

WATCHING BRIEF  
AT THE BACHES, UPHAMPTON,  
OMBERSLEY,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

Paul Williams

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

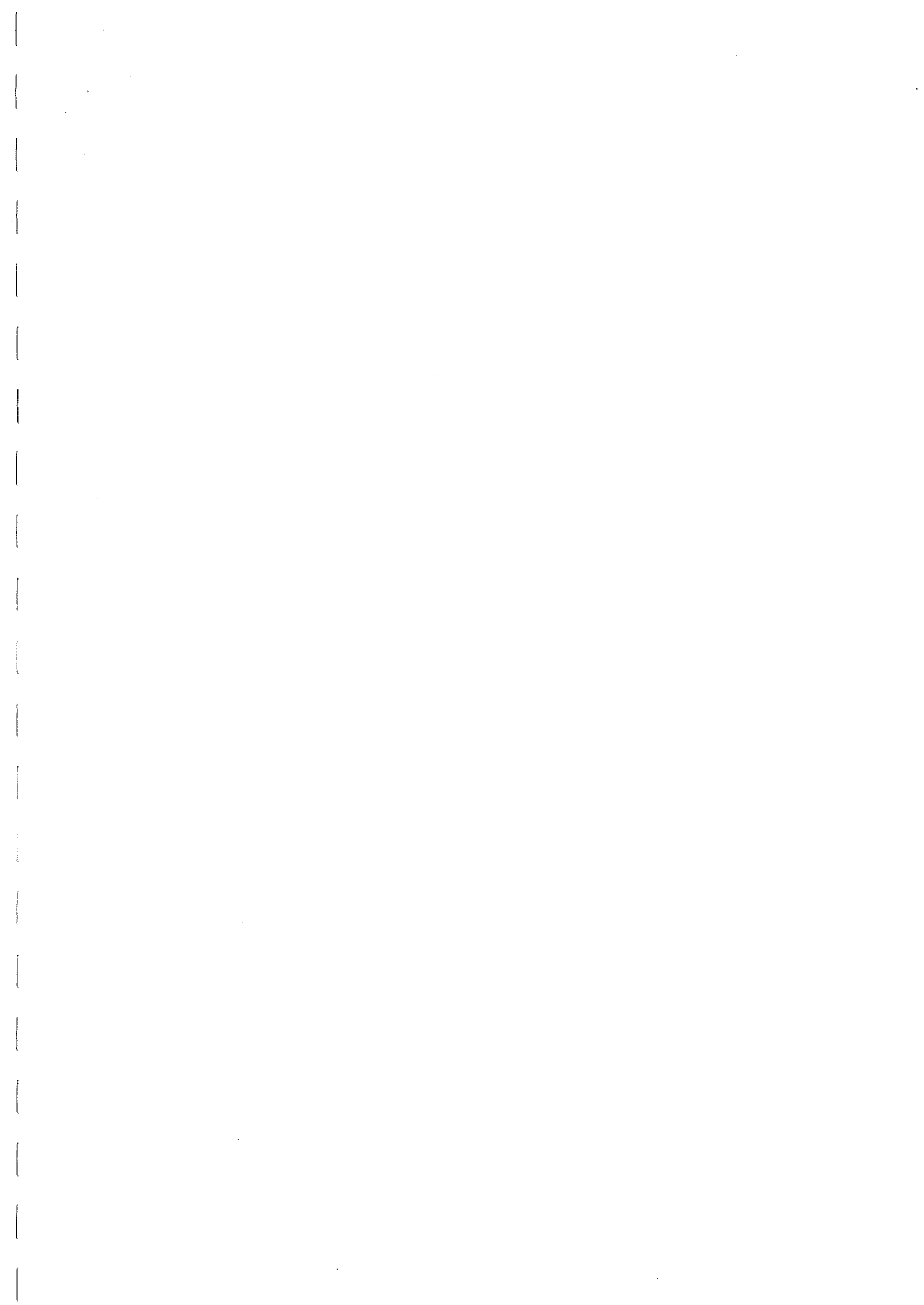
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Project P2260  
Report 1002  
WSM 31922



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## Watching brief at The Batches, Uphampton, Ombersley, Worcestershire

