



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
LYCHGATE HOUSE, MONGEWELL PARK,
MONGEWELL, OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SU 61098 87906

MAY 2018

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a single detached dwelling at Lychgate House, Mongewell Park, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 61098 87906). The watching brief was successful in recording the remains of Mongewell Rectory, a substantial post-medieval building. Archaeological evidence indicates that prior to the construction of the rectory the area was under cultivation, while finds of Romano British pottery from this cultivation soil suggest activity nearby. No medieval remains were identified, suggesting that the medieval rectory was located elsewhere, however three pieces of worked stone likely to date to the 12th to 14th centuries may have come from this building. The post-medieval rectory was built in the mid to late 17th century. The structure appears to have been almost entirely rebuilt in the 1770s under the direction of Dr Robert Price, the rector at the time. In the mid to late 19th century the house saw further additions to the south east before being demolished in the mid-20th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site lies on the northern edge of Mongewell (NGR SU 61098 87906) within the present garden of Lychgate House. The underlying geology is the junction of First (Floodplain) Gravel Terrace with Lower Chalk and the site is situated at c. 50m aOD.

1.2 Planning Background

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) granted planning permission for **detached dwelling with detached carport / garage (As amended by drawings 1098-1A and Certificate B altering the position of the access accompanying e-mail from the agent received 9 March 2017 and amplified by Arboricultural Method Statement April 2017 received on 20 April 2017)**. Due to the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains the following conditions were attached:

The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological watching brief, to be maintained during the period of construction/during any ground works taking place on the site. The watching brief shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To secure the protection of and proper provision for any archaeological remains in accordance with Policy CSEN3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy 2027 and Policies CON11 and CON13 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

8. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 7, no development shall commence on site without the appointed archaeologist being present. Once the watching brief has been completed its findings shall be reported to the Local Planning Authority, as agreed in the Written Scheme of Investigation, including all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication

Reason: To enable an appropriate level of archaeological investigation of the area including excavation and recording, post excavation analysis and the publication of results in accordance with Policy CSEN3 of the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy 2027 and Policies CON11 and CON13 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The proposed building concerned lies within an area of some archaeological interest located 200m NW of the deserted medieval village of Mongewell (PRN 1089). The site is also located 150m south of Grim's Ditch, an ancient trackway, of probable Iron Age date (PRN 16523). Neolithic and Saxon settlement evidence has been recorded 250m west of the application site (PRN 16940) along with a Saxon sunken featured building (PRN 16939). The development site is on the site of Mongewell Rectory. This building is seen on OS County Series maps and was demolished in the mid-20th century. Historic documents suggest that this building dated to at least the late 18th century, and replaced an older building on the same site.

