

**Black Barn  
Great Somerford  
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*

**Nicholas Elkins Limited**


CA Project: 4360  
CA Report: 13625

March 2014

# Black Barn Great Somerford Wiltshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4360  
CA Report: 13625

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signed	
date	12 March 2014
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks; and detail of Area 1 (1:500 & 1:100)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Black Barn  
**Location:** Great Somerford, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** ST 9648 8278  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 6-7 June 2013  
**Planning Reference:** N/11/01776/S73  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes  
**Site Code:** BLB 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of a Grade II listed barn into a residential dwelling at Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire.

Two walls/wall footings and an associated concrete surface, probably constructed to provide stable access into the barn, were identified during the watching brief. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Nicholas Elkins Limited at Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9648 8278; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (Condition 6) attached to a planning consent for the conversion of a Grade II listed barn into a residential dwelling (Planning ref: N/11/01776/S73). 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 a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2013) and approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Archaeologist. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.1ha, and comprises a barn, set within a wider group of detached farm buildings, along with an area of hardstanding. The site is bounded to the north and west by farmland, to the east by Winkins Lane and to the south by residential properties fronting Paddocks Close. The site lies at approximately 65m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways and Oxford Clays (Undifferentiated) of the Jurassic era (BGS 2013). Mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock was revealed in all areas observed during the watching brief.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The historic development of the site is detailed in a report on the structural history of the Black Barn (Rodwell 2005) and is summarised below.

1.6 The barn incorporates two distinct phases of construction along with a series of later, more piecemeal, repairs. The original barn was of cruck construction, a medieval roof form common in Wiltshire and typically in use throughout the 14th and 15th centuries, and the western end of the existing barn still retains significant elements of this original construction, which is thought most likely to date to the 15th century. During the 18th-century the barn was extensively rebuilt to a greater height and on a different alignment from the original 15th-century structure. The majority of the central and eastern parts of the barn are considered to date from this period (Rodwell 2005).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

1.7 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.

### ***Methodology***

1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction across the interior of the barn (Area 1), ground reduction alongside the east end of the barn (Area 2) and the excavation of a trial hole/soakaway to the east of the barn (Area 3) as shown on Figure 2.

1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered 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 evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes, along with the site archive. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 In Area 1, the natural geological substrate (106) consisting of mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock, was revealed across the interior of the barn at an average depth of 0.2m below present ground level. Towards the centre of the barn the natural substrate was cut by rectangular, north-east/south-west aligned construction cut 105 for walls 103 and 102. Walls 102 and 103 were constructed from small, rough-hewn limestone blocks bonded by a mid grey lime mortar and survived to a maximum height of 0.17m. Deposit 104, the backfill of construction cut 105, contained quantities of pottery, glass and ironwork, all of which dated to the modern period. Deposit 104 was sealed by concrete floor/surface 101, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of mid-dark brown agricultural soil (100).
- 2.2 In Area 2, the natural geological substrate (201) consisting of mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock, was revealed across the excavated area at an average depth of 0.25m below present ground level. This was overlain by a modern gravel driveway averaging 0.25m in thickness.
- 2.3 In Area 3, the natural geological substrate (301) consisting of mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock, was partially revealed at the south-western end of the excavated area at an average depth of 0.2m below present ground level. This was overlain by topsoil averaging 0.2m in thickness.
- 2.4 No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### ***The finds***

- 2.5 Artefactual material was noted from deposit 104 only. Quantities of pottery, glass and ironwork were recorded, all of which date to the modern period, probably after c. 1850. The pottery comprises sherds in stoneware and refined whitewares, including with transfer-print decoration. The glass consists of fragments from a natural green-coloured, mould-made bottle, the base of which features the number '71' moulded in

relief. The five recovered iron objects consist of large nails or bolts. In view of the modern nature of the finds, none of this material will be retained

### 3. DISCUSSION

3.1 No archaeological features or deposits pre-dating the modern period were identified during the current works.

3.2 The position, immediately internal to the entrance of the barn, along with the form of wall footings 102 and 103 and associated surface 101 suggest that they may form part of a threshing floor or an area of hardstanding to provide stable access to the barn. Dating evidence recovered from the backfill of construction cut 105 suggests that this structure is of relatively modern date (probably after c. 1850), with the floor resurfaced with concrete at a later date.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer*[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 29 May 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2007 *Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Rodwell, K. A., (2005) *A Report on the Structural History of the Black Barn, Winkins Lane, Great Somerford*

