

# Drainage Works at Church Farm House Church End, Haddenham Buckinghamshire

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Chris Bowler  
Historic Building Restoration

On behalf of  
S. Greenleaves & R. Jackson

CA Project: 661252  
CA Report: 661252\_1

April 2019



# DRAINAGE WORKS AT CHURCH FARM HOUSE CHURCH END, HADDENHAM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 661252  
CA Report: 661252\_1



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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Drainage Works at Church Farm House  
**Location:** Church End, Haddenham Buckinghamshire HP17 8AE  
**NGR:** 474197 208024  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 05/03/2019  
**Planning Reference:** Aylesbury Vale District Council (Application number 17/01726/ALB).  
**Location of Archive:** Cotswold Archaeology Milton Keynes  
**Accession Number:** AYBCM: 2019.6  
**Site Code:** CEFH19

An archaeological watching brief of drainage groundworks was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 in accordance with a Faculty issued by the Consistory Court of Diocese of Oxford (CCDO) for the installation of membrane and soakaway boxes at Church Farm House, Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the drainage groundworks. A few unstratified fragments of tile possibly dating between the 15th and 18th centuries were recovered from upcast topsoil along with several fragments of animal bone. None of these are of measurable archaeological significance. These will not be retained following confirmation by the legal landowner.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Chris Bowler Historic Building Restoration on behalf of S. Greenleaves & R. Jackson at Church Farm House, Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire. (Centred at NGR: 474197 208024; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A Faculty was granted for the installation of membrane and soakaway boxes by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Oxford (CCDO), conditional on a programme of archaeological work. The scope and methodology of this watching brief has been determined through a Schedule, issued by the CCDO, which contains attached conditions to the Faculty document requiring an archaeological watching brief of the contractor's groundworks. The drainage works were included within a wider schedule of repairs for which Listed Building Consent was granted following consultation with Historic England and Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC; Application number 17/01726/ALB).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) for Chris Bowler Historic Building Restoration. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### **The site**

- 1.4 The drainage groundworks area totalled approximately 0.05ha comprising ground adjacent to the western gable end of Church Farm House, a domestic dwelling the gable end of which forms a boundary with St. Mary's Church on its west side. Aston Road lies to the north, Church End House to the east, and St. Mary's Barn to the south. The site is situated at Church End in the south of Haddenham and lies at approximately 75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Portland Stone Formation, limestone formed approximately 145 to 152 million years ago in the Jurassic Period with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2019).



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 This archaeological background has been compiled from online sources comprising:

- <https://historicengland.org.uk>;
- <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>; and,
- <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>.

### **Prehistoric (pre- 43AD) and Roman periods (AD 43 - AD 410)**

2.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity within the surrounding area derives from cropmarks and findspots. Cropmarks of a probable later prehistoric or Roman settlement site have been identified 600m south-west of the site (NMR: SP70 NW97 Monument no. 1458114). These comprise incomplete but overlapping irregularly-shaped ditched enclosures and ditch-defined trackways. Another possible site of a later prehistoric or Roman settlement have been identified 900m to the west of the Site comprising cropmarks forming a possible rectilinear enclosure (NMR: SP70 NW13 Monument no. 342569). Within the same field two flint scrapers, two flint blades, and three struck flakes were found (NMR: SP70 NW40 Monument no. 869638). An undated possible ring ditch which could have prehistoric origins has been identified through aerial photography c.800m to the south-west of the site (NMR: SP70 NW10 Monument no. 342566).

2.3 An Iron Age brooch fibulae (CAS 2551) was recovered from a garden off the High Street and during an excavation at 25 High Street a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered (TVAS 2011). A barbed and tanged flint arrowhead was found in the garden of Grenville Mead, Aston Road (NMR: SP70 NW15 Monument no. 342571) and a Roman coin of Carausius was also found within Haddenham (NMR: SP70 NW2 Monument no. 342552). Elsewhere worked flints have been recovered from the north and west of Haddenham (CAS 4401, 4241) and 24 struck flakes, a side-scraper, and a scatter of Roman pottery have been found 300m to the south-east of the Site (NMR: SP70 NW39 Monument no. 869637).

2.4 Closer to the Site, during an excavation at the Red Lion, 2 Church End, a few residual sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (TVAS 2012).

### **Medieval and Post-Medieval periods (AD 1066 - 1800)**

2.5 Church End is one of the several foci of the polyfocal village of Haddenham. The town itself has been the subject of a Historic Town Assessment Report (HTAR)



(BCC 2008). The village itself appears to have formed around greens and ponds on a north-south alignment from Church End in the south to Townsend in the north. The name Haddenham is Anglo-Saxon in origin and commonly thought to mean Hadda's Homestead. It is recorded in Domesday that by 1086 there existed a church and small settlement here.

