

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
CHURCH LOCK COTTAGE
GROVE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9212 2248

on behalf of Mr & Mrs Bishop



Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA

JUNE 2009

ASC: 1143/GCL/2



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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	GCL	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1143
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-54216	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	AYBCM: 2009.11
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Grove		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Slapton		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9211 2248		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.3 × 5m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of outbuilding: erection of extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	08/00259/ALB		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	26 th & 27 th May 2009		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr & Mrs Bishop Church Lock Cottage Grove Slapton Buckinghamshire LU7 0QU		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Graham Bishop		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	<i>Date:</i>	2 nd June 2009
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	David Fell	<i>Date:</i>	2 nd June 2009
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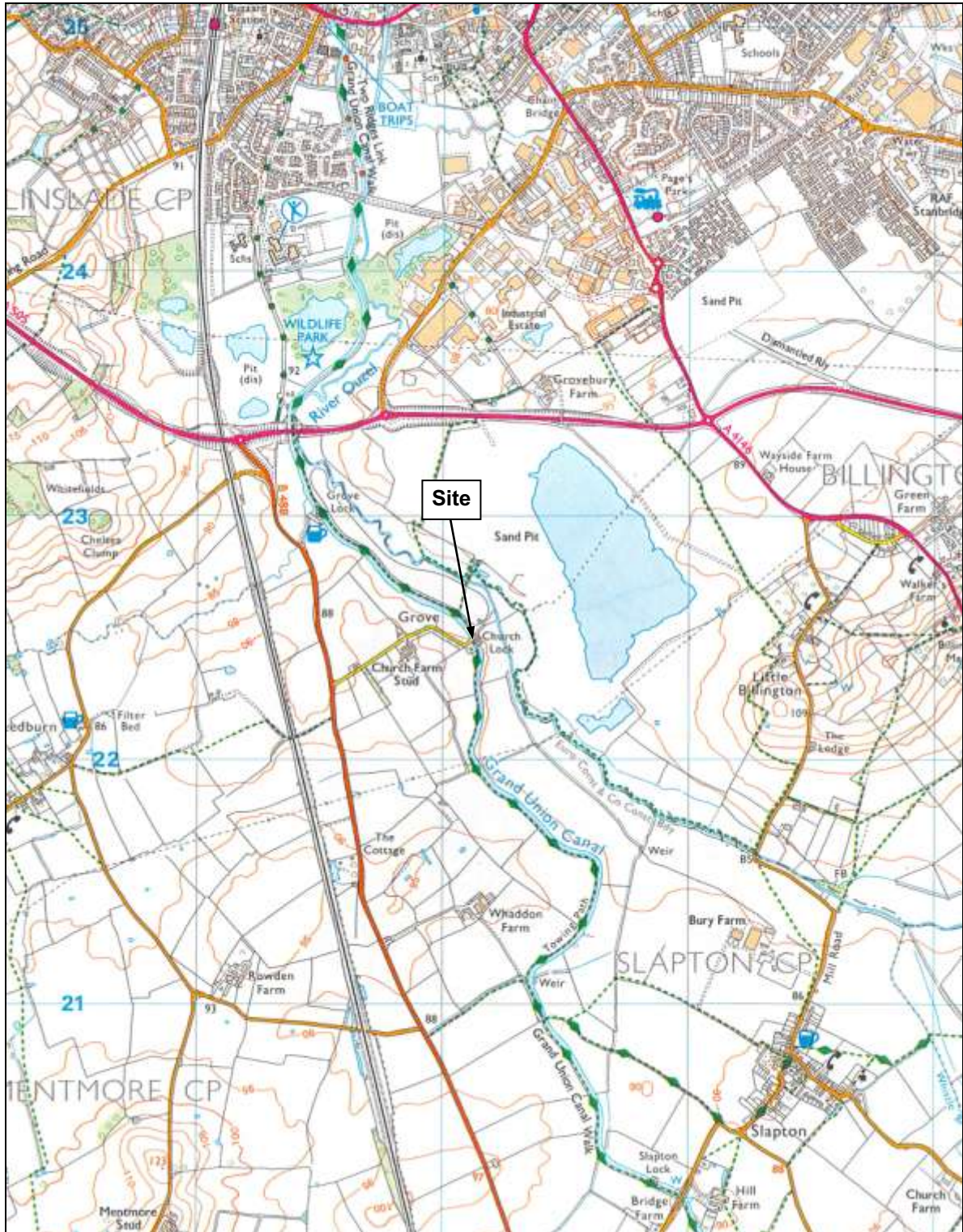