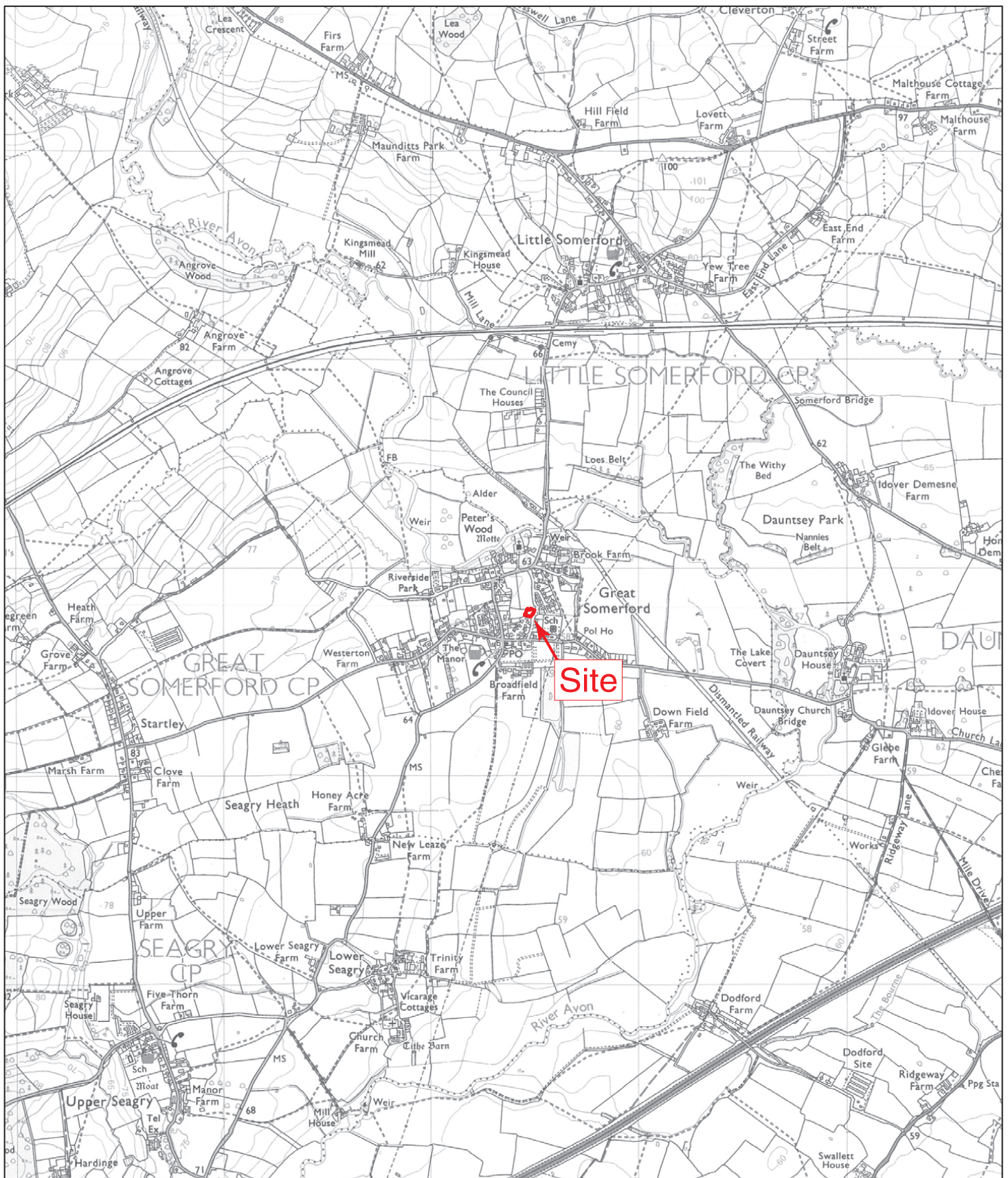


## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Agricultural soil	Mid-dark grey brown silt sand			0.2	Modern
1	101	Surface		Surface	Concrete slab covering 102 and 103	5.5	4.5	0.05	
1	102	Wall	105	Wall	NE/SW aligned limestone wall, rough-hewn limestone blocks with mid grey lime mortar bond	5.25	0.25	0.15	
1	103	Wall	105	Wall	NE/SW aligned limestone wall, rough-hewn limestone blocks with mid grey lime mortar bond	5.2	0.24	0.17	
1	104	Deposit	105	Backfill	Mid dark brown silt sand with frequent limestone fragments throughout	5.5	4.5	0.17	Modern
1	105	Cut		Construction cut	Rectangular construction cut for walls 103 and 105				
1	106	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock				
2	200	Layer		Hardstanding	Modern concrete driveway	>1.2	>0.6	0.25	
2	201	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock	>1.2	>0.6	>2.25	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sand silt	>5.8	>1.8	0.2	
3	301	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid-light grey yellow clay with frequent patches of exposed limestone bedrock	>1.2	>0.6	LOE	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of a Grade II listed barn into a residential dwelling at Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire.</p> <p>Two modern walls/wall footings and an associated concrete surface, probably constructed to provide stable access into the barn, were identified during the watching brief. No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	6 and 7 June 2013	
Project type	Archaeological watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire	
Study area	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 9648 8278	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	N/A
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic registers
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Black Barn, Great Somerford, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>13625</b>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**Black Barn, Great Somerford  
 Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

