

**50 NORTHEND  
BATHEASTON  
BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**CMS BATH LIMITED**

*on behalf of*

**MR G PENHAY**

CA PROJECT: 2549  
CA REPORT: 08150


JULY 2008



50 NORTHEND  
BATHEASTON  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2549  
CA REPORT: 08150

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date	24 June 2008
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	25 July 2008
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	25 July 2008
issue	01

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- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:1000)

## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	50 Northend
<b>Location:</b>	Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 77819 67996
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	11 – 12 June 2008
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	07/02228/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	BATRM2008.20
<b>Site Code:</b>	NBB08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of two semi-detached dwellings and the conversion and extension of existing buildings to form four one bedroom flats at 50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset.

A stone pathway and soakaway were uncovered. These could not be dated directly, but are likely to be associated with the 19th-century buildings on the site. No features or deposits of earlier date were identified.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for CMS Bath Limited on the behalf of Mr G Penhay at 50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) (centred on NGR: ST 77819 67996; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings and the conversion and extension of existing buildings to form four one bedroom flats (Planning ref: 07/02228/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer, BANES. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), *Archaeology in the City of Bath: Supplementary Planning and Guidance* adopted by B&NES in 2004 and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is bounded by the Northend road to the west (with the medieval churchyard of St John the Baptist lying across the road to the south-west), the residential property and gardens of 52 Northend to the north, the Mill Brook to the east and the residential property and gardens of 48 Northend and Mill House to the south (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 36.25m AOD, with the ground dropping away to the brook to the east and rising up to the churchyard of St John the Baptist church to the south-west (42.85m AOD)
- 1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 525m<sup>2</sup>, and comprises the standing buildings and gardens of 50 Northend.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower and Middle Jurassic undivided foundered strata (BGS 1990). The natural substrate encountered during the groundworks was a sandy red clay overlying limestone fragments in a mid yellow brown sandy clay matrix.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 The site is in the historic core of Batheaston, almost opposite the medieval churchyard. It is apparent from modern mapping that the current property boundaries have developed from large earlier holdings running from the main road through the village (now Northend) to St Catherine's brook in the valley bottom, probably over the last few hundred years or so (P. Davenport, pers. comm.). Two large 17th-century clothiers' houses and a mill seem to be original occupiers of the three large lots that can be identified either side of, and including, the current development site. The subdivision of these plots, especially along the street frontage is a continuing process.
- 1.7 50 Northend occupies the centre of the western side of the plot which earlier on was probably the mill operator's. This may go back to Domesday and beyond, as Batheaston had several mills then. Fifty two Northend on the north-west corner of the site is of late 17th century origin and the ground now to be developed may have been the plot or garden for this house. It was probably built as a small farmhouse but had been converted into two cottages and has now been knocked back into one. The land is likely to have been used as market garden, as this was a typical agricultural activity in the parish. Fifty Northend seems to be of 19th century origin, and the adjacent land seems to have transferred to it, perhaps when the farmhouse became two cottages.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, including preliminary site clearance, and the excavation of foundations and service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Roman Baths Museum under accession number BATRM2008.20. A summary of information from this

project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 105 consisting of limestone fragments in a mid yellow brown sandy clay matrix, was revealed at an average depth of 0.8m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by sandy clay subsoil 103, which was in turn cut by a soakaway pit 106. This was 0.6m deep and filled with limestone fragments and a tin sheet 104. The remains of a cobbled stone surface 102 0.8m long by 0.4m wide was observed adjacent to the buildings of 50 Northend. Although not physically related to the buildings this feature has been interpreted as a pathway associated with the cottages. This was overlain by deposit 101, comprising brown silt and interpreted as re-deposited or imported topsoil 0.1m to 0.2m thick. Deposit 101 was observed overlying the natural substrate 103.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains of 18th century or earlier date within the area of observed groundworks. Although the cobbled surface could not be directly dated it is likely to be associated with the 19th-century cottages. It is likely that levelling took place during construction of these buildings, which including the construction of pathways and the installation of drainage. This may have removed any archaeological deposits within the site. Alternatively the absence of earlier archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the medieval and later town and the surrounding properties of the Mill House and 52 Northend did not extend into the site.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett. The report was written by Jonathan Bennett. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Bennett, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), Sheet 265, Bath, Scale 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



