



# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:  
THE BARN, LIME STREET,  
OLNEY,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 88730 51170

*on behalf of Mr and Mrs G Peirson*



A. Thompson BSc

February 2008

ASC: 1040/1

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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LSO 08	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1040
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	tbc	<i>MKC Event no:</i>	1160
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Olney		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Olney		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP8873 5117		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	10m x 4m		
<i>Present use:</i>	former barn		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension and conversion for residential use		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	not known		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Milton Keynes Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	1/2/2008		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr and Mrs Pierson Greyfriars Church Green Cold Brayfield Olney MK46 4HS		
<i>Contact name:</i>			

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	A. Thompson	<i>Date:</i>	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2008
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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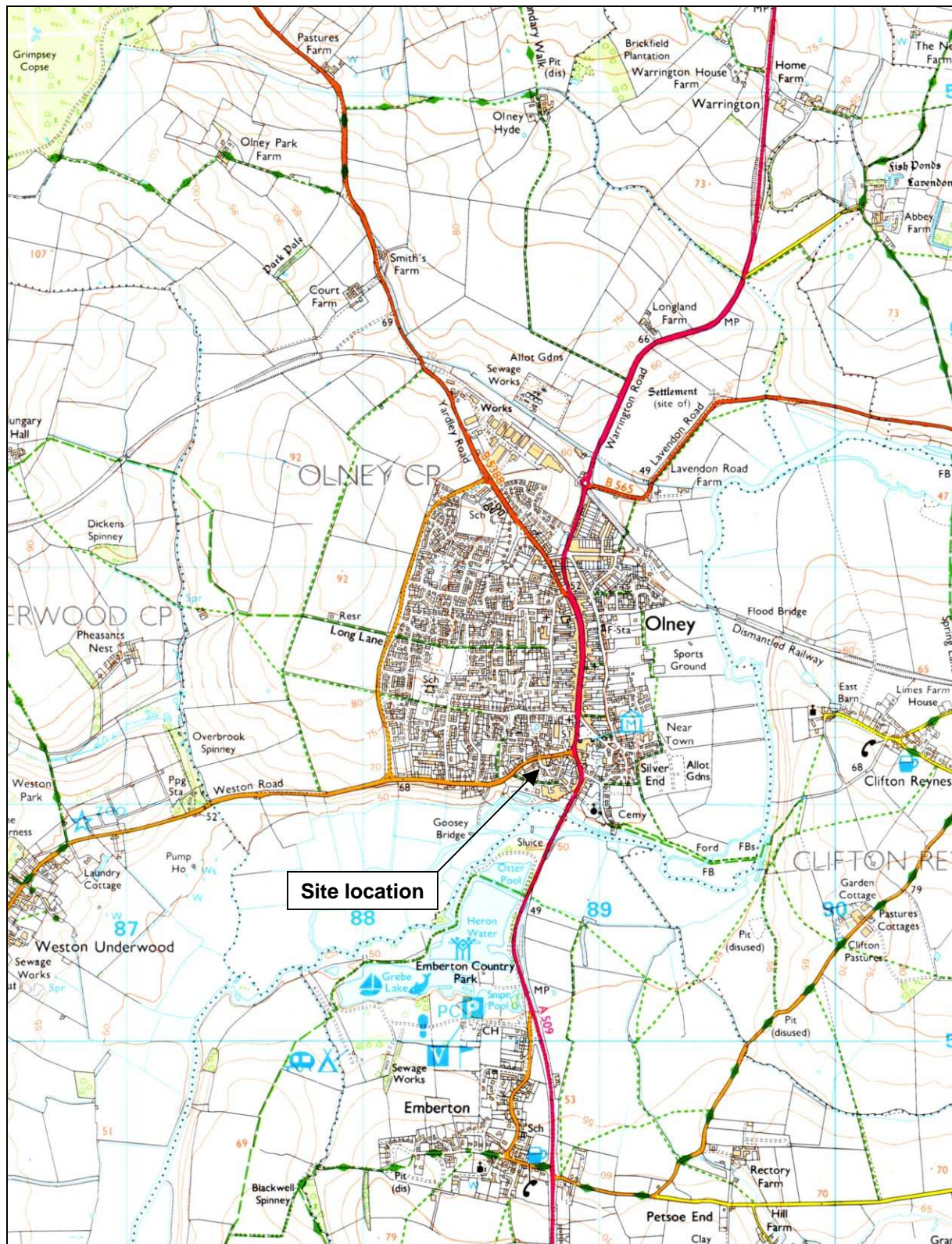
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**Figure 1:** General location (scale 1:25,000)



## Summary

*In February 2008 a watching brief was carried out by ASC during ground works in advance of an extension to The Barn, Lime Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. Vestiges of 19<sup>th</sup> century cobbling were recorded together with 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits. The Barn was probably built in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, in association with landscaping. A fragment of a medieval whetstone and two sherds of 17/18<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from topsoil.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In February 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at the Barn, Lime Street, Olney Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by the owners, *Mr and Mrs Peirson*. The work was carried out in line with a 'standard' brief issued by the *Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council*, and ASC's standard method statement for watching briefs (Appendix 1).

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

*Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.4 *Management*

The project was carried out under the overall direction of **David Fell** MA MIFA. David is an experienced archaeologist with extensive fieldwork and post-excavation experience, and also of historical research and building recording. David holds a first degree from the University of York, and a master's degree from Birmingham University. He has held a range of supervisory appointments since 1990, including *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit, Bucks County Archaeology Service, Beds County Archaeology Service, Archaeological Project Services, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust* and the *Museum of London Archaeology Service*.

### 1.5 *The Site*

#### 1.5.1 *Location & Description*

'The Barn' is situated on the western frontage of Lime Street, close to Weston Road, which is on the southern side of Olney (Fig. 1). Buildings to the north on Lime Street are private properties, whilst the open ground to the south has recently been redeveloped for housing. Access to the Barn is via an entrance off Lime Street on the northern side. There is also access to the rear of the Barn between the southern wall and a new property boundary at the south,

since the stone boundary wall on the Lime Street frontage has been removed. There are currently no services connected to the Barn.

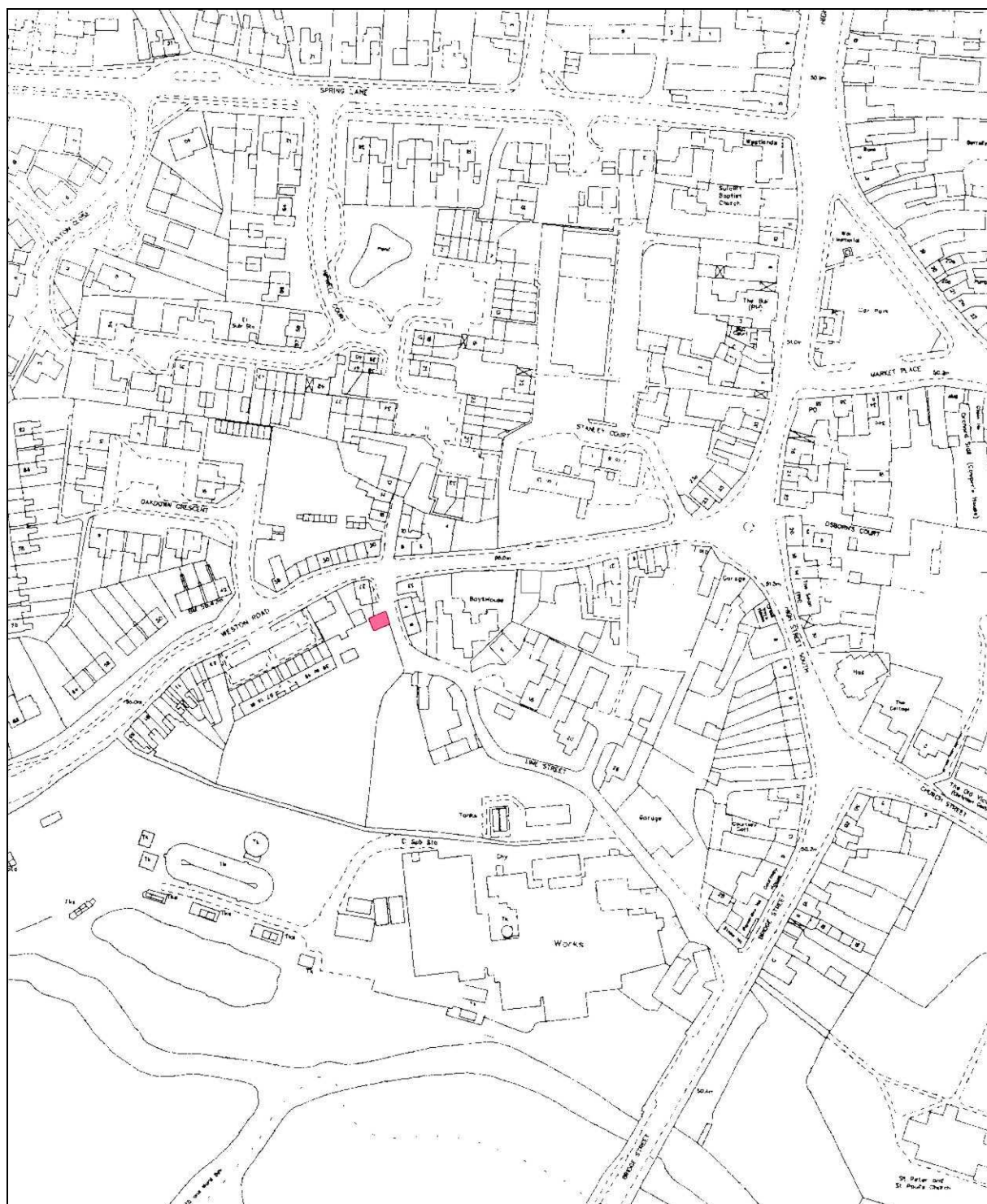
#### 1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The frontage of Lime Street rises slightly to the north from 53.45 to 53.70m AOD (Walker Associates site survey prepared for the clients). The ground to the side and rear of the property rises towards the west, from 54.18 to 54.92m AOD.

