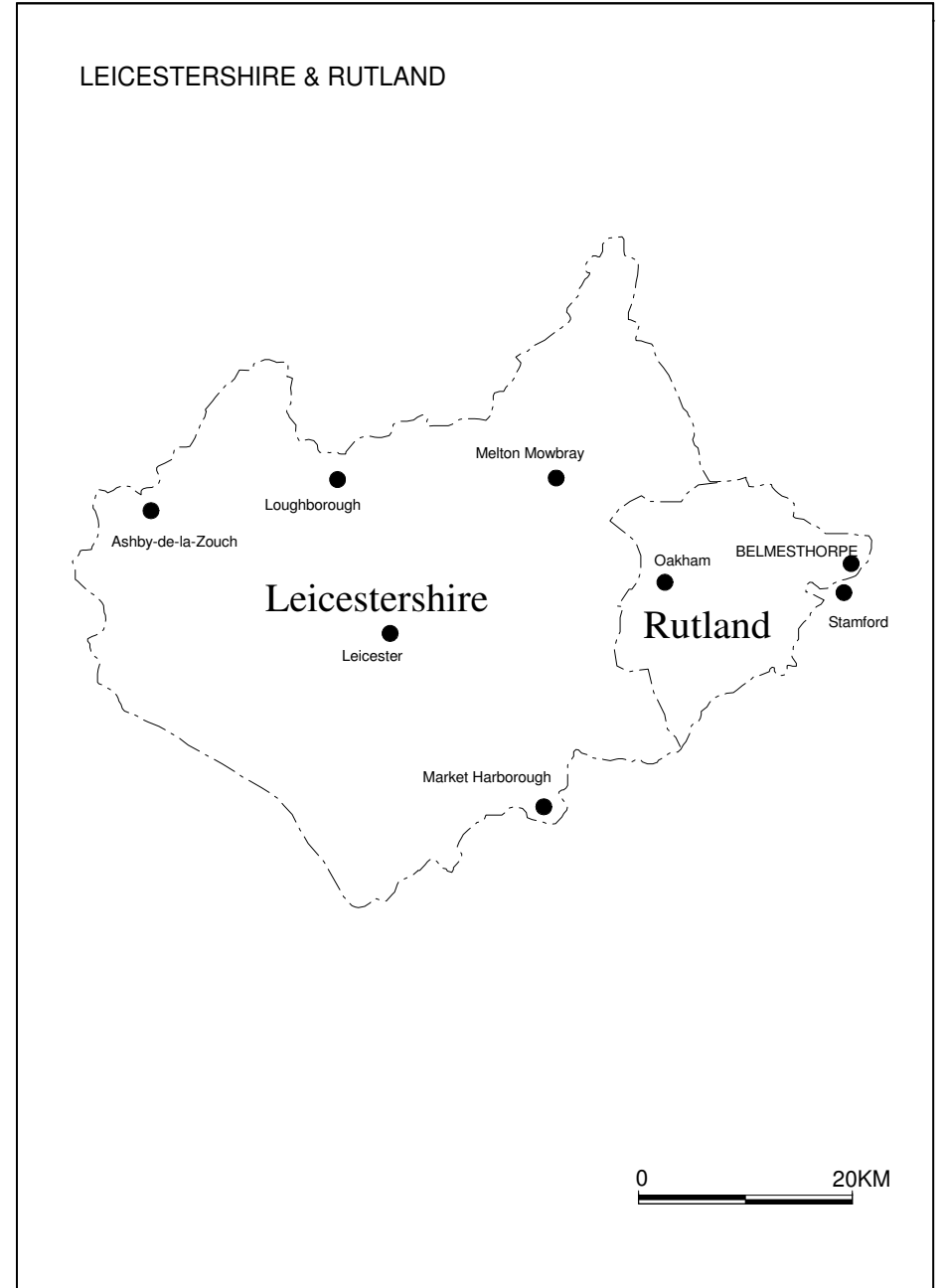