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In May 2009 a watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to Church Lock Cottage, a Grade II listed former lock-keeper's cottage alongside the Grand Union Canal at Grove, Buckinghamshire. The watching brief revealed a series of small below-ground structures at the south-west end of the cottage, extending beyond the limits of the single-storey extension that had been demolished at the start of the project. The cellar rooms, which were soundly constructed of brick, were bonded to the lower part of the house, and were most likely contemporary with it. Their function remains unknown. No archaeological deposits or artefacts relating to the adjoining former church were encountered.

1. Introduction

1.1 In May 2009 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Grove Lock Cottage, Grove, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by the owners, Mr & Mrs Bishop, and was carried out according to a standard brief prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisors (AA), the *Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2009). The relevant planning application reference is 08/00259/ALB.

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 managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.5 *The Site*

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located within Aylesbury Vale district, in the parish of Slapton, within the hamlet of Grove, at NGR SP 9211 2248 (Fig. 1). Church Lock Cottage stands on the west side of the Grand Union Canal, adjacent to Church Lock. Access to the site is from a minor road, which runs north-west from the B488 through the centre of Grove, crossing the canal immediately below the lock (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area belong to the Fladbury 1 Association, which are defined as *stoneless clayey soils, in places calcareous, variably affected by groundwater. Flat land. Risk of flooding* (Soil Survey 1983, 813b). The underlying geology comprises lower Cretaceous Gault formation grey mudstone (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises demolition of a single-storey outbuilding and the erection of a two-storey side extension (Fig. 3).