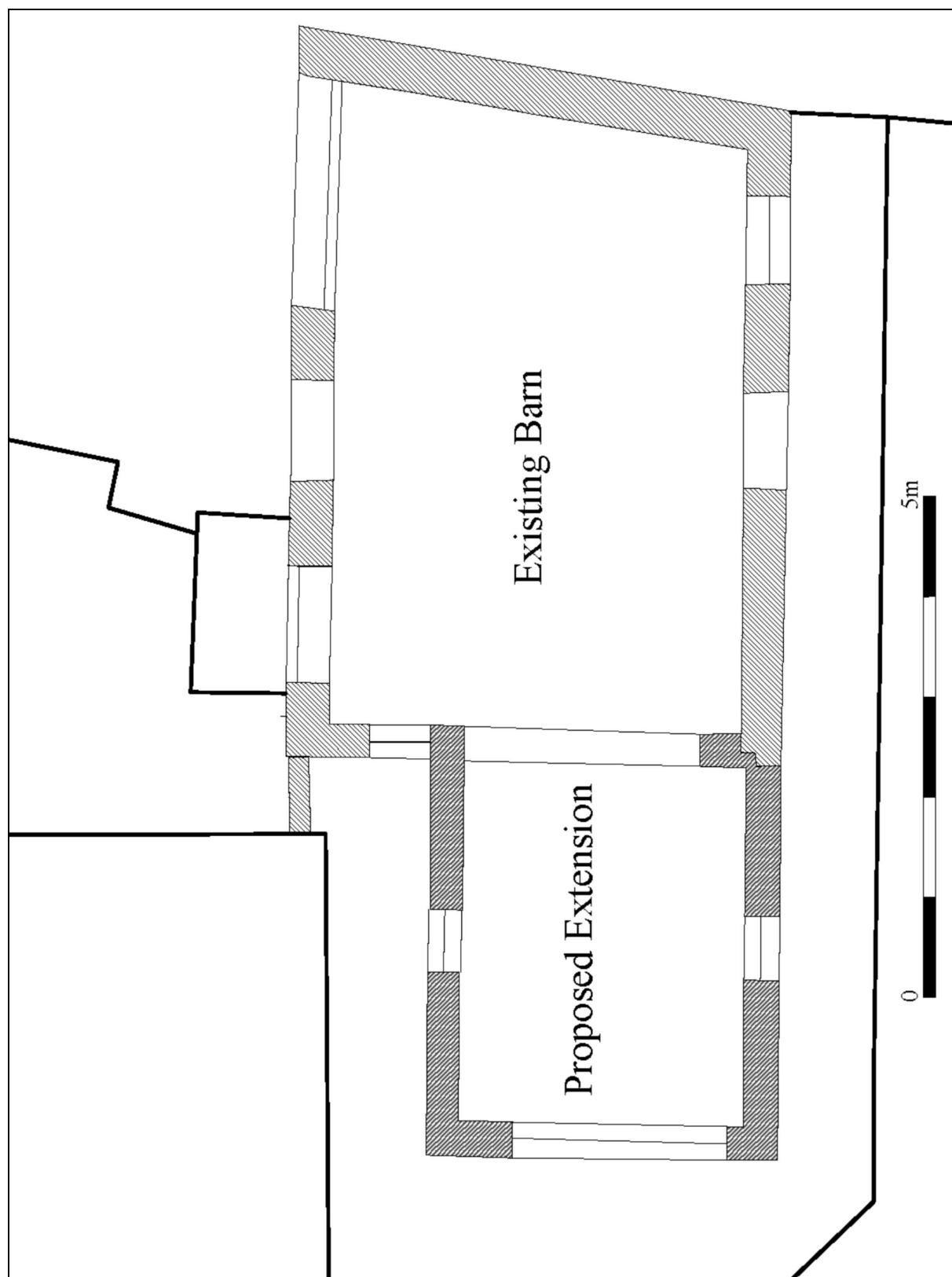
The underlying solid geology is mapped as limestone with some sandy beds. The overlying drift geology comprises glacial deposits of boulder clay and fluvial sediments of river terrace sand and gravel (BGS, Sheet 203). Soils belong to the Moreton association – well-drained calcareous clayey and fine loam soils (Soil Survey 1983, Sheet 3).

#### 1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The existing structure is being converted to a two-storey residential property with two rooms at ground floor level. The works have already required extensive rebuilding, notably at the western end (Fig. 3). The interior wall and floor of the Barn have already been removed and the roof rebuilt. Service connections will be supplied to the southern side of the property



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**Figure 3:** Site plan & proposed extension (scale 1:50)



## **2. Aims & Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

The aims of the watching brief were to:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of the ground works during the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the redevelopment programme
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

### **2.2 Standards**

The work conformed to the 'standard' brief, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### **2.3 Methods**

The work was carried out according to the 'standard' brief, which required:

- Archaeological monitoring of the any ground reduction, and of the excavation of any trenches within the footprint of the building which may affect archaeological remains
- Recording and investigation of all archaeological remains and recent deposits revealed by the redevelopment programme, including a full photographic and written record.
- Scanning of all deposits removed (including spoil heaps) in order to retrieve artefacts.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

3.2 ***Prehistoric - Roman*** (before c.AD450)

Olney is situated in the valley of the river Great Ouse, which was an area of considerable importance during the prehistoric and Roman periods. Evidence for prehistoric activity in Olney is limited, but Extensive excavations in 2003 on the former Cowper tannery site to the south, within which The Barn was originally located, revealed a small Neolithic flint assemblage, the first evidence of this period found within the town (Thorne 2003). Very limited evidence of later Iron Age settlement was recovered in the form of a small posthole and a small pit; the latter containing deliberately placed pottery but also fragments of a Roman quern.

During the Roman period a settlement developed north of the town at Ashfurlong, where the road from *Magiovinium* (near Fenny Stratford) to Irchester probably crossed the Ouse. Only a background scatter of 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century coinage and residual Roman pottery and glass was recovered from the Cowper Tannery site, suggesting deposition through manuring. Some Roman tile was also re-used in later features (*ibid*).

3.3 ***Saxon*** (c.450-1066)

The town of Olney probably developed during the Saxon period. Following King Alfred's defeat of the Danes in c.879, the area north of the Ouse where Olney is located fell within the Danelaw (Markham 1973, 34), so it is possible that the town was founded as a Danish frontier post. In the reign of Ethelred (the Unready), further conflict between Danes and Saxons led to the massacre of Danes at Olney and other Ouse valley settlements (*ibid*, 36), in what has become known as the Massacre of St Brice. .