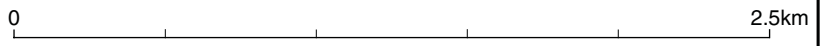
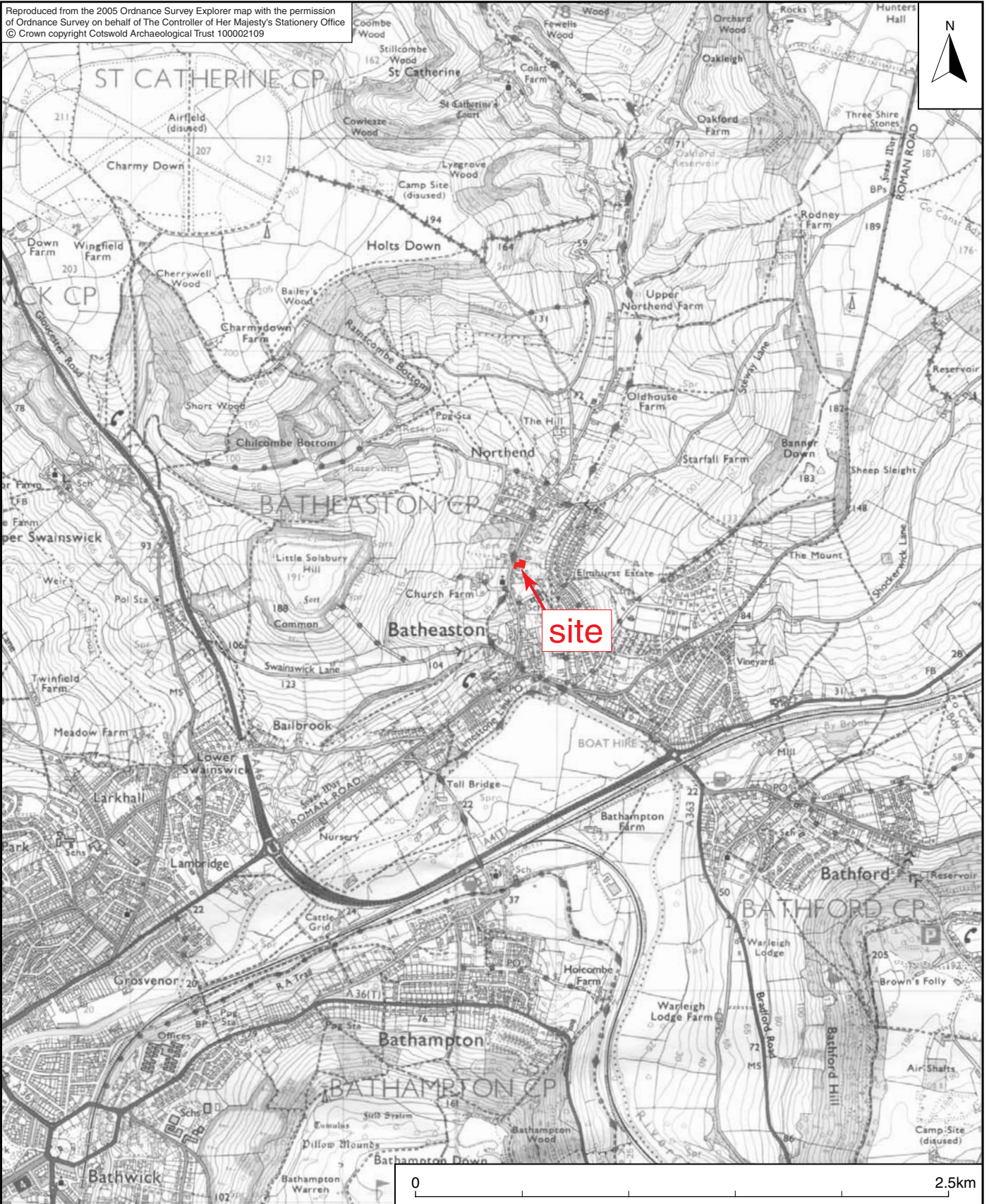
**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Deposit	Dark blackish brown silt, including Ceramic Building Material – imported topsoil?			0.1m – 0.5m	
102	Deposit	Cobbled stone pathway/surface	0.8m	0.4m		
103	Natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay			0.4m - 0.8m	
104	Fill	Limestone fragments covered by tin sheet				
105	Natural	Limestone fragments in mid yellow sandy clay matrix			0.2m	
106	Cut	Vertical sides, oval in plan - soakaway pit		0.8m	0.6m	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of two semi-detached dwellings and the conversion and extension of existing buildings to form four one bedroom flats at 50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset.</p> <p>A stone pathway and soakaway were uncovered. These could not be dated directly, but are likely to be associated with the 19th-century buildings on the site. No features or deposits of medieval or earlier date were identified.</p>	
Project dates	11 – 12 June 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	525 m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 77819 67996	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Bath and North East Somerset Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	Roman Baths Museum	Context sheets, registers, plans
Digital	Roman Baths Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>50 Northend, Batheaston, Bath and North East Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i>		