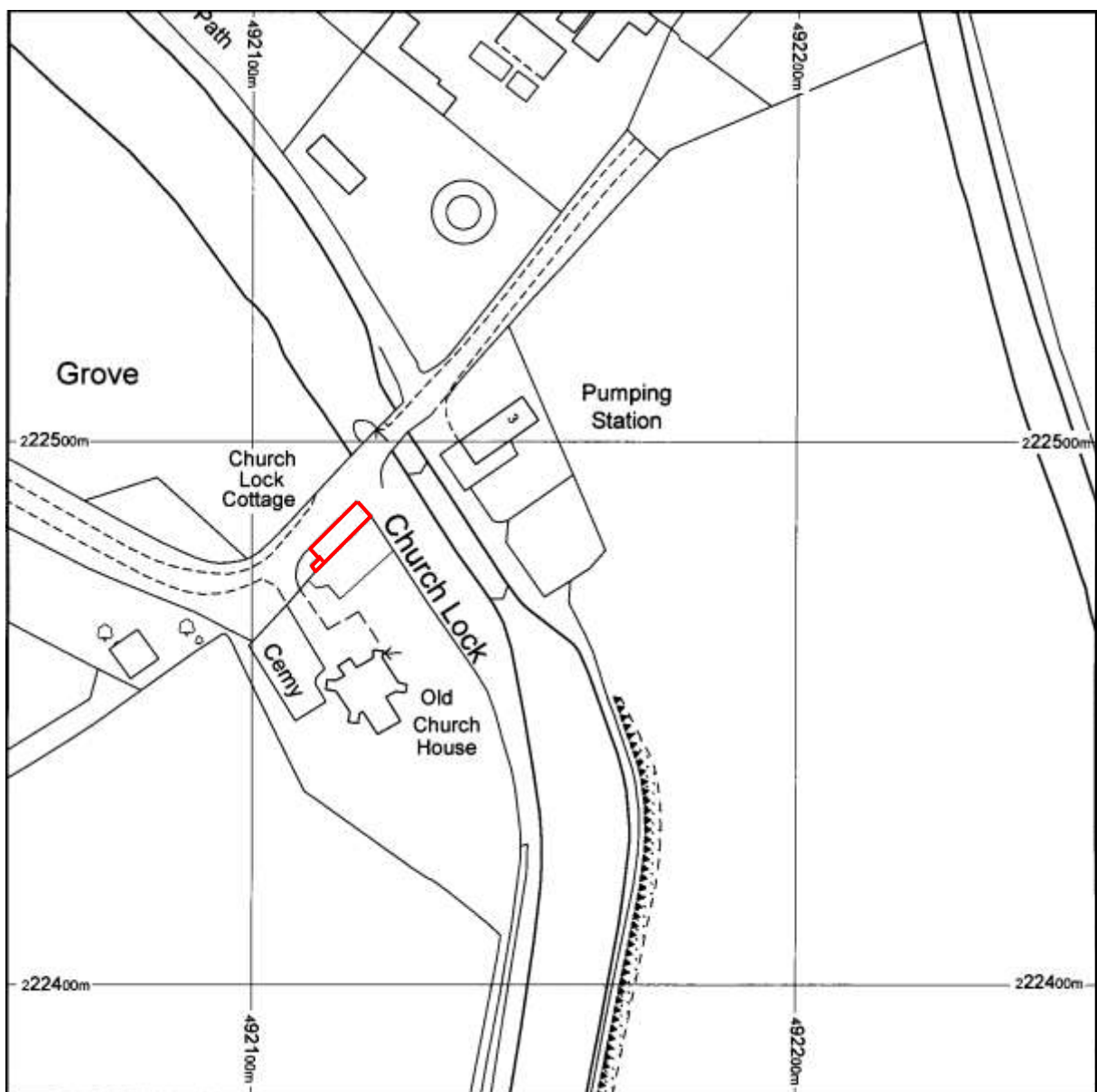
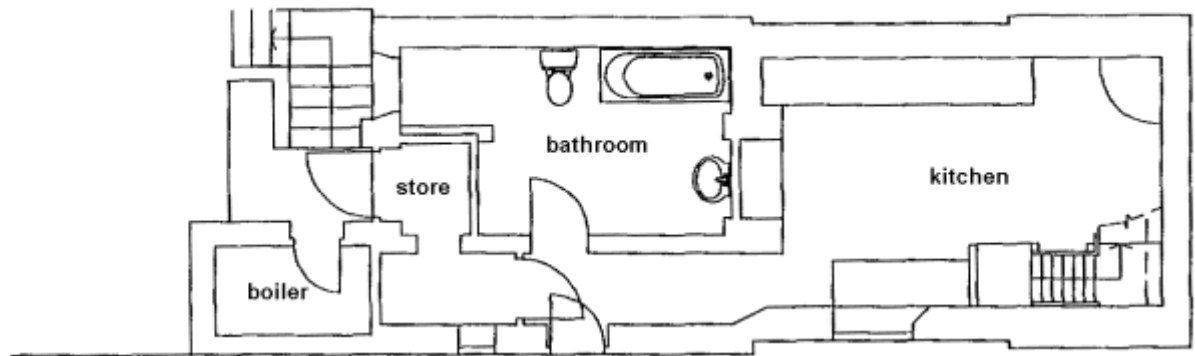
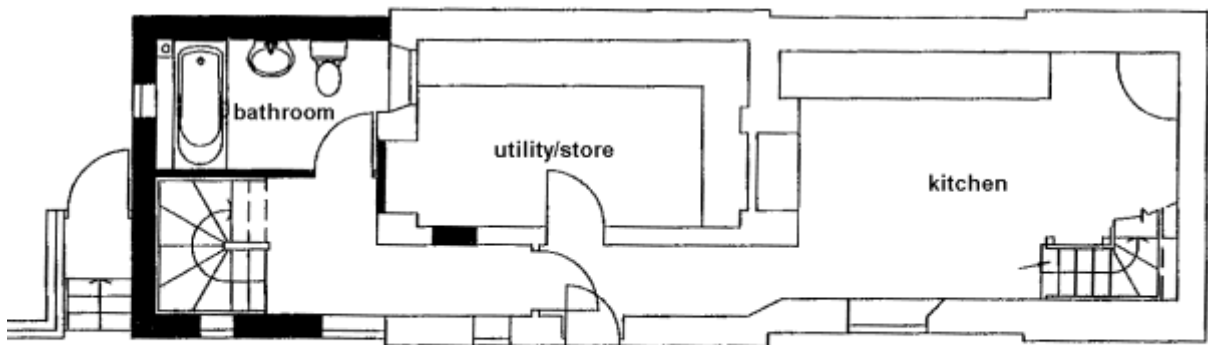
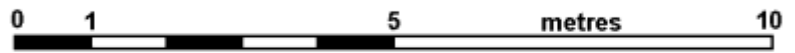


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)



Existing Structure



Proposed Extension

Figure 3: Basement plans, existing and proposed (*scale 1:100*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aim of the watching brief was:

- To identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for 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 project design (para. 3.3), which stated that:

- An archaeologist would be present during all works which may affect archaeological remains.