- 2.6 Construction of the parish Church of St Mary the Virgin (NMR SP 70 NW and SP7408) may have begun in the 12th century but mostly dates to the early 13th century. Several additions and alterations were also undertaken on the church during the 14th and 15th centuries. It is designated a Grade I Listed Building and was constructed using rubble-stone with an ashlar dressing; roofed with old tile. It is surrounded by a churchyard, which was declared closed to new burials in 2017 owing to a lack of remaining space.
- 2.7 Church Farm House is a Grade II\* Listed Building and dates from the 15th century with 16th century alterations. The staircase wing was built in the 17th century and the property also has 19th century rear additions. The building is a timber-framed construction with lime washed plaster infill. The west gable end, against which the drain is to be constructed, is lime washed coursed rubble stone and the building is roofed with clay tile.
- 2.8 Archaeological works undertaken in recent years have provided some evidence of Haddenham's early medieval and medieval origins, most notably around the foci around which the village is thought to have developed. Saxon (early medieval) pottery was found during an evaluation at 5 Townside although the significant archaeological features dated to the 11th to 13th centuries including numerous pits and postholes (TVAS 2007). An evaluation at The Red Lion, 2 Church End, revealed three pits, at least two of which were dated to the medieval period (TVAS 2012). Medieval ditches and a quarry pit were also found during an evaluation to the rear of 2 Fern Lane, Fort End (JMHS 2011). Medieval remains have also been revealed during archaeological works along the High Street including a ditch and gully of early medieval date at 25 High Street (TVAS 2011).





### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor drainage groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed during the course of these groundworks;
- to record any exposed foundations of the cottage, where evident, in line with Historic England guidelines;
- 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 may be drawn from the recorded data.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2019). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the hand excavation of a single 10m long trench along the west gable end of Church Farm House (Fig. 2). A mechanical excavator (mini digger) was then used for the remainder of the groundworks once hand excavation became too difficult due to the compaction of the subsoil.

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 site archive and (unstratified) artefacts deriving from the watching brief were visually assessed by the relevant CA specialists and are currently held by at its office in Milton Keynes. These unstratified artefacts, comprising fragments of tile and animal bone, will be disposed of upon the agreement of the legal landowner. Until this time the these artefacts will be held at CA's Milton Keynes office. 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 3-4)

- 5.1 The natural substrate was not exposed within the drainage foundation trench. The earliest deposit, 102 was recorded at a depth of c.0.69m and c.0.73m below present ground level (bpgl). Layer 102 consisted of light brown/grey silty clay with mid-red/yellow stones, and may well be associated with the foundation layers of Church Farm House. Layer 102 was in turn overlain by a mid-yellow/brown clay silt deposit 101, which measured between 0.15m and 0.21m in thickness, and probably represents an earlier topsoil deposit within the churchyard. This was overlain by the modern topsoil layer, 100, which was c.0.48m thick.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the drainage groundworks. A few unstratified fragments of tile possibly dating between the 15th and 18th centuries were recovered from upcast topsoil along with several fragments of animal bone. None of these are of measurable archaeological significance.



## **6. DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 Despite there being some archaeological potential, the watching brief identified no evidence of buried archaeological remains within the area of observed drainage groundworks. This will be in large part a result of the narrow scope and limitations of excavation and also the disturbed nature of deposits adjacent to the gable end of Church Farm House.
- 6.2 The fragments of 15th to 18th century tile recovered from upcast topsoil are likely derived from the construction and/or maintenance of the churchyard boundary wall or other works during the active history of St Mary's Church.

## **7. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Callum Ruse. The report was written by Callum Ruse. The illustrations were prepared by Marta Perlinska. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.



## 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 07 March 2019
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Drainage Works at Church Farm House Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)
- BCC (Buckinghamshire County Council) 2008, *Haddenham, Historic Town Assessment Report Draft November 2008*
- DCLG (Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government) 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) 2011 *Land to the rear of 2 Fern Lane, Fort End, Haddenham: Archaeological Evaluation Report 2398*
- Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) 2007 *5 Townsend, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation*
- Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) 2011 *25 High Street, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation*
- Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) 2012 *The Red Lion, 2 Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