Several residual early/middle Saxon pottery sherds were found on the Cowper Tannery site together with a slot containing a single sherd of early-middle Saxon pottery. It is therefore possible that the early Saxon settlers of Olney may have settled the Lime Street frontage. Several later Saxon metal finds, a trackway, a pit containing slag, and evidence of grubbing out of trees form fragmentary evidence of later Saxon activity on the site. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century a post-built structure comprising two rooms may have been a barn or shed but fragments of a quern were also recovered (Thorne 2007).

3.4 ***Medieval*** (1066-1500)

Olney is referred to as *Olnei* in the Domesday survey (1086). The name probably derives from old English, meaning 'Olla's island'. At that time the town was held directly by the *Bishop of Coutances* and was valued at £12 (Morris 1978, 145). The present layout of the town was probably established at this time. It is dominated by the High Street, which runs north from the market place and the 14<sup>th</sup>-century church of St Peter and St Paul (Pevsner & Williamson 2000, 587). East Street and West Street are aligned parallel to the High Street and form back lanes, separated from the High Street

by medieval tenement plots. The tenement patterns often survive as property boundaries to the present day. One of the town's two annual fairs, on the festival of St Peter (29<sup>th</sup> June) was granted in 1315.

The Cowper Tannery site provided considerable evidence of 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century fields laid out on an acreage basis on the fringes of the town. One plot close to Lime Street also contained an iron-smelting furnace and hearths, whilst back plots associated with the Weston Road contained cesspits and wells. In the 14-15<sup>th</sup> centuries the field boundaries were not renewed, and there were the isolated remains of a malting oven and associated hearths sited close to Lime Street.

### 3.5 *Post-Medieval & Modern (1500-present)*

During the post-medieval period Olney continued to flourish as a market town, and as the centre of the north Buckinghamshire lace-making industry. Other rural industries, such as straw plaiting and tanning, were also common in the area. The parish of Olney was inclosed by Act of Parliament in 1767. In 1786 there was a major fire in the town, which destroyed forty-three houses. However, the town remained largely unaffected by canal and railway developments in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and thereby avoided much development during the Victorian period. Weston Road was known as Dagnell Street until the late 1870s.

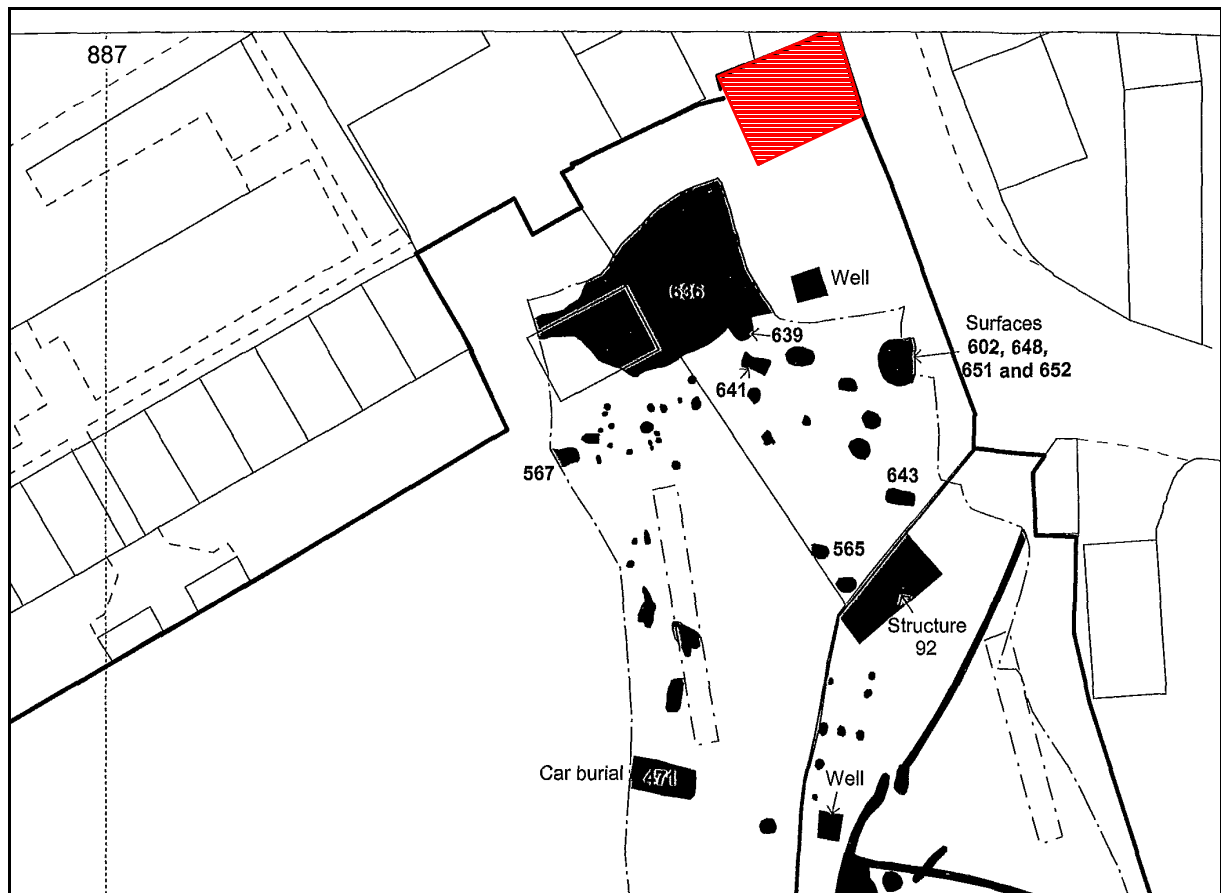
The first tannery in the general area of the Cowper Tannery site was founded in 1780, and only closed in 1877. Cowper Tannery itself was founded in 1898 and was closed in around 2000. Lime Street was formerly called Dead Lane, as it was the direct route through to the church from Weston. It was in its current form by the time the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882 was published, although it is not certain whether The Barn structure was there at that time. It was certainly present by 1925, and stood on the north side of a boundary wall that clearly divided properties off Lime Street. The wall itself, which was removed in 2003, followed a boundary that had been established in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Most recently the barn was used as the tannery stable and a record of the building was made in this form in 2003.

Excavations on the tannery site revealed a large area of cobbled surfaces to the south-west of the barn (Context 686), together with a wide array of rubbish pits dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several wells and the remains of a lean-to building on the boundary wall (Structure 62; Fig. 4). These were buried below at least one metre depth of topsoil.

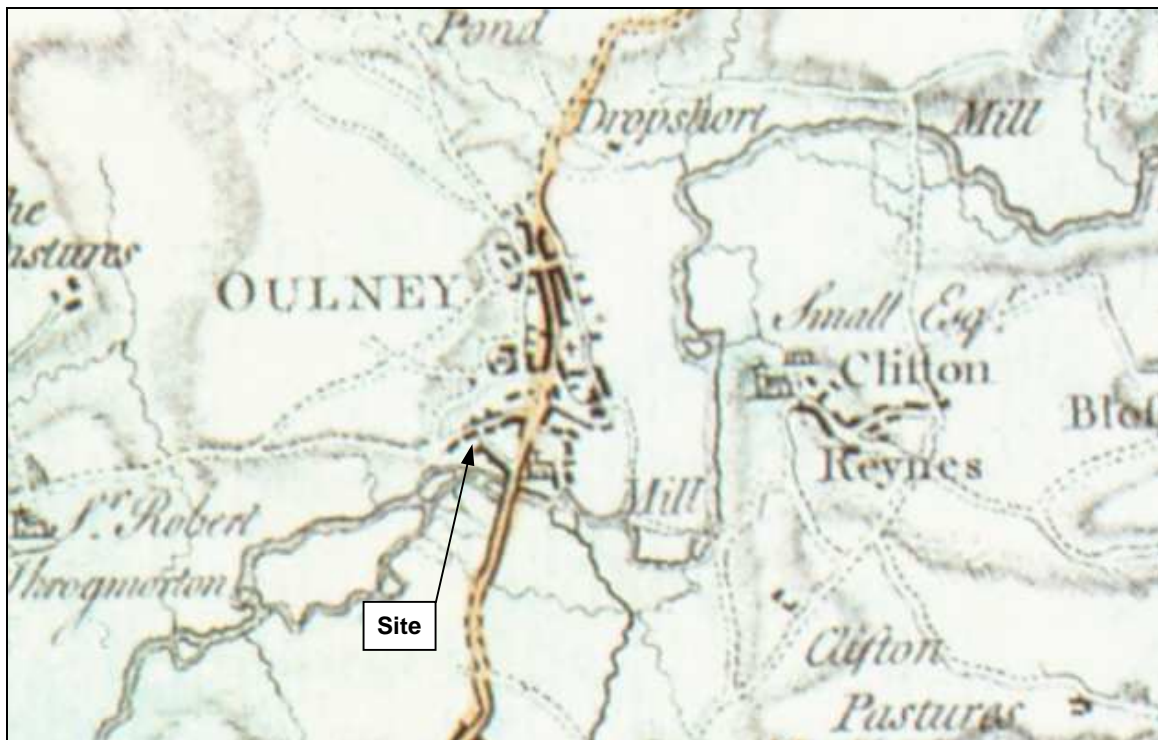
Until recently there was a further land division delineating the property associated with and to the rear of the barn. In 2003 the remains of a low stone wall projected from the southern-western corner of the barn and was recorded as being of integral build. Within the barn's curtilage in 2003 was a large concrete capped well which was the only feature to have cut through the topsoil. The area on both sides of the property boundary was open ground, some of which had been used as a paddock and for pear trees for the previous 25-year period. During redevelopment of the Tannery site the Barn site was used as a site compound, levelled and covered with tarmac surfacing (Jay Conners pers com.).