**Paul Williams**

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### Background information

<i>Client</i>	Mr D White
<i>Site address</i>	The Batches, Uphampton, Ombersley
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	SO 8361 6468
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 31922
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Wychavon District Council W/98/1113
<i>Brief</i>	AS 1998
<i>Project design</i>	AS 2002
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999

### *The archaeological context*

The Batches lies within the historic core of the village of Uphampton. Around 1km to the north-west of Ombersley. Uphampton has a high concentration of timber-framed buildings of which, The Batches is one. The house, the original part of which, probably dates to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, stands between the postulated sites of two earlier buildings. Documentary sources dating to 1466 refer to the presence of a building located by the SMR to less than 400m to the east (WSM 22581). Similar evidence suggests that a building at Pipstyle, less than 100m to the west, dates from around 1359 (WSM 12445). There are many other buildings within Uphampton listed on the SMR, notably a dovecote at Pipstyle Farm (WSM 12445); dovecote at Chapel Farm (WSM 12447) and a domestic building known as Linden Lea (WSM 20271). The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of Uphampton (Worcestershire sheet XXI SE, 1888) shows a smithy in the vicinity of The Batches, the later 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Worcestershire sheet XXI SE, 1905) shows the smithy to have gone by this time. There are large areas of surviving ridge and furrow agriculture to the north and north-east of Uphampton (WSM 23132; WSM 23134; WSM 23135) and similar ridge and furrow to the south (WSM 23133; WSM 23137), demonstrating the close link between the domestic and agrarian contexts upon which communities such as Uphampton were built.

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### Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits, and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type, as far as reasonably possible.

### Methods

General specification for watching brief	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR <i>Sources cited by the SMR</i> Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, 1888 Worcestershire sheet XXI SE (1:10000) Ordnance Survey 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition, 1905 Worcestershire sheet XXI SE (1:10000)

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Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1929  
 Worcestershire sheet XXI SE (1:10000)

Date(s) of fieldwork 16th July 2002  
 Area of deposits observed c 3m<sup>2</sup>. Indicated on Fig 2  
 Dimensions of excavated areas observed Foundations length 16m  
 width 1.00m  
 depth 1.10m

*Access to or visibility of deposits*

Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand in order to highlight changes in stratigraphy and emphasise any archaeological deposits.

*Statement of confidence*

Access to, and visibility of deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

**Deposit/structure description**

Context	Type Colour Texture	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth below ground level
100	Dark greyish-loam	Friable humic garden soil with occasional small rounded pebble	modern	Topsoil	c.0 - 0.12m
101	Greyish-brown sandy clay	Occasional charcoal fleck; moderate small round pebbles	18 <sup>th</sup> century	Subsoil	c.0.12 - 0.25
102	Orangy-brown clay	Occasional small round pebble		Undisturbed natural	c.0.25 - 0.90

**Discussion**

The Baches is of timber-frame construction beneath a clay tile roof. The majority of the building is likely to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with one bay added probably during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There has been extensive restoration work, especially at the eastern end.

The watching brief focused on observation of the foundation trenches for the new house extension at the eastern end of the present building.

The foundation trenches were excavated by mini-digger utilising a toothless bucket. The topsoil across the development area was around 0.12m thick, this contained pottery ranging from 19-20<sup>th</sup> century stone china to shards of 18<sup>th</sup> century creamware and black red glazed sandy ware. The underlying subsoil contained only 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery, notably including several large shards of one

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black red glazed sandy ware vessel (pers comm Derek Hurst), which had been discarded against the eastern gable end of the cottage.

There were no other significant archaeological features or deposits encountered during the watching brief.

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### Conclusions

The watching brief did not encounter any in-situ archaeological features. The subsoil contained ceramics dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, roughly contemporary with the extension of the cottage at the eastern end.

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### Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr D White at The Baches, Uphampton, Ombersley, Worcestershire (SO 8360 6470; WSM 31922). The results of the watching brief demonstrated that there were no significant archaeological deposits or features disturbed during the groundworks at the site.*

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### Archive

Fieldwork progress records AS2	1
Photographic records AS3	1
Colour transparency photographs	6
Boxes of finds	1
The project archive is intended to be placed at:	Worcestershire County Museum Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury Near Kidderminster Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
telephone	01299 250416

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### Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Mr and Mrs White of The Baches and the site contractors, Carolyn Hunt for preparation of the illustrations, Neil Lockett for conducting the SMR search, Derek Hurst for his comments on the finds and Simon Woodiwiss for editing this report.

