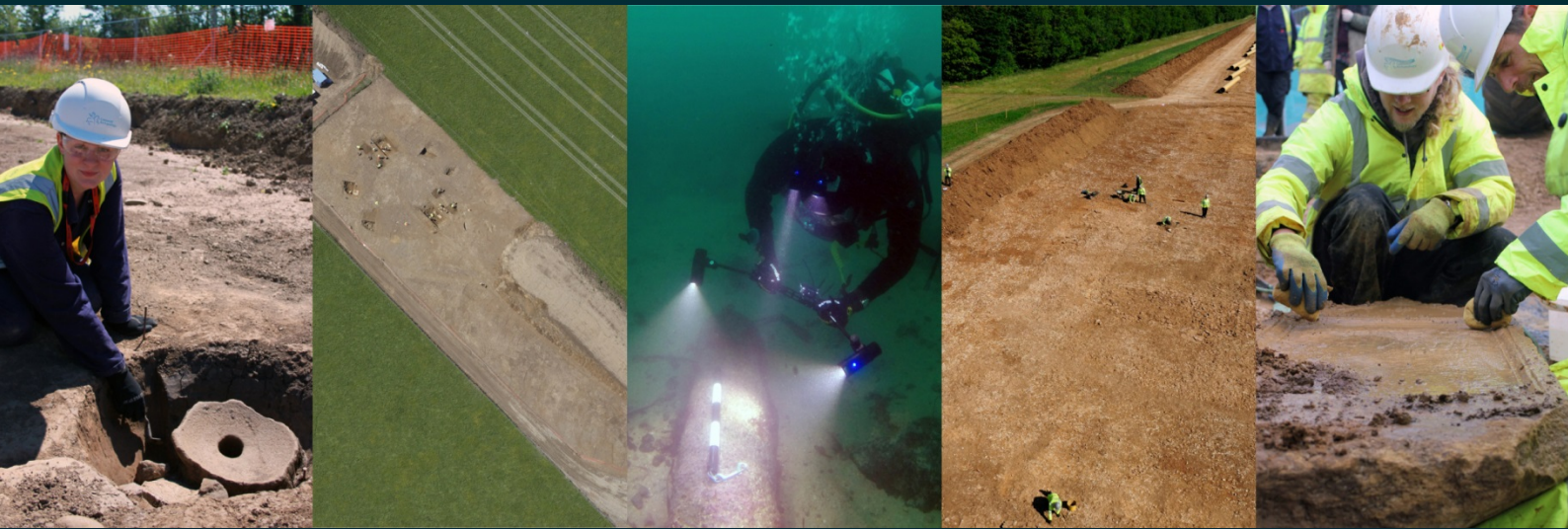


**Barden Furnace Barn,  
Barden Road, Speldhurst,  
Royal Tunbridge Wells  
Kent**



*for*  
Mrs Julia Peat

CA Project: 770407  
CA Report: 16356

November 2016



Barden Furnace Barn,  
Barden Road, Speldhurst,  
Royal Tunbridge Wells  
Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 770407  
CA Report: 16356



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	15.06.2016	T. Brown	S.Wilson	Internal review	General Edit	
		R. Kennedy		Internal Review		

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Barden Furnace Barn  
**Location:** Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent  
**NGR:** TQ 5490 4241  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 13-23 June 2016  
**Planning Reference:** 15/501699/FULL  
**Location of Archive:** Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery  
**Site Code:** BFBS16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of an existing barn into a granny annex at Barden Furnace Barn, Kent.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. All features and recovered artefacts related to the construction and period of use of the barn structure.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Mrs Julia Peat at Barden Furnace Barn (centred on NGR: TQ 5490 4241; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a conversion of an existing barn into a granny annex (Planning ref: 15/501699/FULL).