PROJECT NO. 4360 DATE 06-12-2013  
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

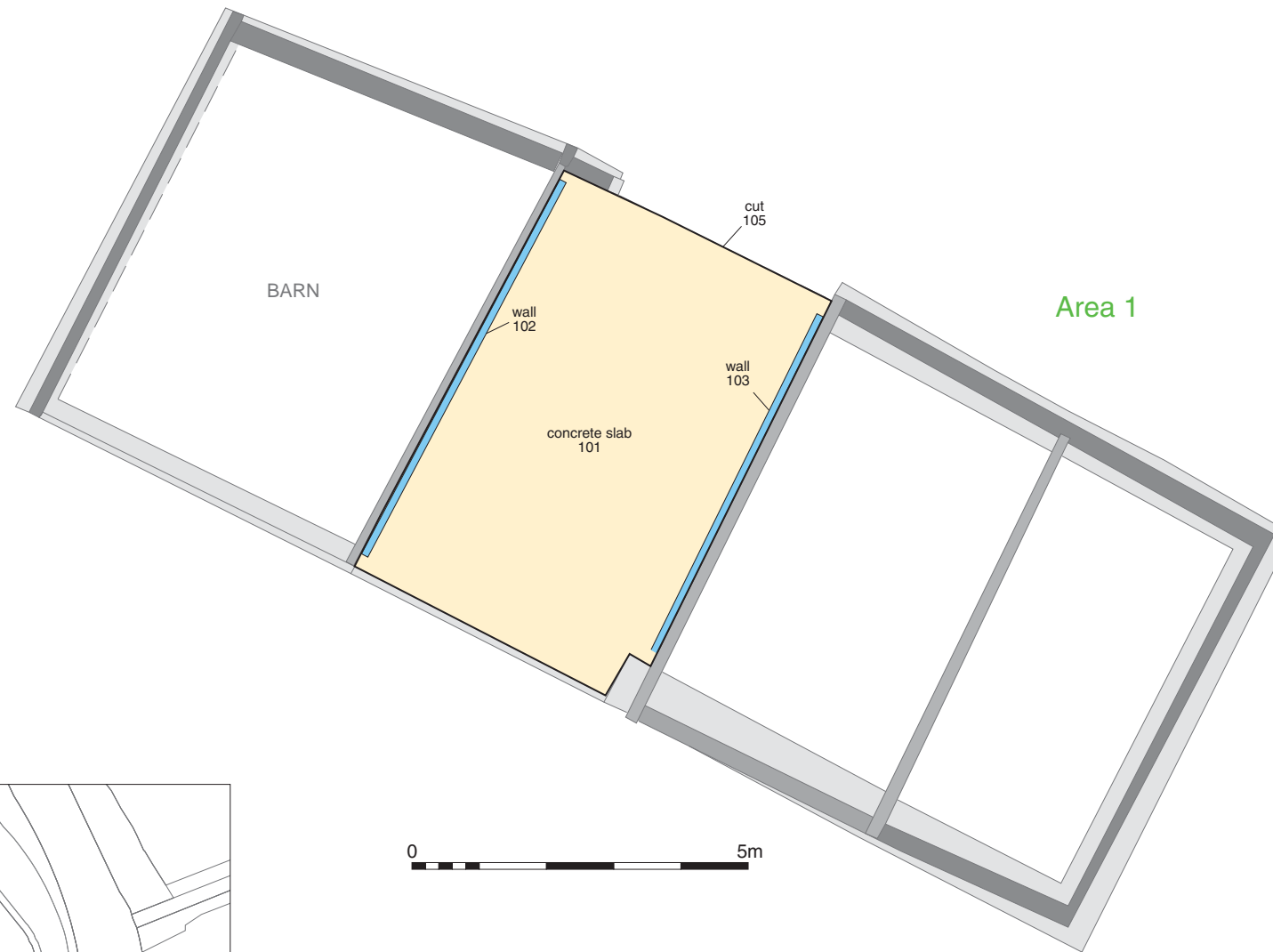
FIGURE NO.

**1**

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Area 1: ground reduction inside the barn, looking south-east



- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks
- concrete slab
- wall identified during watching brief



Area 1: walls 103 (foreground) and 102, looking north-west, scales 1m

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Black Barn, Great Somerford  
 Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks; and detail of Area 1

PROJECT NO. 4360	DATE 06-12-2013	FIGURE NO. 2
DRAWN BY LG	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:500 & 1:100	