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### Bibliography

AS 1998 *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at The Baches, Uphampton, Ombersley, Worcestershire*, Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 1998

AS 2002 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at The Baches, Uphampton, Ombersley, Worcestershire*, Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 10th July 2002, P2260

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report 399

IFA 1999 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

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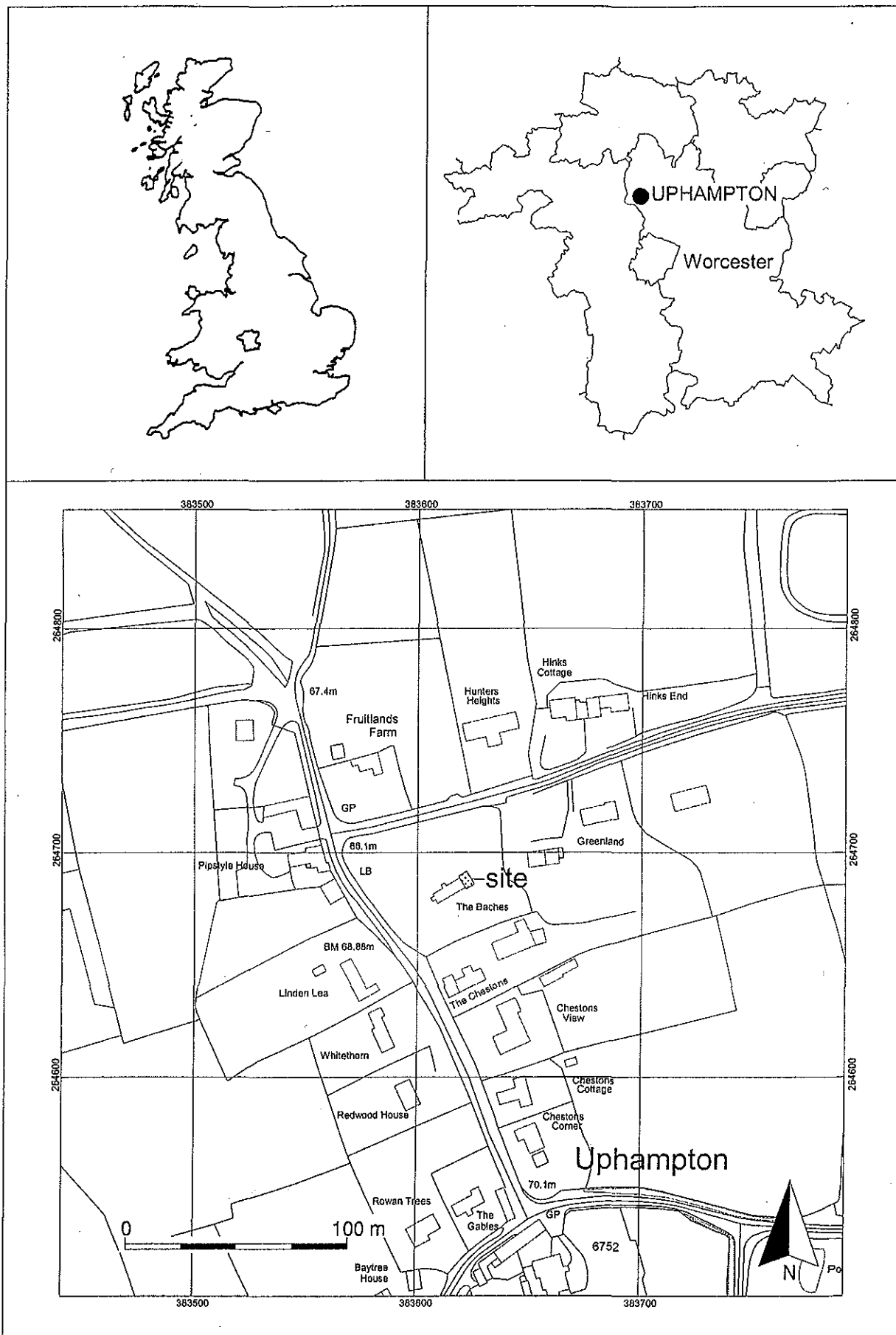