Condition 4:

*Prior to the breaking of ground, any works to the floor of the building or any other below ground level works the applicant, or their agents or successors in the title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. This is a pre-commencement condition to ensure that such features are not lost or damaged by preparatory works.*

- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by Cotswold Archaeology (2016) approved by Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council (SAOKCC) and the archaeological advisor to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### **The site**

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.51ha, and comprises a multi building farm house. It is bounded by Barden Road on the east and fields with dispersed residential housing to the south, west and north. The site lies at approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Wadhurst Clay Formation, Mudstone with superficial alluvial deposits of silt, clay, sand and gravel are recorded on site.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of information gleaned from the Heritage Gateway

### Mesolithic

- 2.1 Mesolithic artefacts including cores, blades/flakes and a scraper were found in the vicinity of the site at Rust Hall Park, Speldhurst. Three kilometres to the south-west Mesolithic flints, blades and scrapers were found at Langton Park.

### Post Medieval

- 2.2 The groundworks took place within Barden Furnace Barn, a Grade II listed (List Entry Number 1423150) former stable/animal housing with hayloft above, of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 2.3 The barn probably reuses earlier timbers in its construction and first appears on Mudge's map of 1801, and later appears in its current footprint on the 1867 First Edition 25" Ordnance Survey map. The building would have likely housed heavy horses or oxen, although the number of oxen teams still in use suffered a rapid decline between 1800 and 1840 (HE, 2016).
- 2.4 No other below ground archaeological remains are known within close proximity to the site.

## 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising hand and machine excavated trenches alongside and beneath the foundations of the structure. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the investigation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-11)

- 5.1 The barn is a standing structure with an interior partition, creating two rooms, which were designated the north-west and south-east areas according to their orientation (Fig. 3).
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate **101** consisting of mid yellowish-brown silty/clayey sand, was revealed within Trench 1 immediately at the surface. This was overlain by a modern concrete floor layer which had been completely removed prior to the arrival of an archaeologist. Trench 2 revealed an identical natural geological substrate **202**, at an average depth of 0.25m below the current floor surface. This was overlain by a made ground layer of mid brownish-yellow sand, mixed with broken tile, brick and domestic waste **201**. The modern floor **200** (Figs. 5-7) had been constructed over this made layer.
- 5.3 Approximately 18m of trenches were excavated by hand by contractors. These were dug from the interior floor surface to a depth of 0.6-0.8m, then under the foundations of the walls 0.45m, with the exception of a part of Trench 2, which was excavated

from the exterior (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated in alternating 1m sections, in order not to disturb the structural integrity of the barn.

- 5.4 Features relating directly to the barn were revealed. These included the cut for foundations **204**, the foundations themselves **203** (Fig. 4), the levelling layer **201**, and the floor surface **200**. Layer **201** produced historical material likely dating from the modern period, or possibly the late post medieval period. Layer/deposit **205**, abutting the exterior of the north-west area, is also likely a made layer, and produced material similar to that from **201**.
- 5.5 The foundation cut for the walls **204** was not detected in the made layer **201** present on the north-west area of the barn, suggesting that this layer was deposited after the foundations **203** were laid. No dateable material was recovered from **203** or **204**, the former being composed of rough-hewn sandstone blocks, square-finished on the outward face and rough in the inward. The depth of these foundation blocks ranged from 0.2 to 0.6m and exhibited no bonding (Fig. 4).
- 5.6 Floor surface **200**, believed to be 18<sup>th</sup> century in some parts, appeared as a motley patchwork of various brick patterns and phases (Fig. 5). These seventeen distinguishable courses were later categorised as late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century, mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century, or unknown.

## 6. THE FINDS Katie Marsden

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. Modern finds will not be retained.

### Pottery

- 6.2 A total of three sherds (190g) of pottery was recorded from made ground layer **205** (appendix B). A single sherd of glazed red earthenware is dateable from the mid 16th to 18th century. Two fragments of a late English stoneware jar are dateable from the mid 19th to mid 20th centuries.

### Other finds

- 6.3 Three fragments of glass (276g) were recorded from made ground layer **201**. The items consist of a single fragment of flat window glass and a fragment of a probably 'boat-shaped' baby feeding bottle of early 20th century date. A base fragment of



sparkling drink bottle is embossed LYLE and Tunbridge Wells; a company established in 1884 and bought out in 1964 (Lyle 2013).