#### 4.4 Cartographic Evidence

The earliest map to show Olney in any detail is Jeffreys' map of Buckinghamshire, dated 1770 (Fig. 5). While it is too small a scale to distinguish individual buildings, it is apparent that, by the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the south side of Weston Road between the High Street and Lime Street was almost completely developed. Bryant's map of 1825 (Fig. 6) is also too small-scale to show any detail. However, it does show that the south side of Weston Road between the High Street and Lime Street was fully developed by this time.



**Figure 4:** Plan of post-medieval archaeology excavated at the Cowper Tannery site (after Thorne 2003, Fig.11). The Barn is shaded red. (Scale 1:400).



**Figure 5:** Extract from Jeffreys' Map of Buckinghamshire, 1770



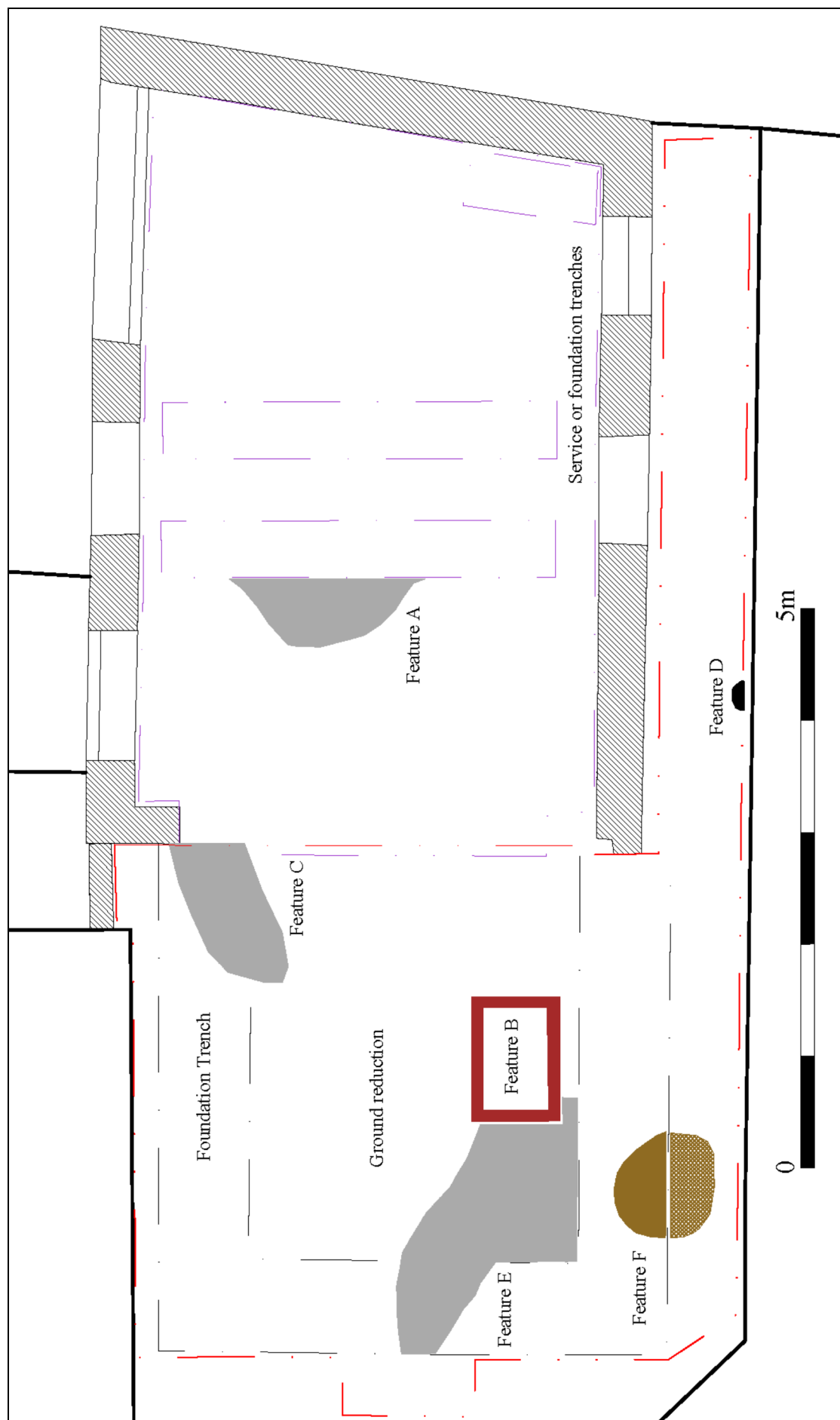
**Figure 6:** Extract from Bryant's Map of Buckinghamshire, 1825