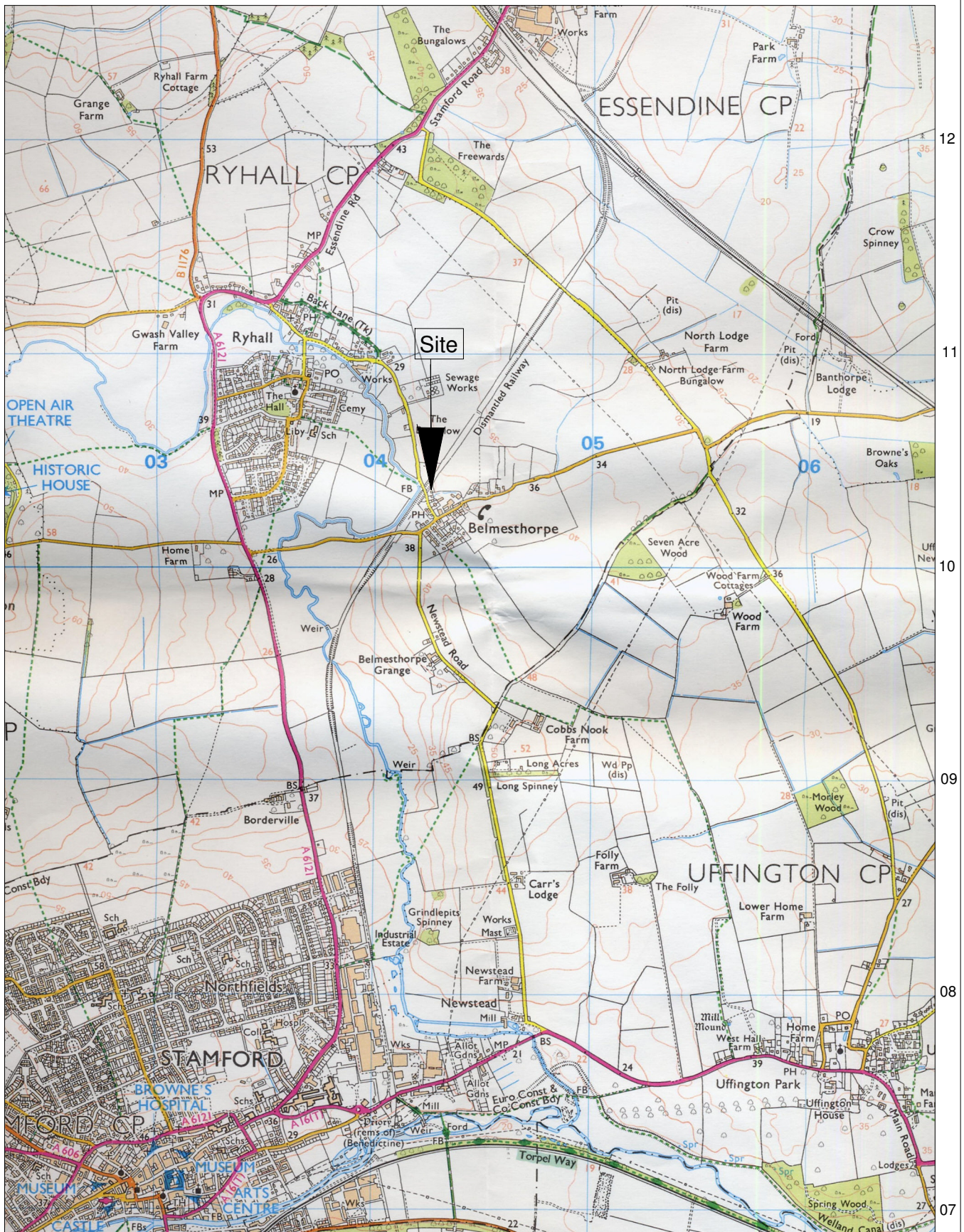