- 6.4 A total of 19 fragments (2208g) of glass waste resulting from the manufacture of glass products, was recorded from made ground layers **201** and **205**. This material probably relates to glass manufacture in the post-medieval/modern periods (c. later 17th to 19th centuries). As it comes from made ground deposits, it is unclear whether this relates to local activity or is material from other sources and used as hardcore or similar.
- 6.5 A total of 19 items (2054g) of iron was recorded from made ground layers **201** and **205**. The group comprises four nails of forged, flat-headed form which are not closely dateable. Also recorded are two items of probable agricultural tools and one large ladle.
- 6.6 Five fragments (704g) of ceramic building material were recorded from made ground layer **205**. They comprise three fragments of tile and two flakes of probable late post-medieval/modern date.

## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The two trenches were dug in order to underpin the existing walls of the barn. These were hand excavated from within the barn, except for a short section of Trench 2 located outside of the barn which was excavated with a machine. Neither trench revealed any underlying archaeological features. These may have existed at a time before landscaping of the site took place, which now includes tiered gardens and paved areas between structures. The interior of the barn – where most of the excavation took place – produced evidence of levelling, which may also have destroyed any underlying archaeology.
- 7.2 Two structures, with the label ‘Barden Furnace’ appear on Mudge’s map of 1801, but both are located on the north bank of a watercourse. The present Barden Furnace Barn is located to the south of likely the same watercourse. Barden Furnace itself is mentioned as early as 1660 (Foley et al.) and again in Hasted’s survey (1798) as “...a mill, used for the manufacturing of that sort of gunpowder...it is situated at a place in it called Old Forgefarm, from its being in queen Elizabeth’s time an iron foundery...”. This document helps to draw together Barden Furnace,

Mill and Farm, and trace the building names as they now exist. The complex of buildings, much as it appears today, including the barn, are present on an Ordnance Survey map of 1872-1885.

- 7.3 Parts of the brick floor present in the north-west area of the barn were believed to be original 18th century, however, evidence recovered during the excavation of Trench 2 has prompted a revision of this. Courses 1, 2, 3, 7, 12 & 14 appear to be very similar in appearance, being bonded on edge in stretcher sequence using a lime mortar (Figs. 6 & 7). Sample bricks were studied from courses 2 & 14.
- 7.4 The brick from course 2 (Fig. 8) demonstrated a shallow frog with the stamp 'TUNWELLS' within it, between two depressed circles (Fig. 8). The presence of a frog suggests 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, and the maker's stamp refers to the High Brooms Brick and Tile Works, who were active between 1885 and 1968 (Tunbridge Wells Museum, 2016). The dimensions of this brick were 8 ½ " by 4 " by 2 ½ ". The brick from course 14 was remarkably similar, demonstrating the same stamp within a frog, but measuring 8 ¾ " by 4 ¼ " by 2 ¾ ". The bricks in course 14 were also found to be laid on a bed of cement, suggesting relaying of earlier bricks.
- 7.5 Courses 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 16 & 17 appear to be more recent than those listed above, the bricks being more uniform in dimension and universally held with concrete, rather than mortar. Only those of course 13 were disturbed by the excavation of Trench 2, and were found to be laid on a bed of cement. Some areas of these courses appeared to be significantly worn, perhaps by the movements of livestock over the surface. This may indicate the necessity of repairs and replacement of some of the earlier existing floor surface.
- 7.6 Course 15 was a small, elongated deposit of modern cement along the inside of the south-west facing wall of the north-western area, perhaps to strengthen the floor. Course 4 appeared to be composed of the same earlier bricks as Courses 2, 14, et al. and was not disturbed by the groundworks at this time.
- 7.7 Using the available maps and the 'TUNWELLS' stamped bricks, the extant floor surface cannot pre-date 1885.
- 7.8 A number of un-frogged, irregularly sized bricks and tiles, some fragmented others complete (Fig. 9), were discovered in made layer **201**, beneath the extant floor

surface **200**. This may suggest material from a former floor surface being reused, or possibly material from a nearby structure incorporated into the interior levelling layer.

