

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**NO. 15 MARKET STREET,
BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTSHIRE.**
for
Lambridge House Renovations Ltd.



Report No. 2079 / 2008

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Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**NO. 15 MARKET STREET,
BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTSHIRE.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 8252 6110

Client: Lambridge House Renovations Ltd.

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NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

December, 2008.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of a single-storey studio house on land to the rear of No. 15 Market Street, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

The groundworks revealed sections of three walls, which ran on the same alignment to the walls of a post-medieval building shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Lambridge House Renovations Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a single-storey studio house on land to the rear of No. 15 Market Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning consent (Planning Reference Number 07/03840/FUL) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2008). Vanessa Clark (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council) monitored the work.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken on the 20th November 2008 under the supervision of Heather Hirons who also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bradford-on-Avon Museum and the site has been added to the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigations under the reference: bristola1-52984.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 8252 6110) currently forms part of the gardens of No. 15 Street, a Grade II listed building (reference number 5411). The proposed building occupies an area of 35m². It is bounded by gardens to the north and east, and the backs of the houses and shops on Market Street to the south and west. The area slopes steeply down to the south and the site lies at approximately 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site is located within Bradford on Avon Conservation area No.1 in an Area of Archaeological Interest.
- 2.2 The geology of the study area comprises Great Oolite of the middle Jurassic period (British Geological Survey 1979)

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within the Bradford on Avon Conservation Area No.1 and within an Area of Archaeological Interest. No archaeological investigations have been carried out within the immediate area, however an Extensive Urban Survey has been completed on the town of Bradford on Avon (Wiltshire County Archaeological Service, 2004). The archaeological sites and spot finds that were recovered within the local area are detailed here.
- 3.2 The site lies within the modern town of Bradford on Avon on the edge of the parish of Holy Trinity. To the West of the site sits the site of the Iron Age hillfort of Budbury, excavated in 1969 (Wainwright 1970). Numerous prehistoric flints and axes have been recovered from around the town, however, few of these have had accurate locations recorded (Wiltshire County Archaeological Service, 2004).
- 3.3 A substantial Roman villa was discovered and partly excavated in 1976 to the north of the hillfort, and various Romano-British finds have been discovered around the town of Bradford on Avon. These include a number of Roman coins found opposite the site in the grounds of Priory Lodge in 1818, as stated on the Ordnance Survey maps (**Fig. 3**).
- 3.4 In the Saxon period the settlement focus moved from the hill down into the Avon valley and became known as ‘braden forda be afne’ and according to the Anglo Saxon Chronicles was the site of a battle in AD652 between the forces of the Mercian’s and the West Saxons (BaRAS 2008). A minster church was established by AD705 on the site of the current parish church, by Aldhelm. Bradford on Avon was evidently the centre of a Royal Estate by AD1001, when King Æthelred granted the estate to the nuns of Shaftsbury Abbey as a refuge for the bones of King Edward the Martyr and the nuns themselves, who continued to hold the manor until the Dissolution in 1539. In 1086 Domesday records the town as containing 33 burgesses (BaRAS 2008). Very few Saxon finds have been recovered from Bradford-on-Avon so the exact extent of the town is unknown (Wiltshire County Archaeological Service, 2004).
- 3.5 During the medieval and post-medieval periods the towns economy was based almost entirely on the cloth industry. There are several medieval features and buildings around Bradford-on-Avon, including 11th-century features in the Holy Trinity parish church, two 13th-century arches in the town bridge, a 14th-century Tithe Barn at Barton Farm and three 15th-century timber-framed buildings in the Shambles. Various finds and features dating to this period have been recovered from around the town, however, there are none in the immediate area of the site as no archaeological work has been done there (Wiltshire County Archaeological Service, 2004).
- 3.6 There are numerous post-medieval buildings and features in Bradford on Avon both industrial and domestic, mainly located in the centre of the town. Number 15 Market Street is a Grade II listed building (reference number 5411) and dates to the 17th century. The first edition Ordnance Survey map shows a L-shaped building on the site in 1886 and subsequent maps also show this, however, it appears to have been demolished by the mid 20th century.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2008). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of the mechanical excavation of a service trench and the northernmost 'toe' of the raft foundations of the new building. Test pits were also observed where the southern 'toe' of the foundations would be, in order to ascertain that it would not disturb archaeology. The service trench was up to 0.60m deep by up to 0.50m wide and the toes of the foundations were up to 0.50m wide by 0.20m deep.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of the service trench and the northern ‘toe’ of the raft foundations, two test pits were also dug where the southern ‘toe’ was to run (**Fig. 2**). The service trench and the northern toe were excavated with a 360° mini digger and the test pits were dug by hand.
- 5.2 The test pits revealed no archaeology. They were dug to a depth of approximately 0.30m and 0.50m square (**Plate 1**). Due to the shallow nature of the southern toe, only 0.20m, it was decided that this was sufficient to indicate that no archaeology was likely to be disturbed during the excavation.
- 5.3 Sections of three limestone walls bonded with yellow sandy mortar were revealed during the excavation of the service trench and the northern toe of the foundations. Wall (101) was revealed at the west end of the services trench and ran east-west (**Plate 2**). Only the upper surface of the remains of wall 101 were visible and it is likely they formed part of the foundations for the short southernmost wall of the building shown on the historic maps (**Fig. 3**). No other remains of this building were observed. The top of wall 101 was at a depth of 0.60m bellow the surface level, it was 0.25m wide and only 0.90m of its length could be seen and the western end appeared to have been truncated.
- 5.4 Wall 102 was observed running east-west at the junction of the east end of the service trench and the north toe of the foundations (**Plate 3**). The top of the wall was 0.25m below the ground surface, and it was excavated to 0.40m below the current ground surface. It was 0.68m wide and 1.1m of it’s length was exposed. It was roughly built of re-used limestone measuring up to 400mm by 380mm by 50mm.
- 5.5 Excavation for the north toe also revealed wall 103, part of which survived as part of the current garden wall (**Plates 4 & 5**). The wall was constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks measuring up to 500mm by 400mm by 100mm, and stood a up to 3.58m above the ground surface. The upper 1.50m of the wall had been rebuilt, it was 0.60m wide at the base and was excavated to a depth of 0.28m. Wall 103 was probably the east wall of the building shown on the historic maps.
- 5.6 The wall foundations were all sealed or abutted by a very dark garden soil (100) which formed the present ground surface of the site about 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). No artefacts were recovered during the watching brief. The eastern garden wall of the site was also recorded, as the proposed building will obstruct the western view of it. Details of this can be found in the site archive.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief revealed sections of three walls, all of which appear to be related to the building shown on the historic maps (**Fig. 3**). The construction of the walls suggests the building was post-medieval in date. No artefacts were recovered from the site.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Heather Hirons who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Heather Hirons. The project was managed by Bruce Williams.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan, 1886