Figure 1 General location map



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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Belmesthorpe Shepherd's Way BESW08

Scale 1:25,000

Report No: 47/08

Figure 2 Site location map

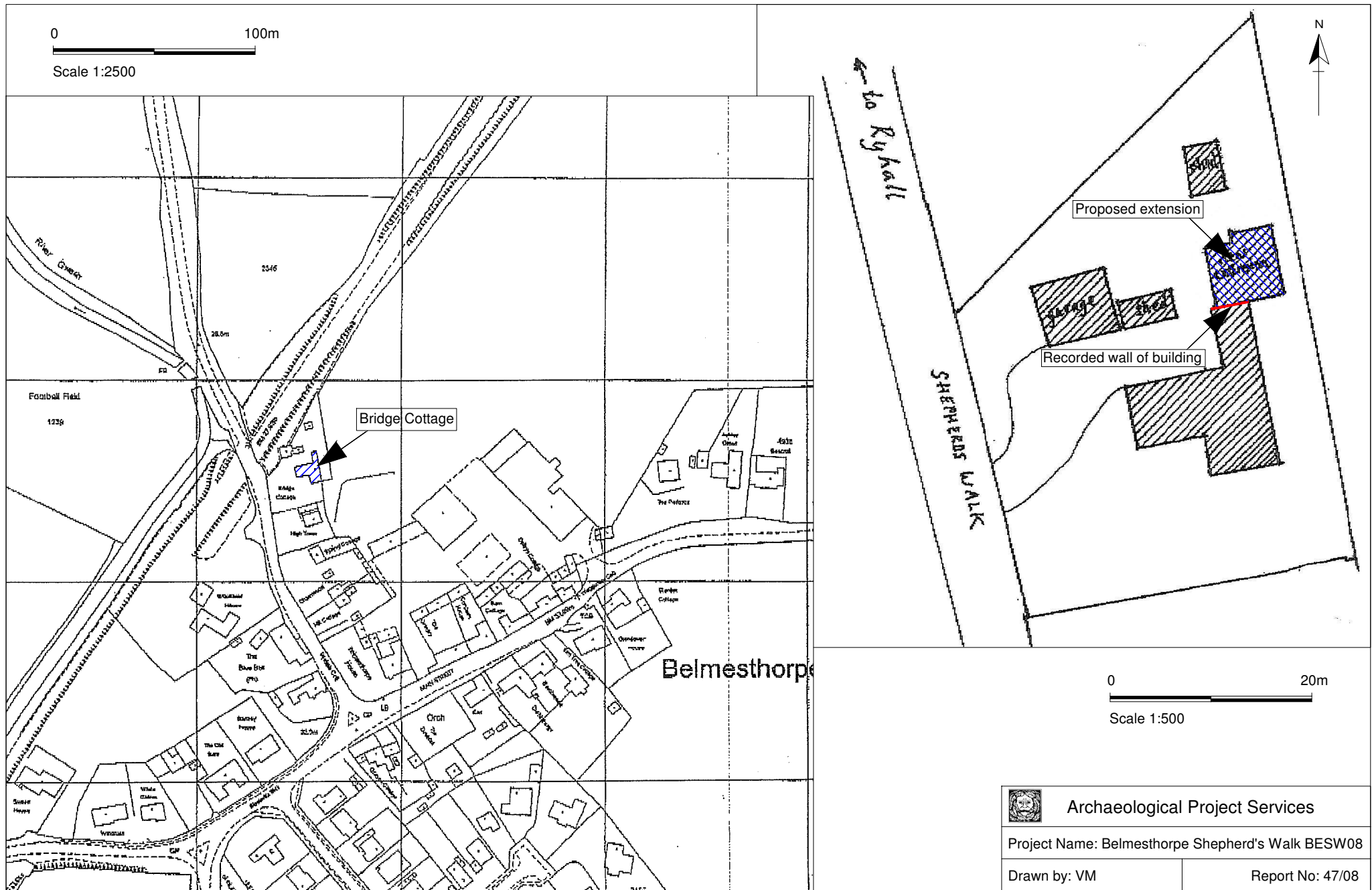
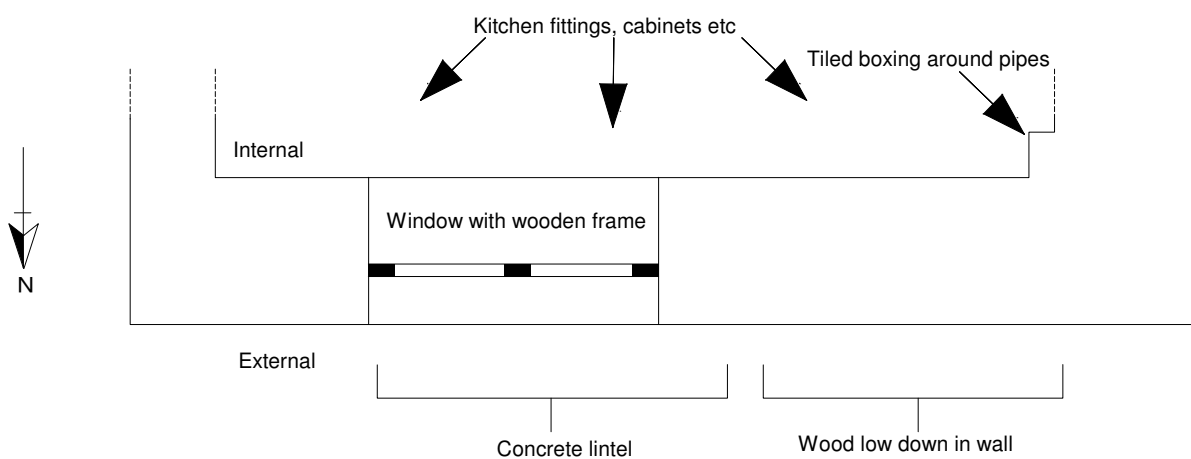