- 7.9 Some of the oak timbers used in the frame of the barn bear evidence of previous use in another structure, such as mortises seemingly randomly located along a beam (Fig. 10). Others are likely original timbers in their original positions, as suggested by the alignment of carpenter's marks (Fig. 11).
- 7.10 The footprint of the current standing structure may be at the same location as the original barn, perhaps some of the timbers originating from this period, also. However, the brick floor, some timbers and certainly the block walls are likely 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tony Brown and the report written by Tony Brown and Sam Wilson. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Tony Brown, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

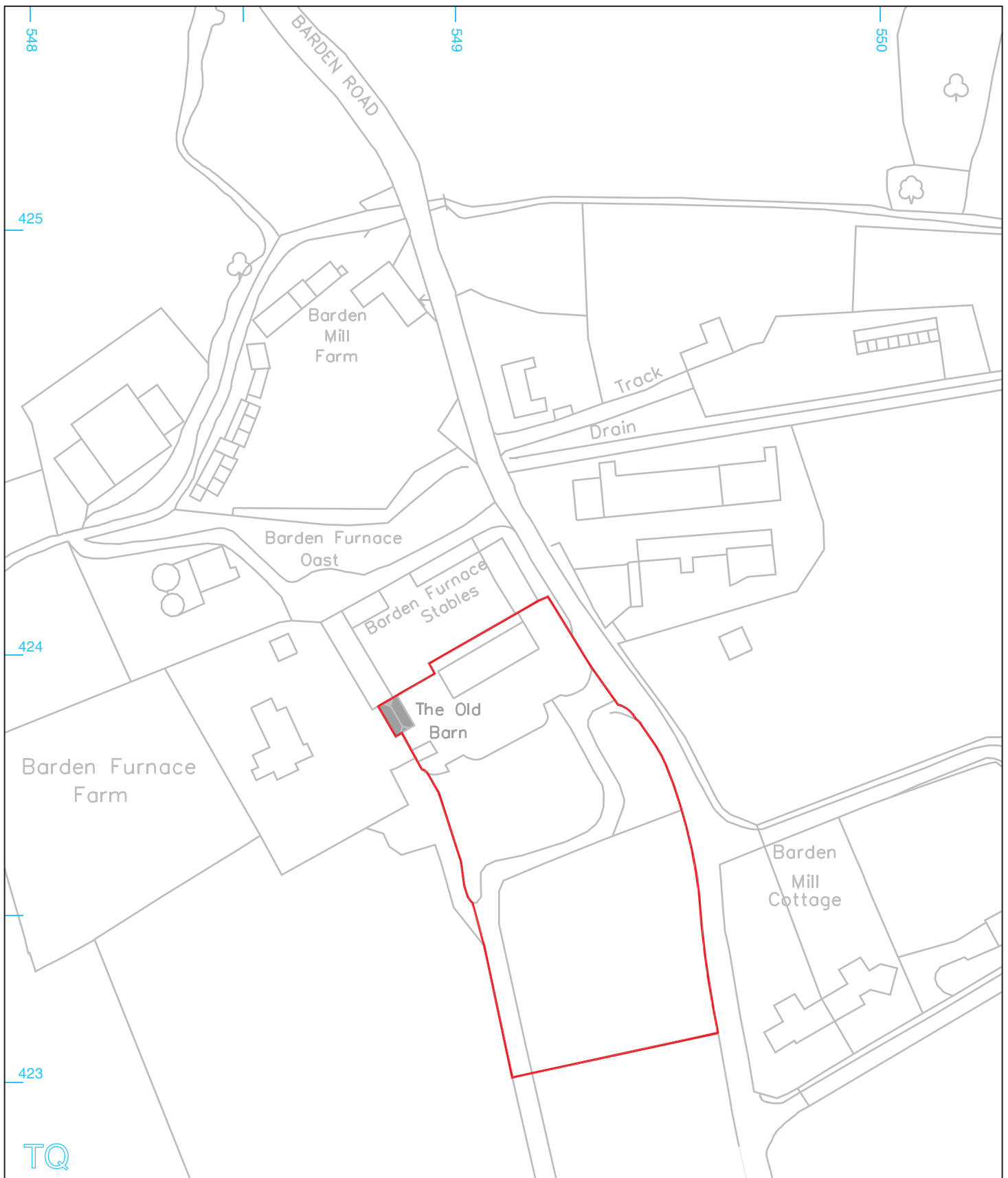
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Floor	Concrete floor layer. Removed prior to arrival.	3.5	4.5	-	modern
1	101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish-brown clayey sand, with dark grey mottling. Compact, soft.	>3.5	>4.5	>0.6m	
2	200	Structure		Floor	Brick floor, made up from various phases of repairs.	3.5	4.5	0.1	Modern
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Made layer, composed of mid yellowish-brown sand, with CBM and domestic waste inclusions.	3.5	4.5	0.25	Modern
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish-brown clayey sand, with dark grey mottling. Compact, soft.	>3.5	>4.5	>0.8	
2	203	Structure		Foundation	Wall foundation of rough-hewn sandstone blocks, without mortar of courses.	8	4.9	0.5	P.M./mod
2	204	Cut		Cut for <b>203</b>	Cut into natural for wall foundations.	8	4.9	0.8	P.M./mod
2	205	Layer		Made ground	Dark brown silty/clayey loam, with CBM, domestic waste and metalworking waste inclusions.	>4	>0.6	0.4	P.m./mod