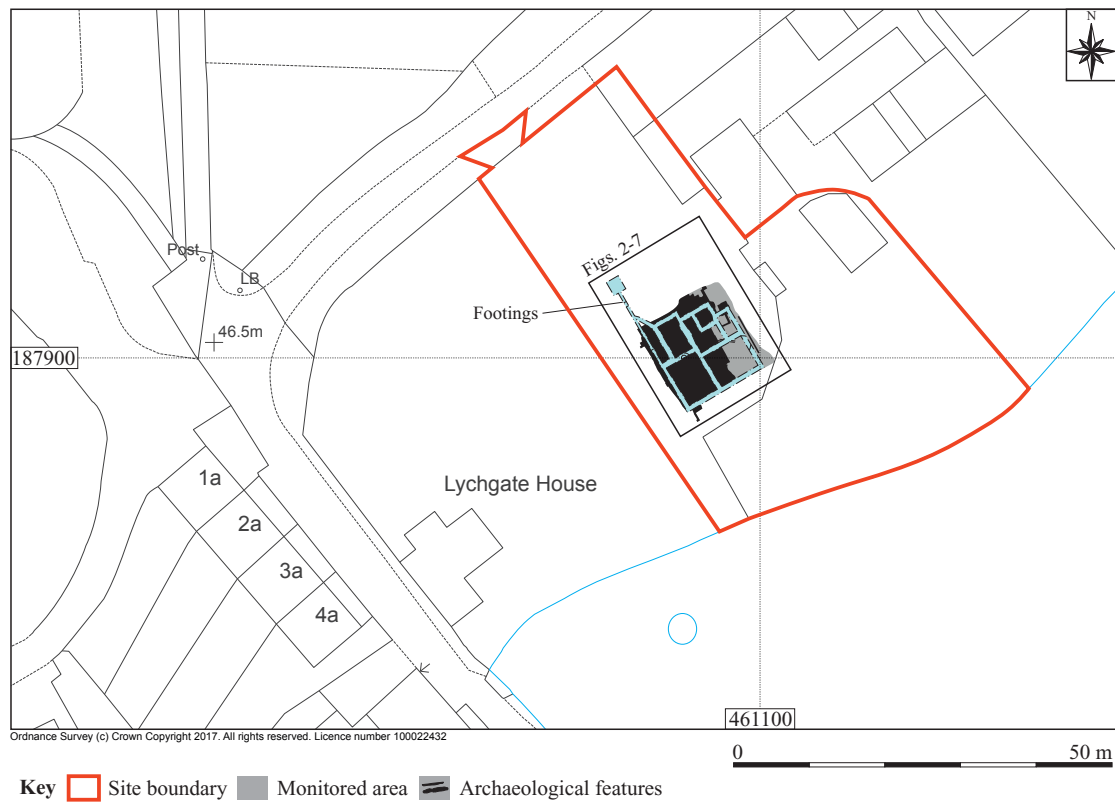
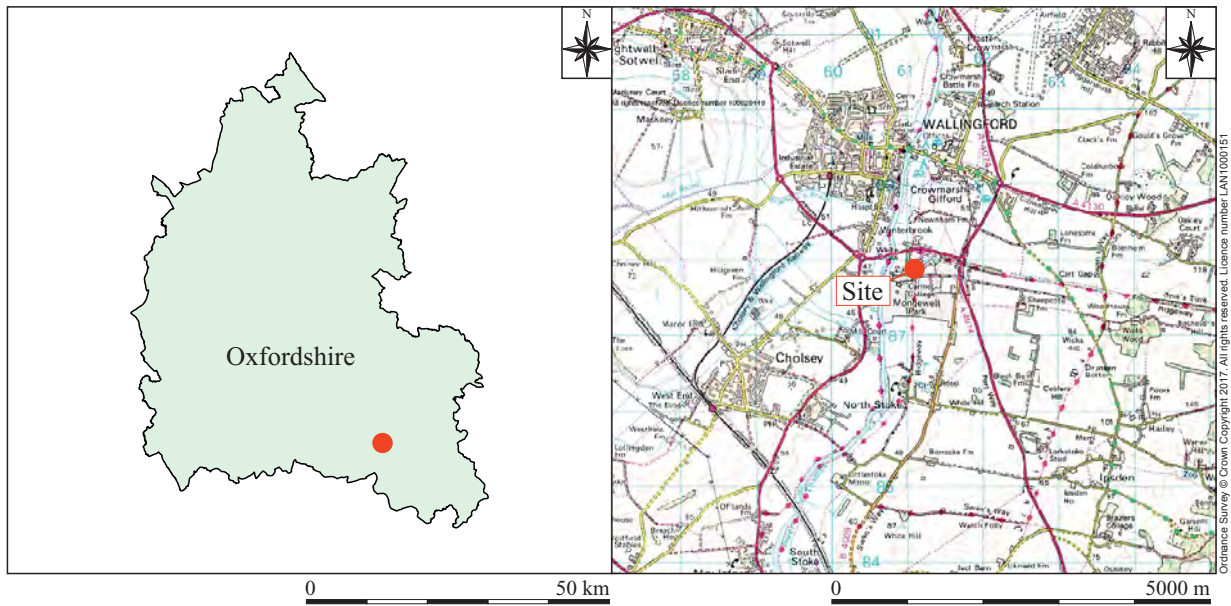


Figure 1: Site location

The application site has been disturbed by recent development, however archaeological features and deposits related to these periods were considered still to survive on the site and could be disturbed by this development. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken 100m north west of the site which recorded a number of medieval and post medieval features.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.
- This will include for any prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval remains to add to the known local landscapes of these periods.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Team (OHET), the archaeological advisors to the South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

An archaeologist was present on site during the course of any significant groundwork that had the potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains. This was for excavation for ground reduction of the new build and the excavations for new foundations, services and access.

Initial groundwork comprised topsoil removal and ground reduction over an area of 140m². Upon removal of the topsoil extensive remains of the former rectory were encountered. In accordance with section 3.6 of the WSI the advice of the OHET was sought in order to develop the most suitable methodology for mitigating the archaeological impact to the remains. It was agreed with the OHET that prior to any further machine excavation the remains of the rectory would be cleaned by hand; this would be followed by targeted hand excavation. Richard Oram of the OHET conducted two site visits on the 28/12/17 and 05/01/18.

Following approval from the OHET the footings trenches were excavated. These varied in width from 0.65m to 1.0m and depth from 1.0m to 1.5m.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned and metal detected for artefacts

4 RESULTS

Through excavation of targeted interventions and subsequent excavation of the footings trenches a series of phases have been identified. Although a general lack of dateable material limits the construction of detailed chronological phasing, a relative sequence of phases can be established based on the available stratigraphic evidence. Where possible the results are discussed in chronological order.

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

Natural Geology

The lowest deposit encountered was a firm light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent fine sandy gravel (84); this was interpreted as the First Terrace gravel and was seen throughout the footings trenches.