Figure 1: Location of Site

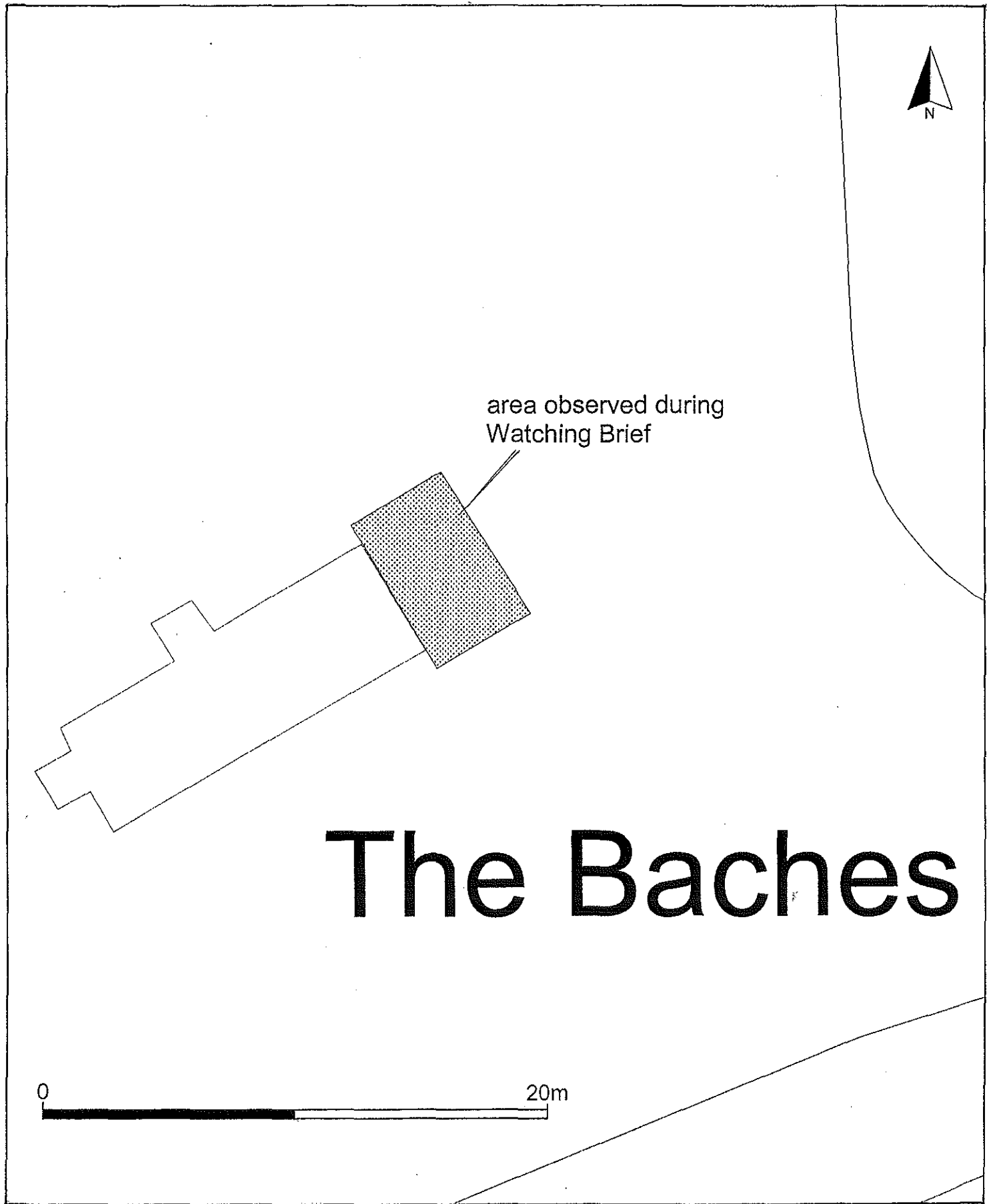


Figure 2: Plan of area observed during Watching Brief.

This map printed at Scale 1:200

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