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
201	Glass		3	276	
	Glass waste		3	126	
	Iron		7	239	
205	post-medieval pottery	stoneware	2	170	Mc19-MC20
	post-medieval pottery	GREW	1	20	
	CBM	3xtile	5	704	
	Glass waste		16	2082	
	iron		12	1815	

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Barden Furnace Barn, Barden Road, Speldhurst	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of an existing barn into a granny annex at Barden Furnace Barn, Kent. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. All features and finds related to the construction and period of use of the barn structure.	
Project dates	13-23 June 2016	
Project type	Archaeological Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Barden Furnace Barn, Barden Road, Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.51ha	
Site co-ordinates	TQ 54907 42412	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Tony Brown	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery	Glass, Fe. Objects, CBM, Pottery
Paper	Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery	Context sheets, trench records
Digital	Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Barden Furnace Barn, Barden Road, Speldhurst: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>16356</b>		



 Site boundary



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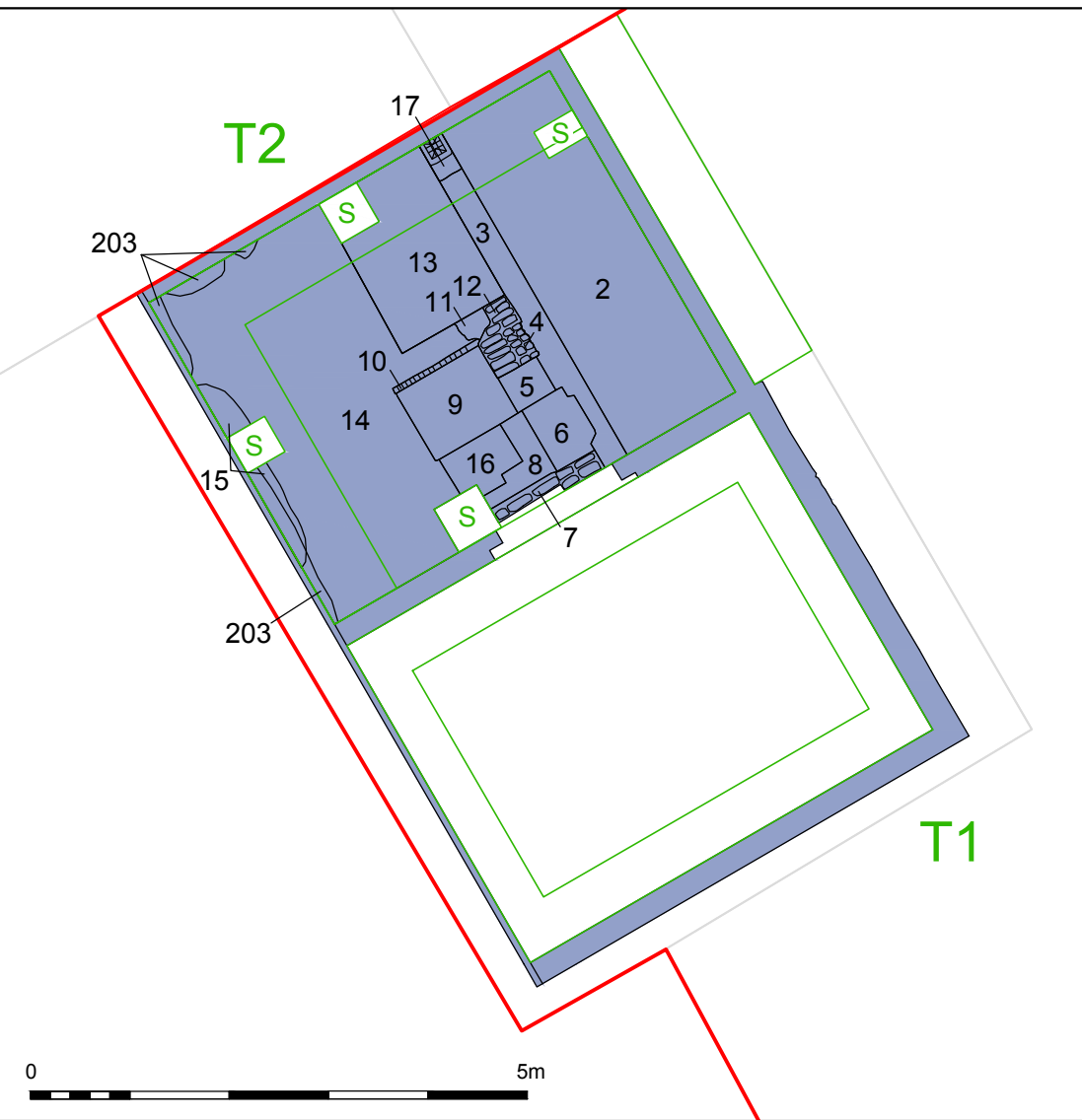
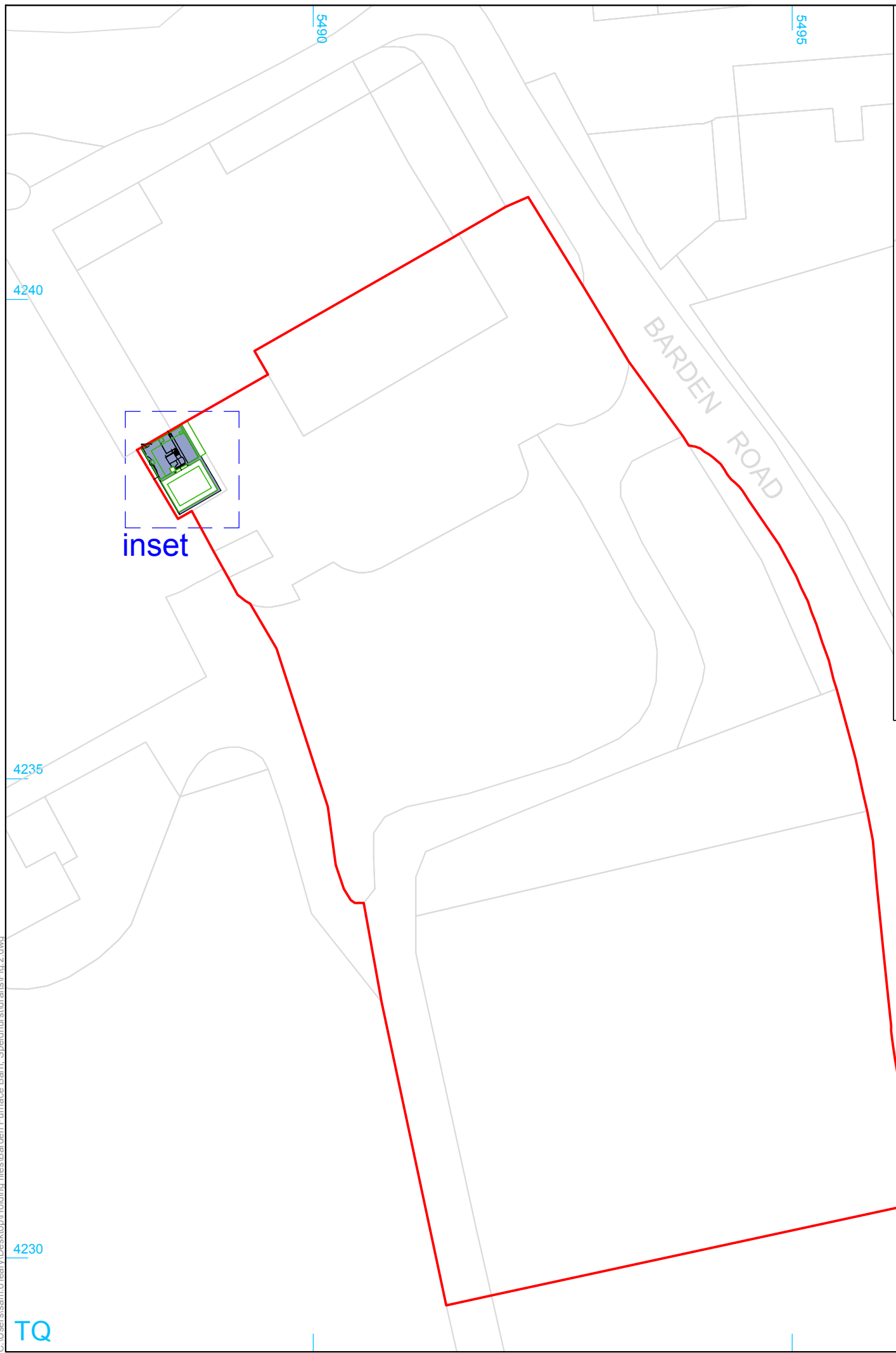
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Barden Furnace Barn, Barden Road  
 Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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<b>DRAWN BY</b> SO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 770407	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> DB	<b>DATE</b> 04/08/2016	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> RG	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:1,250	<b>1</b>