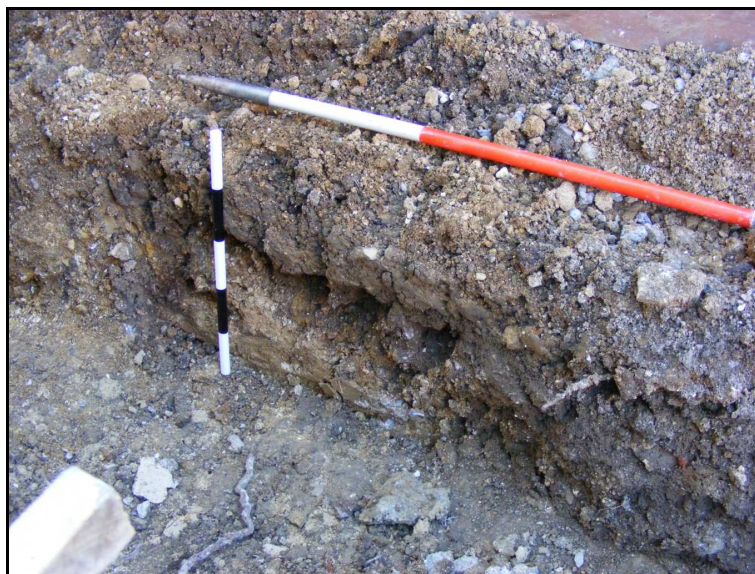


## 4. Results

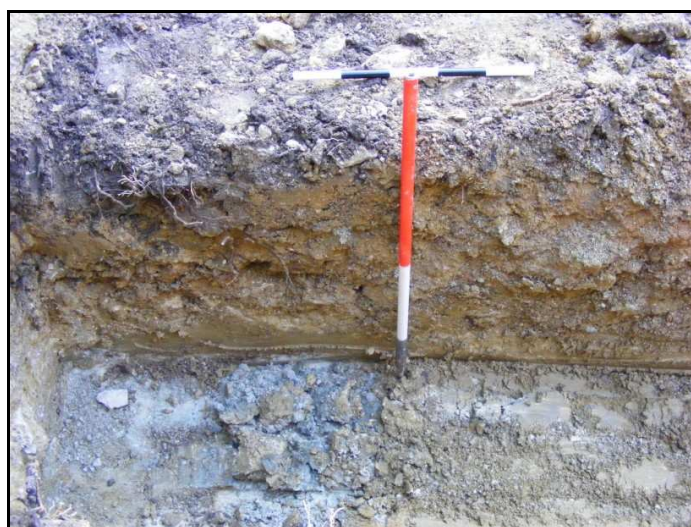
- 4.1 Ground reduction within the existing structure had removed between 250 and 600mm of former floor and sub-floor deposits which had exposed the base of the wall footings and the natural ground surface. Soil stains on the walls indicate that the Barn footings were cut through shallow, former topsoil deposits onto the surface of the underlying natural. Traces of sooting were also seen on parts of the south and west walls at former ground level. Remains of a shallow pit (Feature A) were also noted, cut into the natural in the western half of the Barn (Fig. 7). Two fragments of un-frogged red brick were noted in the surface of the pale grey-brown silty clay fill. The feature was truncated by one of three foundation or service trenches, which revealed a 0.40m deep uneven profile. No further dating evidence was present to suggest an exact date for the feature within the post-medieval to 19<sup>th</sup> century period.
- 4.2 Ground reduction and service trenching had taken place at the southern side of the property between the southern wall of the barn and the new property boundary. Here between 0.30 and 0.40m of topsoil was removed, reflecting the gradual slope up to the west, revealing the natural geology. At the western end of the service trench a post-pipe, still retaining the remains of decayed timber, marked the eastern side of a cut into natural (Fig. 7, Feature D: Plate 1). The ground to the west of the posthole comprised topsoil showing the position of an accompanying, sloping cut (Plate 1).
- 4.3 A watching brief was maintained during ground reduction within the footprint of the extension and the excavation of the foundation trenches. All deposits were removed using mini-excavators fitted with 0.60m wide toothed ditching buckets. The stratigraphy across the footings was fairly consistent (Plate 4). The natural comprised grey-blue very stiff boulder clay, which was exposed in the lowest 0.50m of the southern trench and parts of the northern and western trench. This was overlain by brown/yellow and orange mixed sandy silt with limestone and gravel natural, some in slight involution hollows, between 0.70 and 1.20m in depth, whose surface rose up towards the west. This was also exposed within the barn and in the service trenches.
- 4.4 Two shallow features were cut into the surface of the natural (Fig. 7, C & D: Plate 2). These were between 0.22 and 0.40m deep, and very irregular in plan. Their fills were characteristically pale grey-brown silty clay containing quite frequent limestone pieces, which were generally distributed horizontally towards the surface. No dating material was retrieved from these features.
- 4.5 A brick-lined pit also cut through the surface of the natural (Fig. 5, B: Plate 3). The section above it was checked for signs that it was cut from higher up in the stratigraphy, but this was absent. It was constructed with three courses of bricks, which were hand-made, un-frogged and measuring 190 x 88mm to 90 x 55mm. The sides were five bricks in length laid end-to-end and the sides three, measuring a maximum of 1.07 x 0.80m and 0.2m deep. The base was lined with burnt limestone and brick, and infilled with very loose dark brown silt containing very frequent late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, chicken and pig bones, iron nails and roots. A large limestone block in the top of the fill had the remains of an iron lid adhered to its rear.

- 4.6 Above these features was the remnant topsoil, c.0.35m to 0.80m thick, which increased in depth uphill towards the south and west where it had not been graded as part of the recent development. A substantial depth of topsoil had previously been removed adjacent to the western side of The Barn. Frequent finds of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, glass, iron, nails, and clay pipe were made from topsoil. Two sherds of 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century Staffordshire slip ware pancheon and a fragment of medieval whetstone (Fig. 8) were also recovered and retained.
- 4.7 Throughout the southern foundation trench the foundations of an east-west wall were present, and on removal found to be part of the same build as the Barn. Here the foundations were 0.4-0.6m deep below the surface of the topsoil, slightly terraced into slope of the ground towards the west. It had been dismantled recently. The constituent limestone blocks were either the same size as those in The Barn or larger, with traces of lime-mortar remaining sporadically between the stones. A foundation cut was visible in places. A single pit (Fig. 7, F) was noted cutting through the topsoil on the south side of the wall. It contained late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> pottery and other domestic debris.
- 4.8 A thick layer of compacted hardcore and possibly redeposited natural clay had been deposited over the site as part of the compound works, 0.25-0.35m thick. This covered the eastern end of Pit F, showing that the ground had been significantly graded outside the west side of the building.





**Plate 1:** Posthole Feature D with terracing to its west (right). Scale 1m and 50cm



**Plate 2:** Section of cobbling, Feature C in south section of the northern foundation trench after removal of topsoil. Scale 1m and 50cm

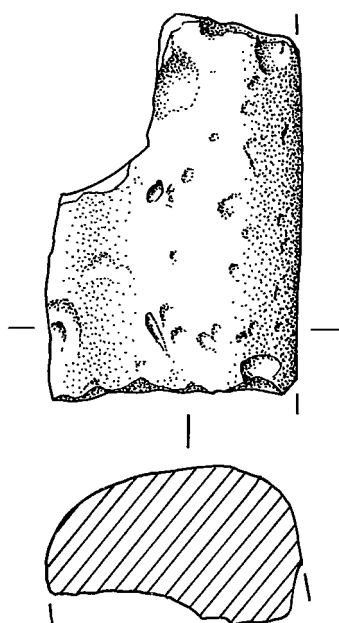


**Plate 3:** Section through brick-lined Feature B. Scale 50cm





**Plate 4:** Section of northern foundation trench showing blue-grey boulder clay and yellow/brown and orange silty natural, overlain by topsoil and made ground. Scale 1m



**Figure 8:** Fragment of medieval whetstone (*scale 1:1*)



## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The redevelopment of The Barn provided an opportunity to examine the archaeology of the site and its environs. The only evidence for medieval activity on the site was the find of a whetstone fragment. Its presence reflects the use of the land behind Lime Street for agriculture to at least the 14/15<sup>th</sup> century. There was no evidence for either medieval or earlier activity on this site, which is consistent with the adjoining Cowper Tannery excavation, where the nearest features, about 20m to the south-west, were 12<sup>th</sup> century pits. It confirms that the frontage was not occupied until more recent times.
- 5.2 These works have however, considerably increased our knowledge of post-medieval to modern activity on the site. The last vestiges of post-medieval cobbling formed by Features C and E seem to be a continuation of 19<sup>th</sup>-century yard surfaces found at the Cowper Tannery excavation. There the stones were laid directly onto the natural gravel, which suggests that these at the Barn had survived in part as they had sunk into ephemeral, earlier features, which were possibly vegetation hollows. The cobbling formed a pre-barn phase of activity along with the brick lined pit, which was late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.3 Terracing and landscaping seems to have occurred at the Barn. At the east this was marked by a distinct cut, edged with a posthole – presumably part of a boundary fence line. Topsoil may also have been imported to create the 1m plus change of level between the cobbling and the 2003 ground surface just south-west of the Barn. This certainly seems to have sealed the brick-lined pit. The Barn and its southern and western walls may then have been built in conjunction with this episode of landscaping but certainly post-dates the topsoil as both wall foundations cut the topsoil. The date for the Barn construction may therefore be late 19<sup>th</sup> or earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Mr and Mrs G and N Peirson. The writer is grateful to Jay Conners and his staff for their friendly co-operation and assistance on site. The project was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Nick Crank, MKC Archaeological Officer.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Alex Thompson. The report was prepared by Alex Thompson and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

## 7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Clients site plans
2. Site Monitoring Sheets
3. Finds records
4. Finds
5. Finds drawing
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum: an accession number has been requested.

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

### *Secondary Sources*

BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Markham, Sir F 1973 *A History of Milton Keynes and District: Volume 1 – to 1830*. White Crescent Press (Luton).

Morris J (ed) 1978 *The Domesday Book. Buckinghamshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore

Pevsner N & Williamson E 2000 *The Buildings of England. Buckinghamshire*. Penguin

Thorne A.T, 2003 *Excavations at the Former Cowper Tannery, Lime Street, Olney, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire May – July 2003* Northamptonshire Archaeology report

## Appendix 1: ASC Watching Brief Method Statement

### 1 *Definition*

An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any earth-moving operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (IFA 1999, 2). It normally involves the monitoring by an experienced archaeologist of ground disturbance on a development (eg. footing and service trenches, reduction of levels, landscaping).

### 2 *Standards*

All work will conform to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*, and to any specific requirements of the Planning Archaeologist (PA).