Figure 3 Detailed site location map




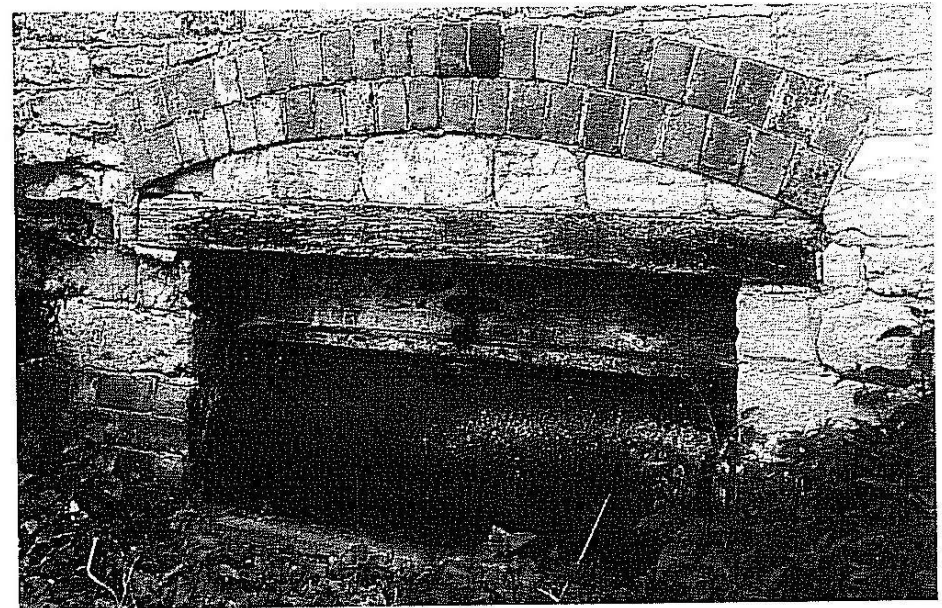
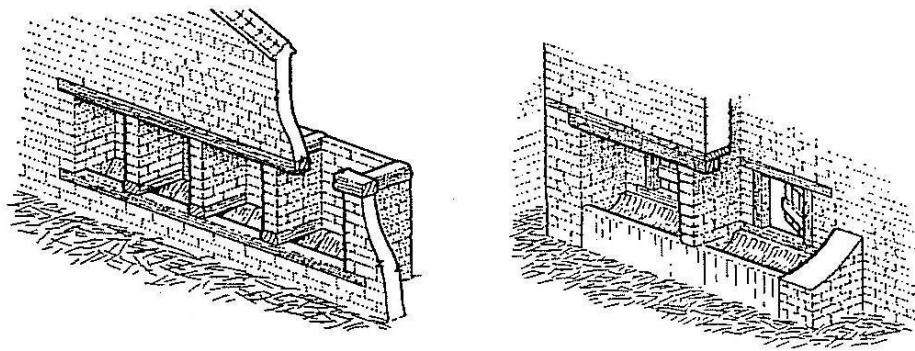
 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Belmesthorpe Shepherd's Walk BESW08		
Plan scale 1:25	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 47/08

Figure 4 Plan of recorded wall and annotated external elevation




	Archaeological Project Services
Project Name: Belmesthorpe Shepherd's Walk BESW08	
Drawn by: VM	Report No: 47/08

Figure 5 Examples of pigsty fodder trough arrangements in South Lincolnshire (Detail from Barnwell and Giles 1997, p63)



Plate 1  
Detail of north  
elevation of north  
wall of kitchen  
wing to be altered  
by extension,  
looking south

Plate 2  
View showing  
north elevation of  
kitchen wing to  
be altered by  
extension and  
main building of  
Bridge Cottage  
and outbuildings,  
looking  
southwest