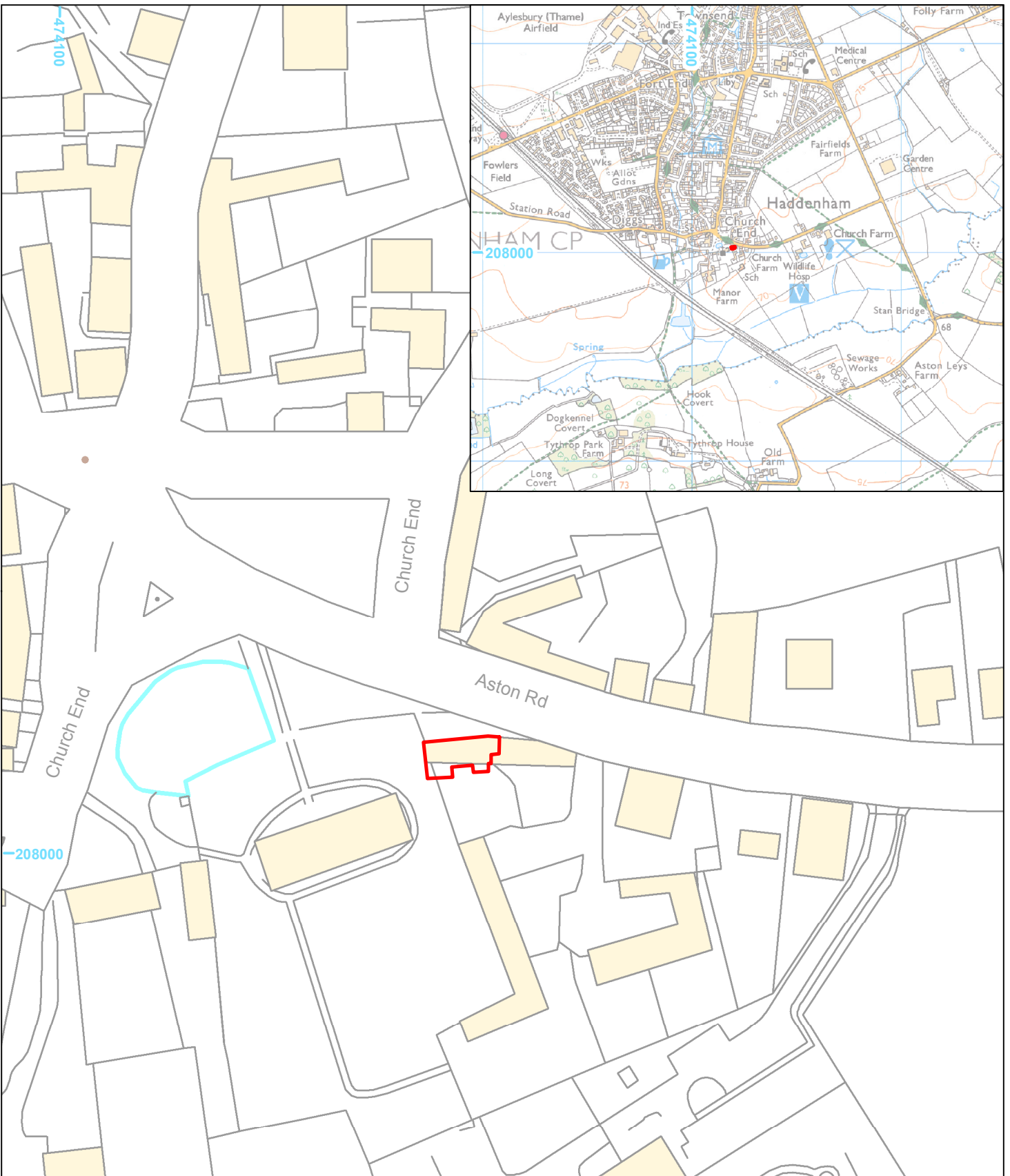
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey/brown, loamy silt, friable, frequent (15th -18th) century tile.	10m	0.46	0.48	
1	101	Layer		Deposit	Mid yellow/brown, sandy silt, friable	10m	0.46	0.21	
1	102	Layer		Foundation deposit?	Mid red/yellow brownish grey rubble, firm. Foundation layer for farm house	10m	0.46	0.16	
1	103	Masonry		Stone boundary wall	Rubble stone with ashlar dressing (base courses of gable end of Church Farm House.	0.30	0.13	0.11	


**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Drainage works at Church Farm House, Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief of drainage groundworks was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 in accordance with a Faculty issued by the Consistory Court of Diocese of Oxford (CCDO) for the installation of membrane and soakaway boxes at Church Farm House, Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the drainage groundworks. A few unstratified fragments of tile possibly dating between the 15th and 18th centuries were recovered from upcast topsoil along with several fragments of animal bone. None of these are of measurable archaeological significance. These will not be retained following confirmation by the legal landowner.</p>	
Project dates	05/03/2019 & 06/03/2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Church Farm House, Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire HP17 8AE	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 474197 208024	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Hewson	
Project Supervisor	Callum Ruse	
<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	Cotswold Archaeology Milton Keynes office under accession number AYBCM: 2019.6	Tile, animal bone
Paper	Cotswold Archaeology Milton Keynes office under accession number AYBCM: 2019.6	Trench sheets, masonry sheets and QA sheets
Digital	Cotswold Archaeology Milton Keynes office under accession number AYBCM: 2019.6	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		