### 3 *General Methodology: Observation & Recording*

- 3.1 Archaeological observation and recording normally involves visits when groundworks are under way, and requires close co-operation and communication between contractor and archaeologist. In many cases only regular, relatively brief visits are required (an *intermittent* watching brief). In certain circumstances (e.g. where archaeological features are known or strongly suspected to exist), the archaeologist's continuous presence may be required (an *intensive* watching brief). In the absence of specific instruction, professional judgement will be exercised to determine the level of monitoring.
- 3.2 Each site visit will be recorded on ASC's *Site Monitoring Sheet* (example attached). These sheets should record what is observed, including sketches where appropriate. A photographic record (see 4.4, below) will also be maintained throughout the watching brief. Plans of the development provided by the client will normally form the basis for recording the location of archaeological features and finds.
- 3.3 If significant archaeological remains are identified during the watching brief, a meeting will be arranged between ASC, the client, and the PA in order to agree an appropriate investigation. Provision to cover this has been made in the project estimates. Detailed investigation will follow the methods set out in the following section.

### 4 *General Methodology: Investigation (if required)*

- 4.1 Excavation will be carried out by hand. Maximum depths of excavation will conform to current Health & Safety regulations.
- 4.2 At the start of fieldwork temporary bench marks will be established, to be tied in subsequently to an appropriate Ordnance Survey bench mark. All plans and section drawings will be annotated with relative heights derived from these benchmarks. Plans will be related to the OS National Grid. Overall site plans will normally be drawn to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50; detailed plans of specific areas or features may be drawn to 1:20 or 1:10; burials will always be drawn at the latter scale. Sections will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:10, depending upon size and complexity.
- 4.3 A detailed record of all archaeological contexts will be maintained on individual pro-forma record sheets, designed to meet current professional standards. Each context will be individually numbered in a single sequence, and will be described in terms of dimensions, shape, fill type and inclusions, artefact content, samples and interpretation. A register of contexts will be maintained, and context records will be cross-referenced to all other records.
- 4.4 The primary photographic record will normally be compiled in 35mm black & white print format, supplemented by digital photography, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. A photographic register will be maintained on ASC's *Photographic Record Sheet*, fully cross-referenced. Digital photographs will be used to illustrate the report. Metric scales will be used in all photographs.

- 4.5 All finds relating to the archaeological record of the site will be collected with reference to context and location. Finds of particular significance (small finds) will be recorded three-dimensionally on site, and described on individual pro-forma record sheets. A register will be kept of all finds. Finds processing may take place during or after fieldwork, and will entail cleaning, marking, packaging, quantification and initial classification. Conservation of artefacts will normally take place after processing, but primary conservation of delicate artefacts may be required on site.
- 4.6 Provision will be made for the sampling and analysis of environmental data by appropriate specialists. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2002). All samples will be recorded on individual pro-forma record sheets, and a register of samples will be maintained. Specialists will be required to submit copies of the base data from environmental analysis for inclusion in the site archive.
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered will normally be recorded and left *in situ*. The removal of human remains in consecrated ground requires a Home Office licence, and investigation or removal of remains must be agreed between ASC, the client, and other appropriate authorities. For the excavation and recording of human remains, current IFA guidelines will be followed (McKinley & Roberts 1993). In general, due care and respect will be accorded to any human remains, and site staff are required not to discuss their discovery in public, so as not to attract undesirable interest.
- 4.8 Due concern will be given to the physical security of all archaeological features, deposits, artefacts and records, both on and off site. All reasonable measures will be taken to secure their protection before, during and after excavation.

## 5 **Reporting**

- 5.1 Upon completion of the watching brief, an initial report on its findings will normally prepared within four weeks, subject to specialist input. This will typically include:
- a concise non-technical summary of the results
  - information relating to the circumstances of the project
  - background information about the site
  - a summary of the aims of the project and the methods used
  - a description of the results, supported by appropriate illustrative material
  - a conclusion, summarising the results and examining their significance
  - a confidence rating
  - the contents and location of the archive
  - appendices (record sheets, specialist reports, reference works etc.)
  - an SMR summary sheet, if required
- 5.2 Copies of the report will be provided as required to the client, to the PA, and to other bodies as required. Eight copies are normally produced: a charge may be made for providing any additional copies. Interim reports will be submitted to the relevant period and/or regional journals within one year of the project's completion.
- 5.3 Once the final report has been accepted by the PA, an OASIS fieldwork summary form will be completed and submitted to the Archaeology Data Service.

## 6 **Archive**

- 6.1 All archaeological projects generate a quantity of records and related material. Together, these constitute the *project archive*. While the report may describe the project's findings in some detail, the archive contains the evidence on which the report is based, and its importance cannot be too highly stressed. By its nature, archaeological fieldwork cannot normally be repeated, so the archive often constitutes the only surviving evidence for past activity on a site, and arrangements must therefore be made for its deposition and long-term storage.
- 6.2 At the start of a project, ASC will initiate arrangements for archive deposition. On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage. If arrangements for deposition cannot be concluded, ASC will store the archive until deposition can be arranged.

## **7 Staffing**

- 7.1 The project will be under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures.
- 7.2 Staff undertaking watching briefs will all be experienced archaeologists, of at least Assistant Project Officer grade. Less experienced staff may assist with any detailed investigation, under supervision.



## Appendix 2: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: Barn Lime Street Olney		Project No/Code: 10401	Sheet: 1 of 8
		Date of visit: 1/2/08	
Client/Developer Mr. and Mrs. Pearson			
Contact: Jay Connes		Phone: 07976 316676	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: (8.00) 8.30	Finish: 4.15	
Completed by: A. Thompson			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):			
Site & weather conditions: Dry, clear, sunny, cold (>3.0C)			
Observations:			
<p>As arrived 1/2 hour before anticipated was able to record stable existing works: the interior of the barn had already been reduced by between 0.25m and 0.60m as evidenced by soil stains on the walls (see sketch) except where obscured by repointing. Natural ground surface was exposed. A single feature was observed on the side of the western most of two 0.55m wide by 0.70m deep slots: grey brown silty clay with 2 frags of hand-made brick. Feature A. Not able to excavate further as it would be below ground reduction level.</p> <p>To front of building: topsoil had been removed some time ago as no stains or walls visible. Area mud-tracked and comprised buff-brown silty clay + limestone - redeposited material from groundworks. 'Slot' or ramp started to W of building - up to 70cm deep reveals mixed topsoil and red clay/limestone with mud root from former pear tree on front of building. In the base of excavation partly exposed patch of dark very friable soil surrounding 2 end-on bricks [sketch]. (B)</p>			
Comments:			
Feature A - post med. pit/depression + predated stable.			
Barn cut through topsoil + directly onto natural.			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: BARN: LIME STREET OLNEY		Project No/Code: 1040/1	Sheet: 2 of 8	
		Date of visit: 1/2/08		
Client/Developer Mr. and Mrs. Pearson				
Contact: Jay Conners		Phone: 07976 316676		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.30	Finish: 4.15		
Completed by: A. Thompson				
Development Type:				
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarrying
		Pipelines	Other (specify):	
Site & weather conditions: Cold sunny clear day (>3.0C)				
Observations: Feature B continues W into m-ex. area. Just observable was a further patch of lower darker soil with very frequent limestone pieces. Feature C, extending out from the corner of new build to W. Occasional plumed pot collected from the area W in general. To southern side of building a service trench had been excavated previously and was still open revealing that between 30-40cm of topsoil had been removed. In E of the end of the building a post pipe with remaining wood was observed in section. E of this the section was entirely of natural. To the W of this it was thick undifferentiated dark grey brown topsoil up to 50cm thick overlying natural, following slope up to the W. Post = Feature D. Machine started approx 9.30am. with a Kubota 161-3 d fitted with a 60 cm wide tapered bucket.				
Comments: Terracing of ground, marked with post (boundary?)				