2.4 *Constraints*

No significant constraints were encountered during the watching brief.

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.

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire Historic Environment Records (HER) and other readily available sources.

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

No evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity in the area surrounding the site has been recorded in the Bucks HER. The Beds HER notes the existence of a possible barrow (Beds HER 3289) of uncertain date c.600m north of the site, but its location has since been subject to quarrying. Also listed is the line of the *Theedway* (Beds HER 10843), an ancient trackway possibly of Neolithic origin. It seems likely that the absence of data from these periods in the vicinity of the site indicates a lack of fieldwork in the area, rather than an absence of human activity in the area prior to the Saxon period.

3.3 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

The focus of activity during the early Saxon period (6th/7th century) was the Royal Estate centred to the east of Grove, on the opposite side of the Ouzel to Church Lock Cottage. By the late Saxon period this included a settlement, and possibly a *mansio*, on the Danish side of the Danelaw. By the end of the Saxon period, this estate had become the Royal Manor of Leighton, mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086).

3.4 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

In 1165, within the Royal Manor, a priory grange of the double order of Fontevrault in Anjou was established. Soon after 1200, this was transformed into the 'minor palace' of the Proctor of the Order. In 1480 it was a demesne manor of Princess Cecile, mother of Edward IV, and there are numerous references to royal visits. It subsequently decayed to a run-down farm. The site was excavated in the 1970s and 1980s by the former Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service.

The 14th-century St Michael's Church (HER1785) is located directly to the south of Church Lock Cottage. As it is only a few hundred metres from the site of Grove Priory, it is likely to have been constructed at least partially using material from the priory. Restored in 1883, it has more recently been converted into a residence, *Old Church House*. During the excavation of service trenches for the conversion, two medieval burials were uncovered, one of which was in a stone coffin. Both were subsequently re-interred.

There is documentary evidence for a mill at Grove as early as 1197 (HER0044). It is recorded that the mill was pulled down c.1890 (Richmond 1928), and the HER records that there are extant earthworks, c.200m to the northeast of the development site.

There is a deserted village recorded at Grove (HER1460), c.200m west of Church Lock Cottage, comprising a small earthwork west of the canal, along with possible

traces of earthworks in the field west of the church. About 1km south of the site is an area of earthworks comprising a large hollow way and a series of house platforms (HER0426).

3.5 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The Grand Junction Canal (HER4119: now the Grand Union Canal) was opened in 1805, and passes immediately east of the site.

Jeffrey's map of Buckinghamshire, which dates to 1788, shows a windmill c.300m west of Church Lock Cottage (HER4307). The *Posse Comitatus* of 1798 records the owner as *Jos. Symons*. Grove Farm now stands on the approximate location of the mill, and there is no evidence of it remains.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1879 shows a gravel pit c.1km to the west of the site. This pit survives today as a pond (HER9271). Also shown is an area marked 'Brick Field' and 'Kiln', c.1km south-west of the site (HER4766). This is thought to have originally been the brickyard for the Mentmore Estate.

3.6 *Modern* (1900 - present)

Church Lock Cottage was originally built in the early to mid 19th century, for the lock-keeper at Church Lock, and was altered in 1916: this date appears on the north-east gable. The building is listed Grade II (IoE ref. 42138): the listing description is as follows:

'House, formerly that of lock-keeper. Early-mid C19, altered and dated 1916. Whitewashed roughcast, slate roof, 3 roughcast chimneys, bargeboards. 2 storeys and basement, 2½ bays. Paired wooden casements to ground floor, barred horizontal sliding sashes above. Small single light over C20 door with minimal board hood in half-bay to left. Door to basement in right gable. Wall attached to S.E. corner is of mid C19 brown brick with flat stone coping and runs along east side of former churchyard'.