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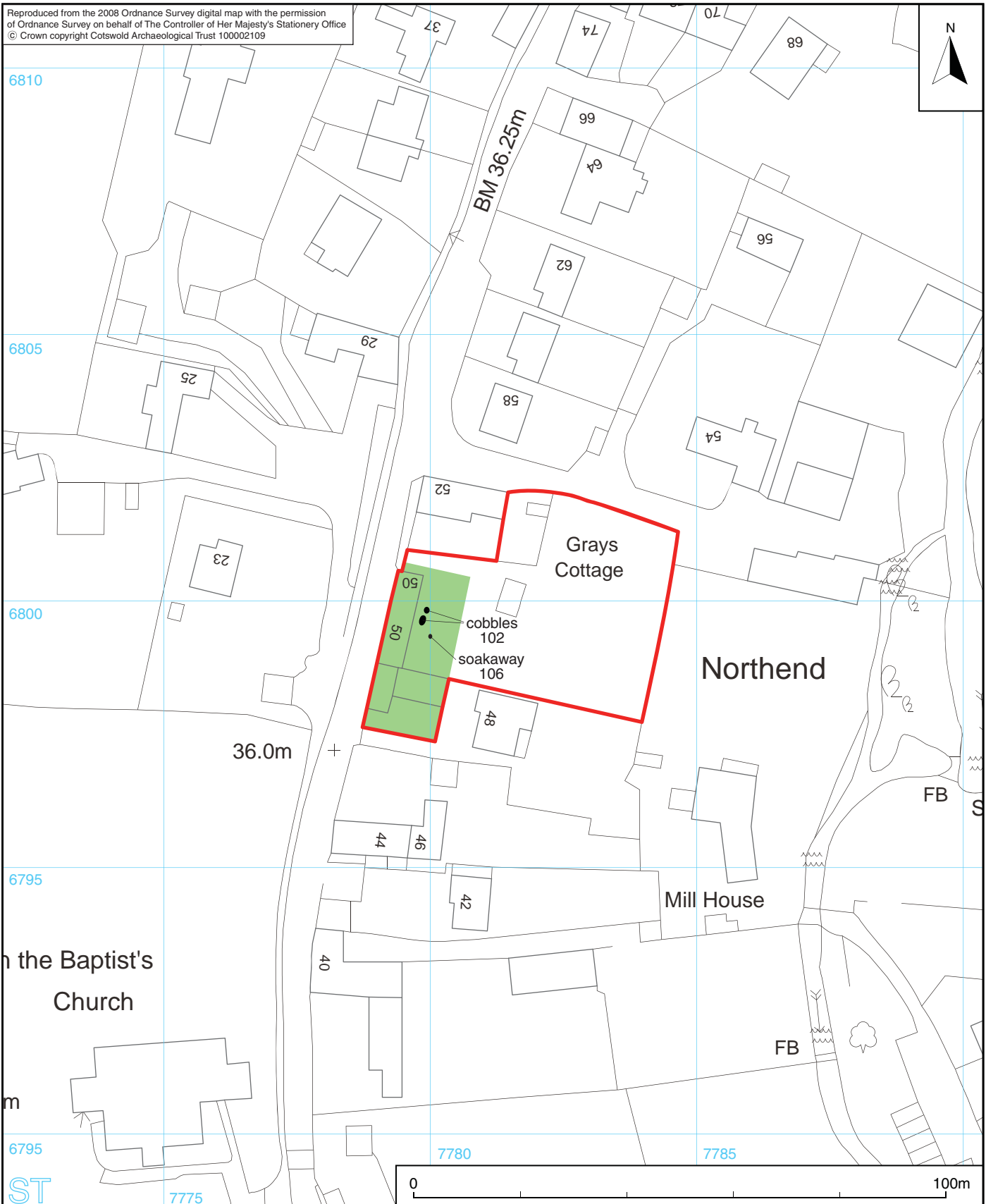


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
**50 Northend, Batheaston  
 Bath and North East Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	2549	<b>1</b>



- site
- area of observed groundworks

<b>COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY</b>			
<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> <b>50 Northend, Batheaston                  Bath and North East Somerset</b>			
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> <b>The site, showing location                  of groundworks</b>			
<small>DRAWN BY</small>	<small>SCALE</small>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
PJM	1:1000@A4	2549	<b>2</b>