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: BARN : LIME STREET OLNEY		Project No/Code: 1040 1	Sheet: 3 of 8
		Date of visit: 1/2/08	
Client/Developer Mr. and Mrs. Pearson			
Contact: Jes. Carnes		Phone: 07976 316676	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8.30	Finish: 4.15.	
Completed by: A. Thompson			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry. Sunny clear and cold (>3°C).			
Observations:			
The northern foundation trench was excavated first, sectioning Feature C through the middle W-E. It extended 1.40m to the W of the building and was perhaps 40cm deep (v. difficult to see edges) at the E and tapered up to the W. The remainder of this section comprised natural (see sketch). Below topsoil + redeag natural. Trench = 80cm wide. Once loose removed from the N wall measured 40cm of topsoil partially removed.			
Commenced to ground reduction after breakfast, exposing more of brick feature B: 5 bricks E-W and so far nothing as it south side + cut observable to N + W + E: 107cm long. Interior fill very loose dark grey brown soil. Tried to find cut in section but not one. In the feature E in W section: window depression or pit filled with light grey brown silty clay + occasional charred flake + gravel. Seem to extend into ground reduction area as dark soil + roots + limestone. No finds.			
Comments:			
Feature C: remnant cobbles in former undulation?			
Feature E: " " " " "			

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

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Project:		Project No/Code:		Sheet:		
Barn, Limestone Olney		1		5 of 8		
		Date of visit:				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start:		Finish: 4.15 (4.50)		
Completed by:						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:						
Observations:						
Brick-lined pit cuts 'cobbling'; does not show clearly for a photo and topsoil left at SW corner obscuring cobbling.						
Victorian rabbit pit in S side y J bench brimming + parabola on S side wall.						
Comments:						
Building onto topsoil → obs E-W wall + Victorian pit to S.						
other victor / rmed features from earlier phase.						



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**A.S.C. LTD**

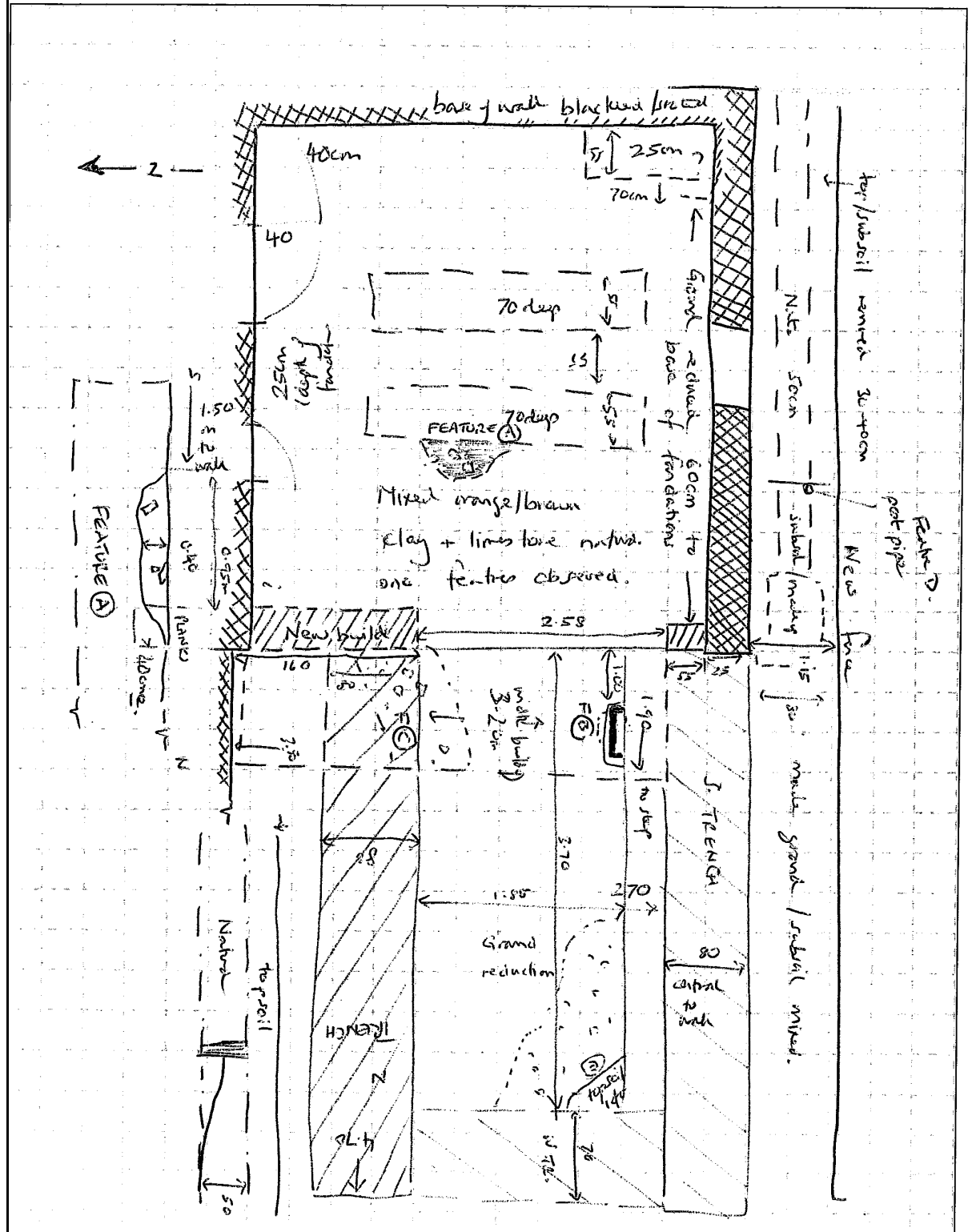
# SKETCH SHEET

Site Code:

Orientation:
--------------

Context: Site on arrival 8.30 1/2/08

⑥

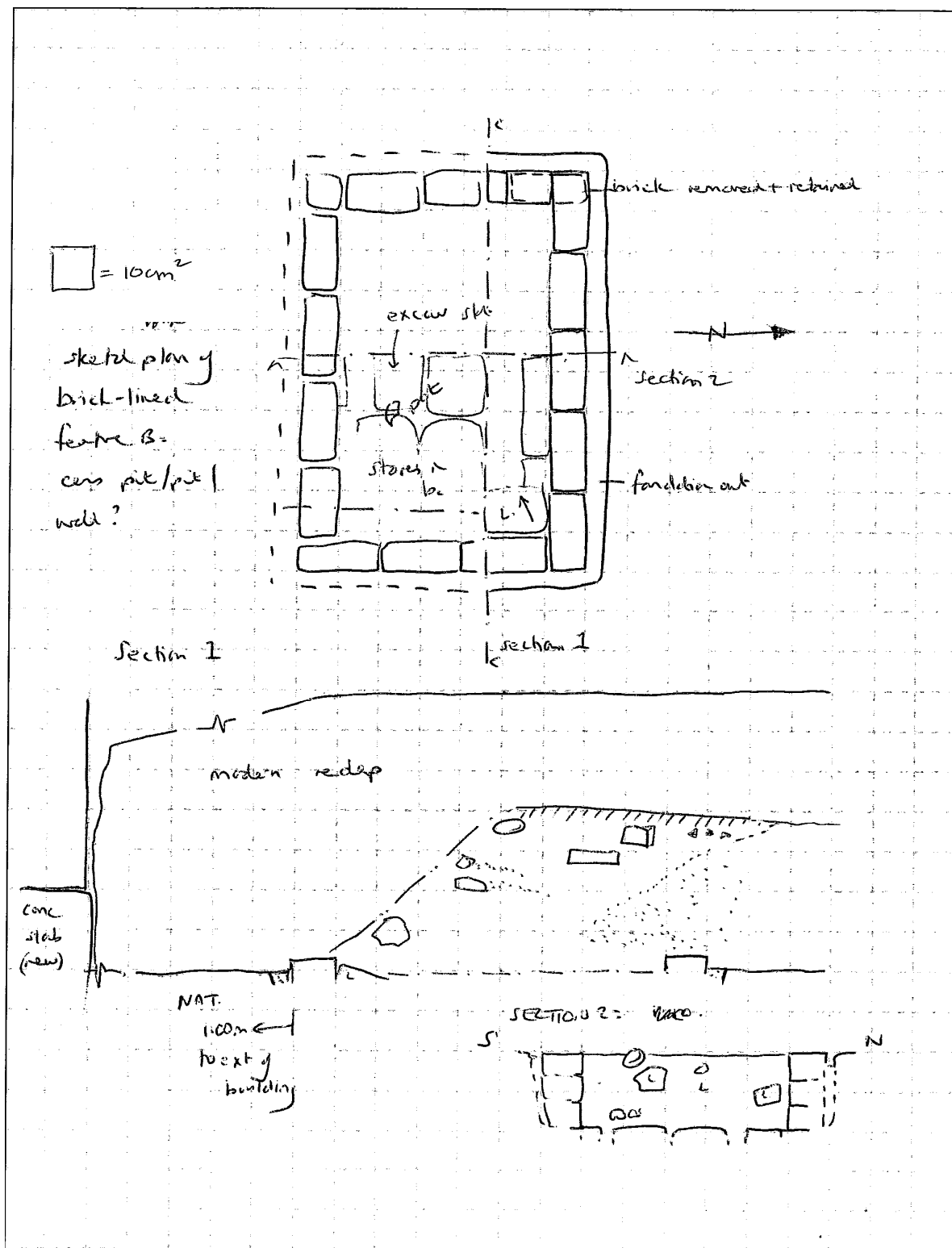




A.S.C. LTD

# SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: <b>BARN LIME STREET OLNEY</b>	Site Code: <b>1040</b>	Orientation: <b>⑦</b>
Context: <b>FEATURE 'B'</b>		