4. Results

- 4.1 Apart from an initial visit prior to the start of on-site works, three visits were made to the site in the course of the watching brief. The observations made are summarised below: the site notes, on ASC's *Field Monitoring Sheets*, are reproduced in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 As previously noted, the original single-storey extension at the south-west end of the cottage had been demolished prior to the start of the watching brief (Plate 1). Its below-ground elements remained, comprising a dogleg flight of brick-built steps leading down from the road to a basement entrance in the gable end of the building, and a room $c.2.0 \times 1.2\text{m}$ internally, housing the central heating boiler (Fig. 3). These structures occupied an overall area of $c.4.5 \times 2.8\text{m}$, and were bonded to the main structure of the cottage.
- 4.3 Excavations for the basement of the new extension revealed a second smaller basement room (Fig. 4; Plate 2), $1.0 \times 1.2\text{m}$ internally, on the south-west side of the boiler room, linked to the latter by a doorway that had subsequently been bricked up. The brick structure of this additional room was identical to that of the rest of the basement. The additional room, which extended beyond the recently demolished extension, had been backfilled with a mixture of soil and building debris.
- 4.4 To the south-east and south-west of the basement structure, the soils revealed were all redeposited material, comprising a mixture of topsoil, clay and building debris. To the north-west, beneath the basement stairs and beyond the cellar structure, a layer of redeposited mixed gravel and clay up to $c.0.5\text{m}$ deep overlay undisturbed natural clay, which also extended beneath the cellar floor (Plate 3).

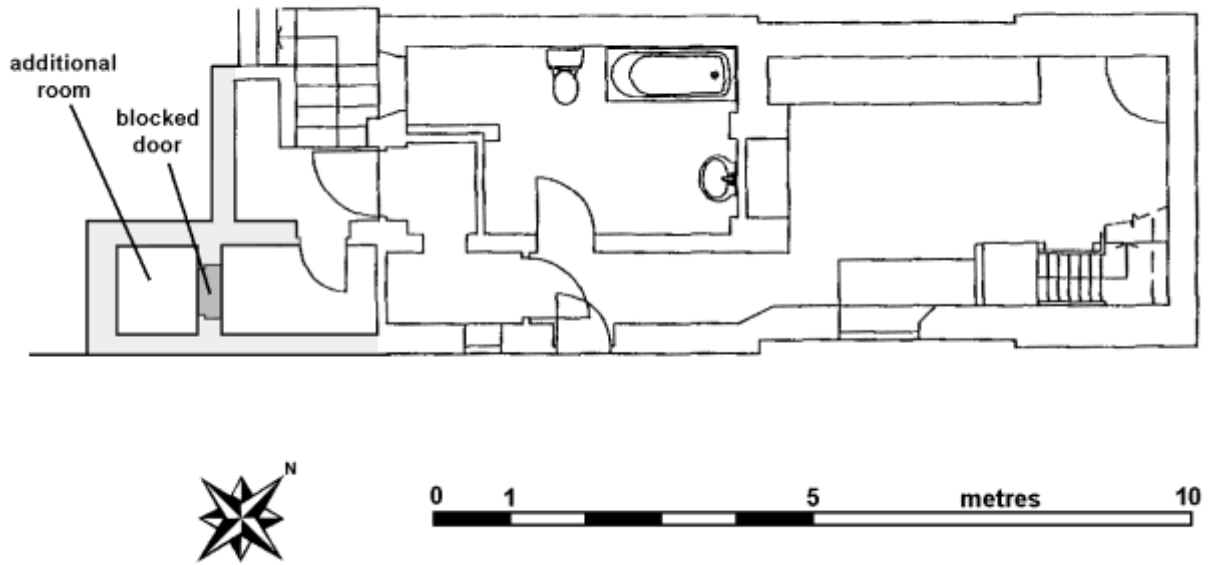


Figure 4: Results of watching brief (*scale 1:100*)



Plate 1: Site before excavation, showing outline of former extension



Plate 2: Site during excavation: scale on north-west side of additional room



Plate 3: Site following removal of brick cellar structures

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Excavations for the new extension to Church Lock Cottage revealed that the basement structure at the south-west end of the building originally extended further to the south-west. Construction of the additional room was of one build with the rest of the structure, which in turn was bonded to the main cottage structure, suggesting that all these elements were contemporary. The above-ground part of this end of the building did not extend over the additional room, which had been blocked off and sealed with building debris, suggesting that this end of the cottage had been subject to remodelling at some point, possibly as part of the 1916 alterations. The function of this additional small basement room remains uncertain.

- 5.2 Where excavations for the proposed addition to the cottage extended beyond the existing extension, no finds or archaeologically significant deposits were noted. To the south-west and south-east only redeposited soils were found, most likely backfill of the excavation in which the original basement structure was built. To the north-west, the layer of mixed gravel and clay overlying natural was probably the material used to create the ramp leading up to the canal bridge.

6. Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Bishop. The writer is grateful to the builders, Willowbrook Construction, for their assistance. The project was monitored by Eliza Alqassar of the Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. The report was prepared by Bob Zeepvat and edited by David Fell MA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
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 Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.11).

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd 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)*.
- Rouse C 2009 *Church Lock Cottage, Grove, Buckinghamshire: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief*. ASC doc. ref. 1143/GCL/1.

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Richmond, R 1928 *Leighton Buzzard and its Hamlets*.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: CHURCH LOCK COTTAGE GROVE		Project No/Code: 1143 / GCL		Sheet: 1 of 2		
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 26/05/09				
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: i) 8.45 - 10.30		Finish: ii) 2.45 - 3.30		
Completed by: R.S.Z.						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: INITIALLY DAMP, OVERCAST + WINDY BRIGHTER LATER.						
Observations:						
i) ALL ABOVE-GROUND STRUCTURES CLEARED PRIOR TO VISIT. BRICK STEPS DOWN TO BASEMENT ENTRANCE - BRICK WALLS ON OPPOSITE SIDE TO HOUSE. NOT MUCH HAPPENING.						
ii) EXCAVATIONS CONTINUED ON SE SIDE OF EXTENSION, REMOVING BASE OF OLD WALL + EXTENDING TO SE TO PROVIDE WORKING SPACE. ALL MADE GROUND. BRICK BASEMENT STRUCTURE PROBABLY MORE COMPLEX THAN FIRST APPARENT - EXTENDS FURTHER TO SW. SEE PHOTOS + SKETCH PLAN.						
Comments:						
① START DELAYED TO c.10.00 - CONTRACTORS OFF WORKING LORRY.						
② RETURN VISIT TOMORROW, MIDDAY.						



A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: CHURCH LOCK COTTAGE		Project No/Code: 1143 19CL	Sheet: 2 of 2
Grove		Date of visit: 27/05/09.	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 11.45	Finish: 13.30.	
Completed by: R.			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: DAMP.			
Observations: MOST OF BRICK STRUCTURE REMOVED, EXCEPT FOR STEPS. NW HALF OF EXTENSION EXCAVATED ~2m DEEP INTO NAT. CLAY. DISTURBED SOILS RELATING TO FORMER STRUCTURES STILL PRESENT TO SW. NO ARCH FRAGMENTS OR FINDS.			
Comments: FINAL VISIT.			

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Church Lock Cottage, Grove, Bucks			SITE NO/CODE: 1134/GCL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	1392	Removal of cellar structure, looking west
2	✓	1393	Removal of cellar structure, looking north-east
3	✓	1394	General view of site, looking east
4	✓	1395	Removal of cellar structure, looking west
5	✓	1396	North-east gable end of cottage
6	✓	1397	Excavation, looking north-west
7	✓	1398	Excavation, looking west

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:			
Short Description:	<i>In May 2009 a watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to Church Lock Cottage, a Grade II listed former lock-keeper's cottage alongside the Grand Union Canal at Grove, Buckinghamshire. The watching brief revealed a series of small below-ground structures at the south-west end of the cottage, extending beyond the limits of the single-storey extension that had been demolished at the start of the project. The cellar rooms, which were soundly constructed of brick, were bonded to the lower part of the house, and were most likely contemporary with it. Their function remains unknown. No archaeological deposits or artefacts relating to the adjoining former church were encountered.</i>		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Site status:	Grade II listed	Previous work:	none
Current land use:	Cottage & garden	Future work:	no
Monument type:	Residential	Monument period:	19 th century
Significant finds:	Additional room to original cellar structure		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9211 2248
District:	Aylesbury Vale	Parish:	Slapton
Site address:	Church Lock Cottage, Grove, Slapton, Buckinghamshire, LU7 0QU		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c.15 sq. m.	Height OD: (metres)	c.85m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Eliza Alqassar, BCAS	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse, ASC
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann, ASC	Director/Supervisor:	Bob Zeepvat, ASC
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Bishop		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	26/05/09	End date:	27/05/09
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bucks County Museum (AYBCM: 2009.11)	none	
Paper:		Documents, drawings, site notes, photographs	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: Church Lock Cottage, Grove, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1143/GCL/2		
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA		
Page nos	19	Date:	3rd June 2009