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan, 1901

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan, 1924

Ordnance Survey 1:25000 plan, 2007 – *Chippenham & Bradford-on-Avon Explorer Map*

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Lambridge House Renovations Ltd for their assistance and co-operation and Vanessa Clark (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council) for their advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

LOCAL POLICIES

Wiltshire County Council & Swindon Borough Council

Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 – Adopted April 2006

Chapter 7: Historic Environment

7.2 Archaeology

Policy HE2 FEATURES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST AND THEIR SETTINGS SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT. WHERE NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC REMAINS, WHETHER SCHEDULED SITES OR NOT, ARE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THERE SHOULD BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THEIR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION “IN SITU”.

Kennet District Council

Kennet Local Plan 2011 – Adopted 2004

Chapter 6: Conservation of the Historic Heritage

6.01 Archaeology

Policy HH1 Protection Of Archaeological Remains

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would have an adverse impact on the archaeological deposits or remains on or under a site of national importance (whether scheduled or not) or its character or setting. Sites of significant regional or local importance, especially those which make a positive contribution to the historic landscape, will also be protected from inappropriate development.

Policy HH2 Development On Sites With Archaeological Potential

Proposals for development involving ground disturbance on sites with archaeological potential will only be permitted if:

- (a) it can be demonstrated that the development will not have an adverse impact on any archaeological deposits or remains; or
- (b) appropriate mitigation measures are agreed to protect the archaeological interest of the site.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
100	Garden soil: soft, loose, very dark grey, ashy, silty clay with frequent mortar and ceramic building material, frequent roots and occasional large pieces of limestone covering the whole site. Thickness unknown.
101	Wall running east - west: due to the orientation and depth of the trench only the a small part of the wall was visible measuring 0.90m long by 0.25m wide, constructed of limestone blocks c. 0.20m x 0.10m x 0.05m in size, no mortar was visible.
102	Wall running northeast - southwest: due to the orientation and depth of the trench only a small part of the wall was visible running diagonally across the trench measuring 1.10m long by 0.68m wide, 0.18m deep. It was constructed of re-used, roughly hewn limestone blocks measuring up to 0.40m x 0.38m x 0.50m and bonded with yellow sandy mortar.
103	Wall running northeast – southwest: partially still standing above ground to a height of 3.58m, although above 2.17m is a rebuild, 0.28m was excavated below ground and it was 0.60m wide. The wall was constructed of roughly hewn, re-used limestone blocks measuring up to 0.50m x 0.40m x 0.10m and bonded with sandy yellow mortar.