## RECORDING NOTES

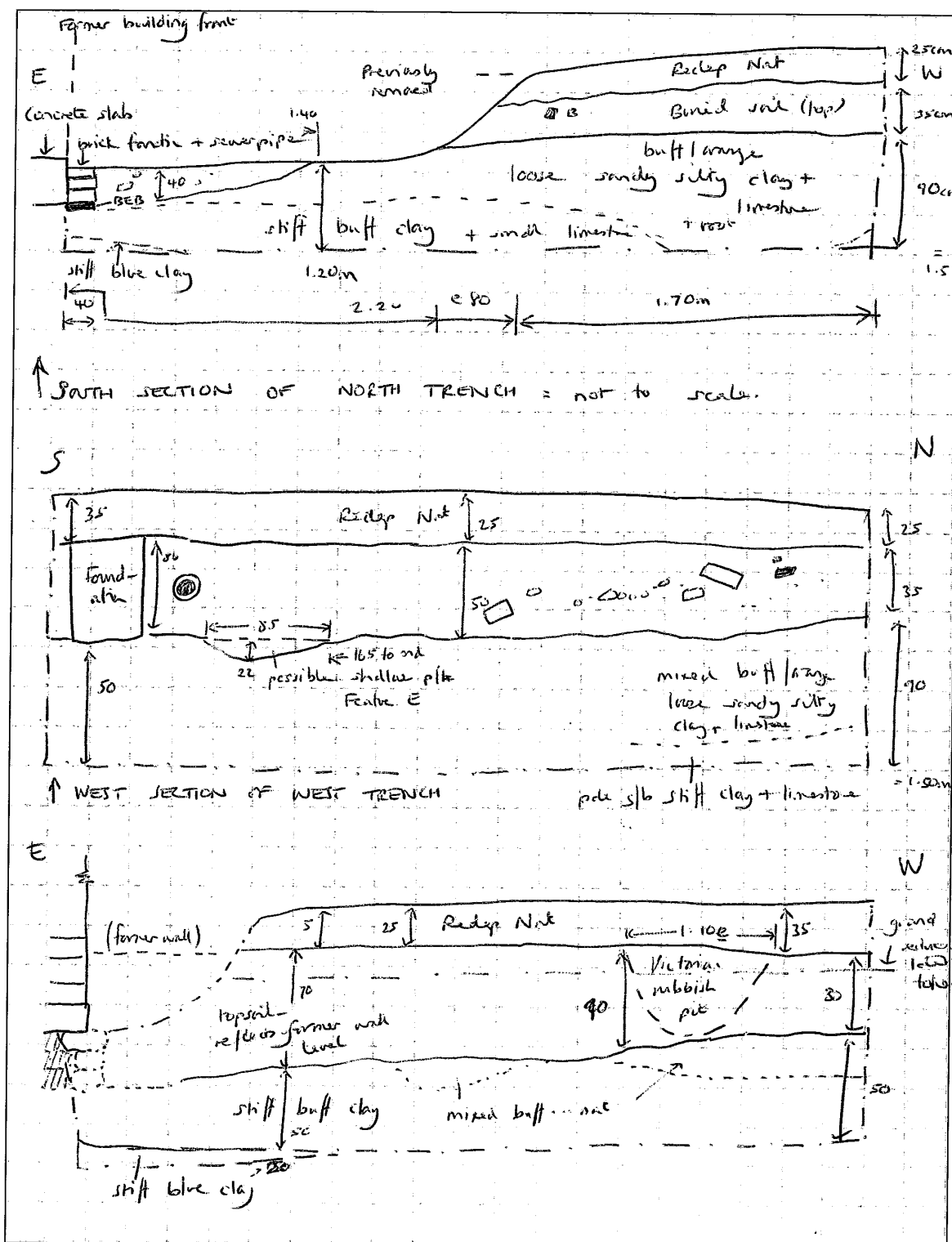
Recorded by: <b>AN</b>	Date: <b>1/2/08</b>	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: <b>7 of 8</b>
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## SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: <u>BARN, LIME STREET, OLNEY</u>	Site Code: <u>1040</u>	Orientation:
Context: <u>SKETCH SECTIONS OF FOUNDATIONS</u>		<u>(8)</u>



Recorded by: <i>mm</i>	Date: <i>1/2/08</i>	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: <i>8</i> of <i>8</i>
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## Appendix 3: The Finds

### *The Pottery*

Frequent examples of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier 20<sup>th</sup> pottery and glass were recovered from the watching brief, from topsoil and from the fill of Feature B. Only two sherds of pancheons, which were of greater antiquity, were retained. The first is a fragment of a Staffordshire earthenware bowl with a short flat rim. It has brown glaze and short yellow 'squiggle' decoration on the interior and on the rim and which is likely to date to the earlier half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The second piece is also earthenware with a thick grey reduced core and an out-turned rim. The interior has a thick dark-brown glaze. It may date to the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### *The Stone* (Fig. 6)

A single fragment of a medieval whetstone was recovered from topsoil at the west side of the Barn, Lime Street. It has been made from a dark grey/brown metamorphic rock rich in iron and micaceous inclusions. It may be a Norwegian import. Both ends are missing, as is almost half of the rear, having been broken in antiquity. It is sub-rectangular in profile with frequent small pitting from missing inclusions within the stone. The surviving stone is smoothed and worn from use. The surfaces are partly covered with calcium precipitate.

## FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
Topsoil	2	87	-	-	-	-	1	Whetstone fragment	-

## Appendix 4: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: The Barn, Lime Street, Olney			SITE NO/CODE: 1040
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Title Shot
2	✓	✓	Works at arrival: barn interior and west exterior
3	✓	✓	Works at arrival: service trench to south
4	✓	✓	Works at arrival: in front of west facade
5	✓	✓	Works at arrival: site to the west of the barn
6	✓	✓	Works at arrival: brick feature B as exposed
7		✓	The first machine scrape
8	✓	✓	Excavation of the northern footing in progress
9		✓	Excavation of the northern footing in progress
10	✓	✓	Detail of Feature C in the south trench section
11		✓	Detail of Feature C in the south trench section
12	✓	✓	View of the north trench south section
13		✓	View of the north trench south section
14	✓	✓	Detail of Feature D posthole and cut in service trench
15	✓	✓	Detail of Feature B and section through topsoil/ made ground
16	✓	✓	West trench section and Feature E
17		✓	Working shot of rubble at the SW corner of the barn
18		✓	Working shot of the removal of wall in southern trench
19	✓	✓	Detail of section through Feature B
20		✓	Detail of corroded Fe lid on rear of limestone in fill of Feature B
21	✓	✓	General view of cobbling Feature E
22	✓	✓	South and west trenches as completed at 4:15p.m.

## Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	The Barn, Limes Street Olney		
Short Description:	<i>In February 2008 a watching brief was carried out by ASC during ground works in advance of an extension to The Barn, Lime Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. Vestiges of 19<sup>th</sup> century cobbling were recorded together with 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>-century rubbish pits. The Barn was probably built in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, in association with landscaping. A fragment of a medieval whetstone and two sherds of 17/18<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from topsoil.</i>		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	Building recording Excavation
Current land use:	Residential	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	Post-medieval to modern
Significant finds:	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8870 51170
District:	Milton Keynes	Parish:	Olney
Site address: (with postcode if known)	The Barn, Lime Street, Olney.		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	10x4m	Height OD: (metres)	54.15 – 54.92maOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	None	Project design originator:	None
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	None
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr and Mrs Peirson		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	1/2/2008	End date:	1/2/2008
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum 2008.9	Stone, pottery	
Paper:		Report and site records	
Digital:		CD of report, records, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: The Barn, Lime Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1040/1		
Author(s):	A. Thompson		
Page nos	30	Date:	February 2008