Plate 3  
View showing  
north elevation of  
kitchen wing to  
be altered by  
extension and  
main building of  
Bridge Cottage  
and outbuildings,  
looking southeast

Plate 4  
Detail of south  
elevation of  
northern wall of  
kitchen wing to  
be altered by  
extension,  
looking north



## **Appendix 1**

### **PROJECT SPECIFICATION**



## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of building recording is required prior to the construction of an extension at Bridge Cottage, Shepherd's Walk, Belmesthorpe, Rutland.*
- 1.2 *The building is a 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Building of vernacular architectural and historic interest.*
- 1.3 *The building recording will be undertaken prior to construction of the extension. In the area of the proposed extension the structure, ground plan, external elevations and internal details will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for historic building recording prior to construction of an extension to Bridge Cottage, Shepherd's Walk, Belmesthorpe, Rutland.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

## 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Belmesthorpe is located 18km east of Oakham and 3km northeast of Stamford in the County of Rutland. Bridge Cottage is at the northern edge of the village, on the east side of the Shepherd's Walk, at National Grid Reference TF 0425 1036.
- 3.2 Bridge Cottage is a Grade II Listed Building of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, with some 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (LBA/2007/1083) was submitted to Rutland County Council for the proposed construction of a single storey extension to the north of the dwelling. Permission is subject to conditions including the undertaking of building recording prior to the conversion works.

## 5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The aim of the work will be to provide a record of the standing building on the site, specifically the area of the proposed extension, prior to its alteration.
- 5.2 The objectives will be to establish:
  - 5.2.1 the form of the building;
  - 5.2.2 the date of the building and features of special interest;
  - 5.2.3 the state of preservation of the buildings and any features of special interest present.

## 6 BUILDING RECORDING

- 6.1 Building Investigation will be undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings. An English Heritage (2006) Level 1 survey of the standing buildings will be undertaken. Subject to accessibility and Health and Safety considerations, the record will include:
- 6.1.1 A photographic survey showing the building in its context; details of the exterior; interior views of the principal rooms and circulation areas; and possibly structural or decorative details.
  - 6.1.2 A dimensioned ground plan, which will incorporate details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest; supplemented by
  - 6.1.3 A written record providing an account of the building's type, materials and possible dates.

## 7 SITE OPERATIONS

### 7.1 General considerations

- 7.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 7.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 7.1.3 The building recording would be undertaken by staff with experience of such examinations up to English Heritage Level 3 standard.
- 7.1.4 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

## 8 REPORTING

- 8.1 On completion of the fieldwork, a report detailing the results of the building recording will be prepared. This will consist of:

A summary of the survey results.

A description of the statutory designation, history and historical setting of the building.

A text describing the results of the building survey.

Location plans of the site and building.

A ground plan of the part of the building to be altered.

Interpretation of the development and use of the part of the building to be altered.

Appropriate photographs of the elevations, general interior views and specific features.

9        **REPORT DEPOSITION**

9.1        Copies of the report will be sent to the client; the Leicestershire and Rutland Senior Planning Archaeologist; and Rutland County Council Planning Department.

10       **ARCHIVE**

10.1       The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to Rutland County Museum. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Acquisition and Disposal Policy* for long-term storage and curation.

11       **PUBLICATION**

11.1       Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). Reports on the findings of the investigation will be submitted to the editors of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record*

11.2       If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the relevant national journals: *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Vernacular Architecture*.

12       **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

12.1       Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Leicestershire and Rutland Senior Planning Archaeologist. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

13       **VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

13.1       Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

13.2       In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological/historical importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.

13.3       Where important archaeological/historical remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

13.4       Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

14       **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

14.1       The building recording will be undertaken prior to the conversion.

14.2       An archaeological supervisor with experience of building recording will undertake the work.

14.3       Analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from an illustrator.

15       **INSURANCES**

15.1       Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability

insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

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## 17 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice*

Specification: Version 1, 21-04-08

## Appendix 2

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Drawing sheet containing a scaled plan and notes
- 1 Daily record sheet
- 1 Building recording sheet

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Rutland County Museum  
Catmose Street  
Oakham  
Rutland  
LE15 6HW

Accession Number:

OAKRM: 2008.45

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

BESW08

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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*Building  
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*Desktop  
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*Ceramic Analysis*

*Osteoarchaeology*

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