Church Farm House, Church End, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Watching Brief 661252\_1





 Site boundary



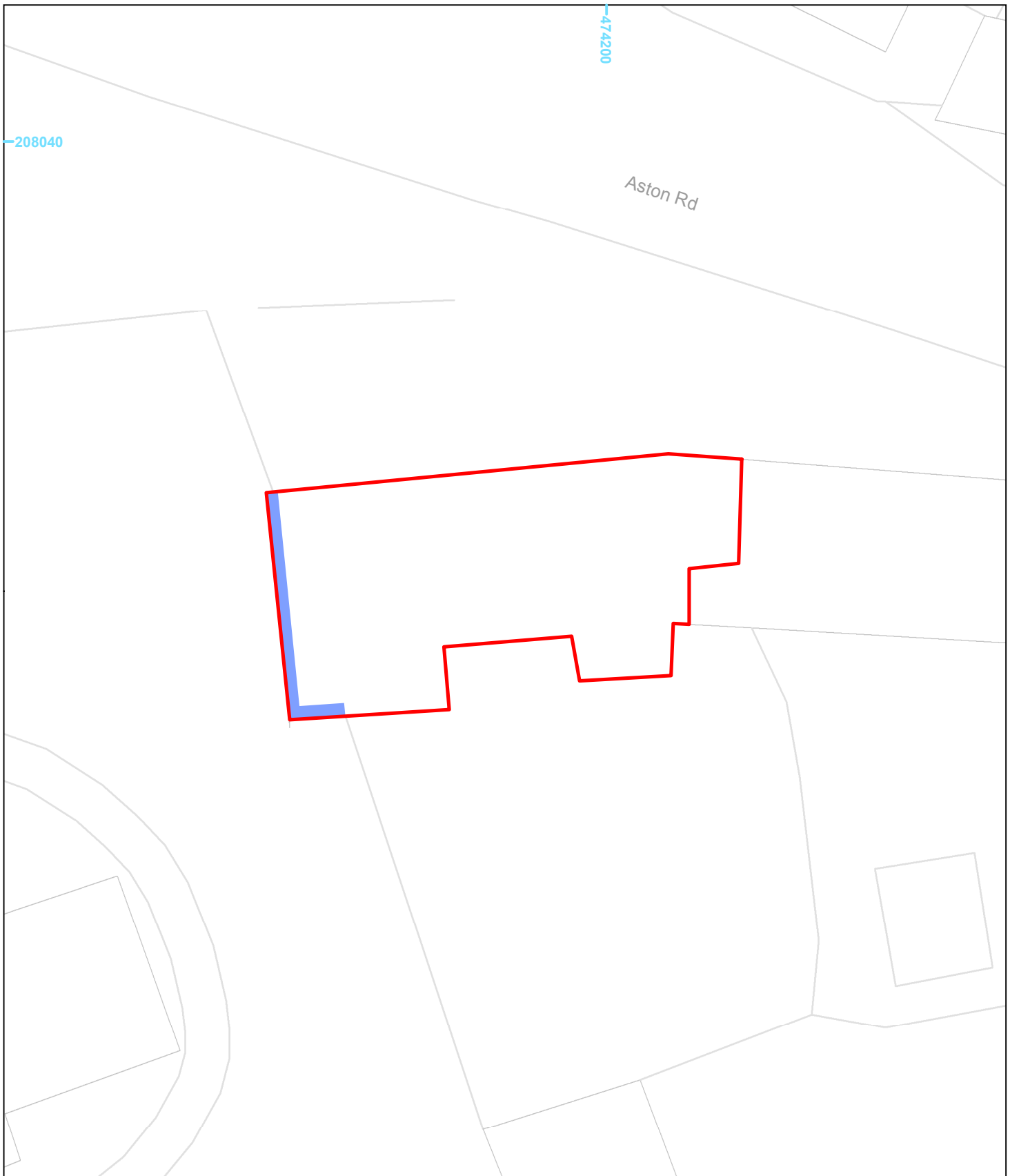
Andover 01264 347630  
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PROJECT TITLE

Church Farm House  
 Church End, Haddenham, Bucks

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan



- Site boundary
- Trench location



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*PROJECT TITLE*

**Church Farm House  
Church End, Haddenham, Bucks**

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Gable end plan of groundworks  
highlighted**



3

Shot of trench and gable end of Church Farm House, looking east



4

View of drainage trench, looking south



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PROJECT TITLE

Church Farm House  
 Church End, Haddenham, Bucks

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY MP PROJECT NO. 661252  
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 12/03/19  
 APPROVED BY MPH SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

3-4



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