- site boundary
- proposed evaluation trench
- S sondage
- excavation area
- structural feature



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
**Barden Furnace Barn, Barden Road Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells**

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site Location Plan**

<b>DRAWN BY</b> SO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> 770407	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> LM	<b>DATE</b> 03-08-2016	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> RG	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:500 & 1:75	

C:\Users\isam.o\learn\Desktop\Holding files\Barden Furnace Barn\_Speldhurst\drafts\Fig.2.dwg

TQ



**3 West facing view of Barden Furnace Barn**

**4 North-east facing elevation of wall foundation  
(scale 1m)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Barden Furnace Barn, Barden Road  
Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells

*FIGURE TITLE*

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*FIGURE NO.*  
**3 & 4**



**5 West facing view of floor surface 200 in north-west area (scales 1m)**

**6 North-east facing view of Course 2 bricks in floor surface 200 (scales 1m)**



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FIGURE TITLE

**Photographs**

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FIGURE NO.  
**5 & 6**



**7 South-west facing view of Course 14 bricks in floor surface 200 (scale 1m)**

**8 Brick from Course 2, floor surface 200 (scale 0.2m)**



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FIGURE NO.  
**7 & 8**



**9 Bricks and a tile from levelling layer (scale 0.2m)**

**10 Reused timber beams in south-east area**



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*FIGURE NO.*

**9 & 10**



**11 Carpenter's marks on outward faces of timber beams**



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*FIGURE TITLE*

**photograph**

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*FIGURE NO.*

**11**

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