Fig.1 Site location plan, Ordnance Survey 1:25000, Chippenham & Bradford-on-Avon Explorer Map

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 Figured dimensions only are to be used. Contractor must verify all
 dimensions on site before commencing any work.

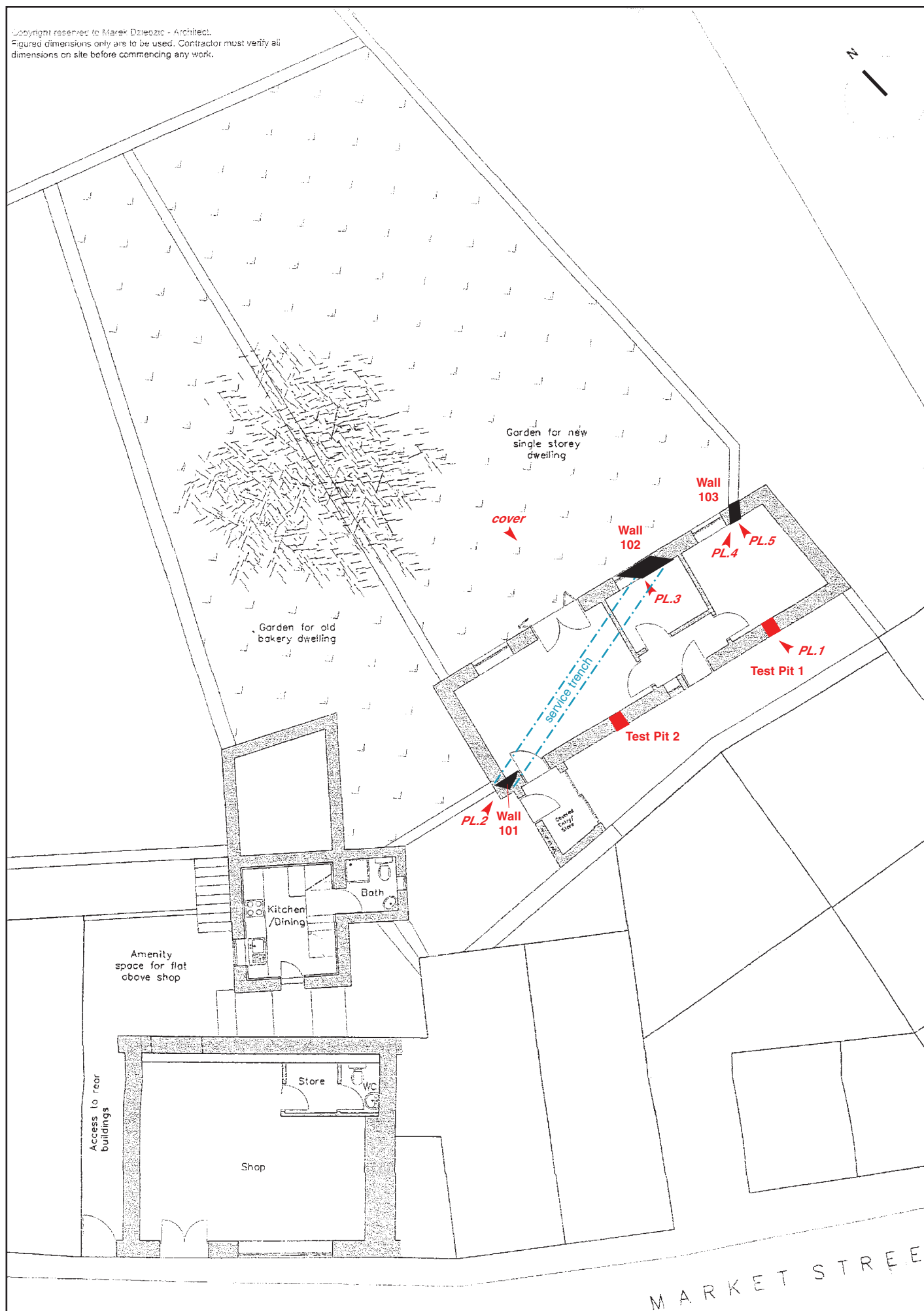


Fig.2 Plan showing study area in detail

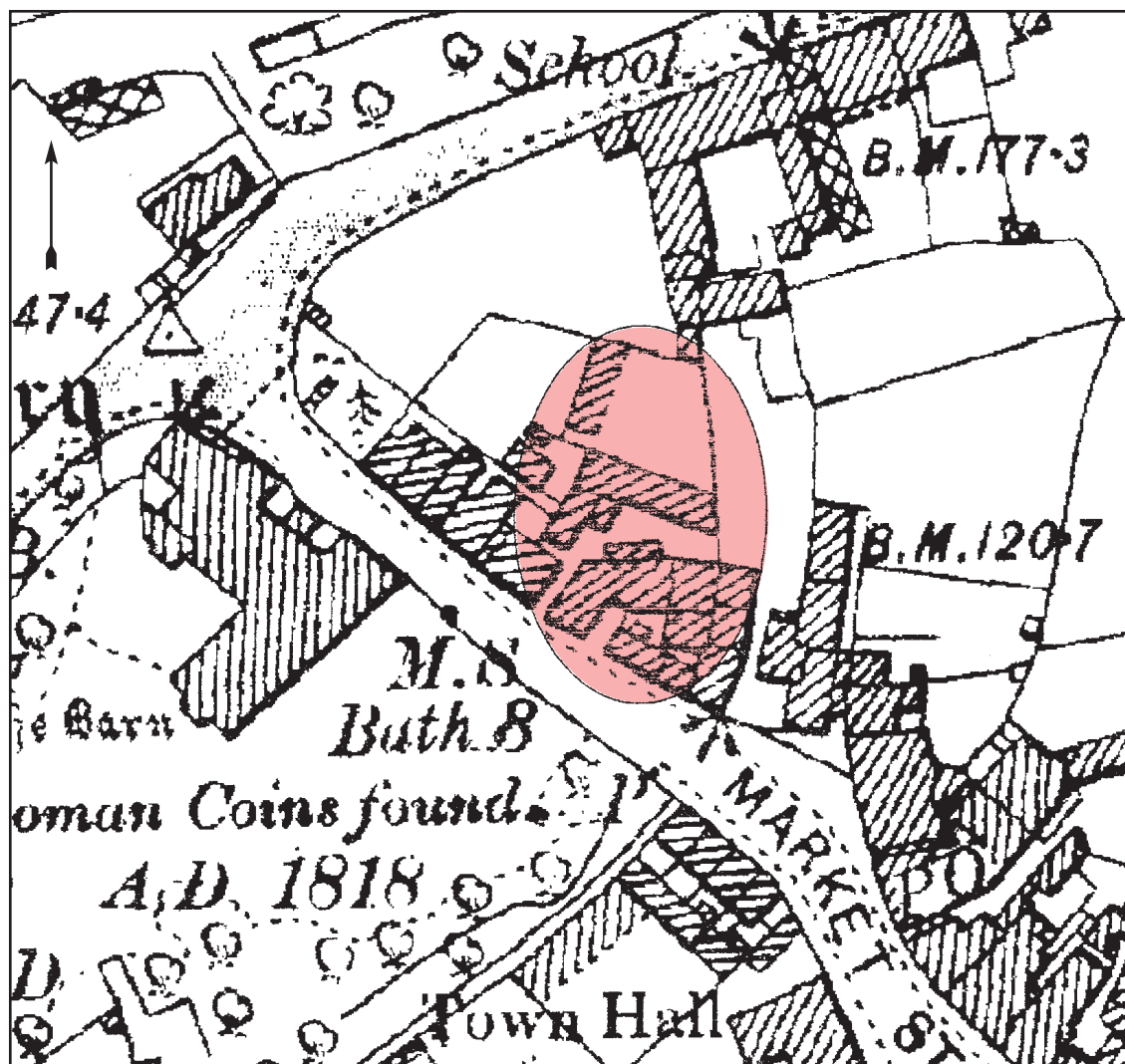


Fig.3 1901 Ordnance Survey plan, original scale 1:2500



Plate 1
View of test pit 1, looking north



Plate 2
Section through wall (101), looking east



Plate 3
Wall (102), looking north



Plate 4
View showing the above-ground
portion of wall (103), looking north-east



Plate 5
Detailed view of the below-ground
portion of wall (103), looking north