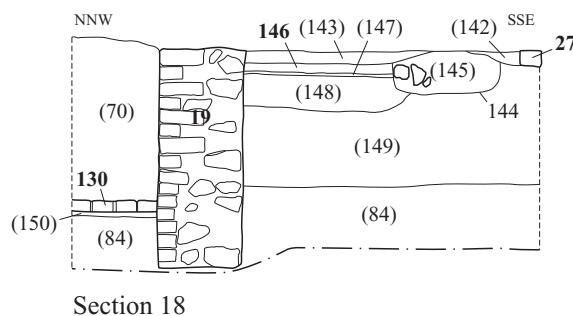
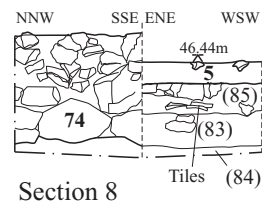
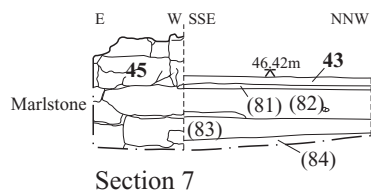
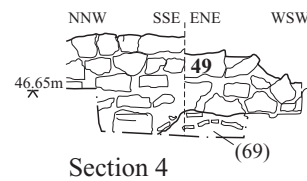
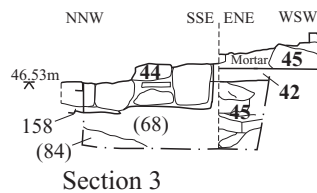
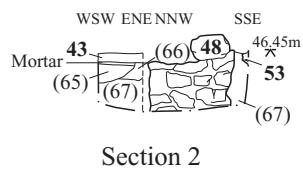
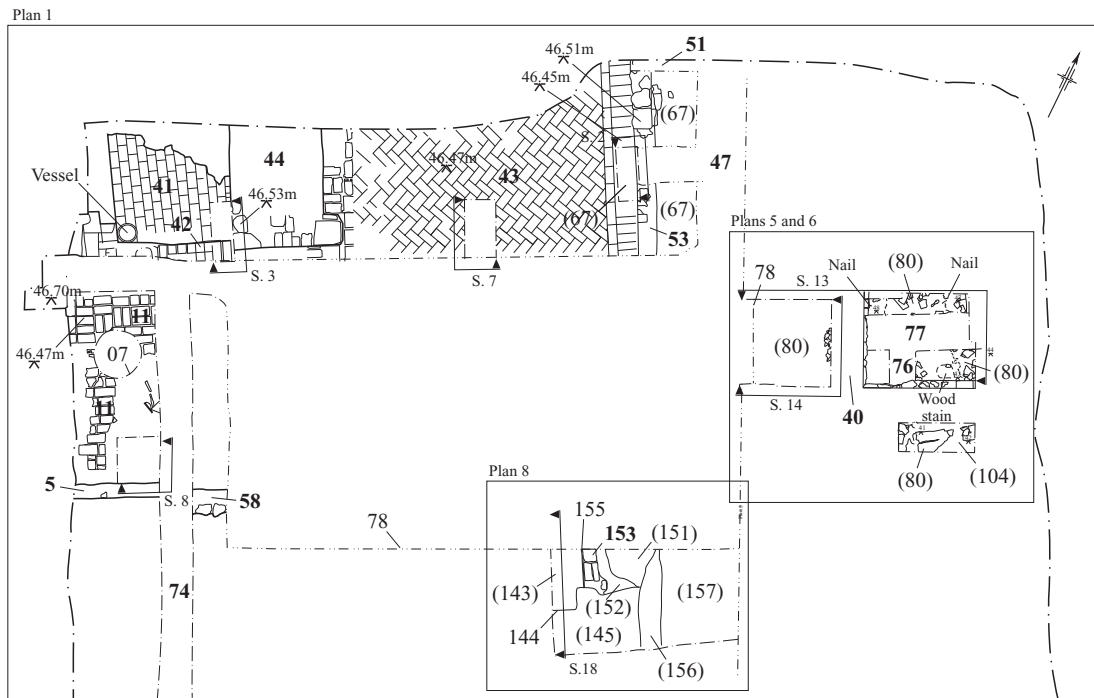
Cultivation soil – Pre 17th century (Figures 2, 4, 5, 6)

Throughout the site the geological horizon was overlain by a layer of remnant cultivation soil. This was a soft dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional stone (chalk and marl) inclusions under 50mm in size (64) (also recorded as (67), (68), (83), (92), (103), (113), (141) and (149)). The thickness of this layer increased from north to south; from 0.15m at its most northerly point to 0.4m (Fig 2; Sections 3, 7). A range of post-medieval pottery was recovered from this layer, providing a *terminus post quem* of mid-17th century. A single residual sherd of Romano-British greyware and a single sherd of Medieval Brill-Boarstall ware were also recovered.

Building Phase 1 – Mid to late 17th century (Figures 2, 3; Appendix 1, Table 7)

Cultivation soil (64) was truncated by a series of deposits and structures associated with the construction and occupation of Mongewell Rectory. The earliest phase of the building, as seen within the area of excavation, was predominantly encountered along the north western limit of excavation, with some smaller areas of survival elsewhere.

The easterly limit of the first phase was defined by wall **53**; this was built of roughly hewn marlstone and sandstone blocks. **53** was 2.6m in length and 0.26m in width, extending beyond the limit of excavation (l.o.e.) to the north and truncated by cellar construction cut 78 to the south. The wall was also truncated along its length by Phase 3 fireplace foundations **48** and **51**. A brick floor, **43**, and associated bedding surfaces



Key	
Truncation:
Limit of excavation:	-----



Figure 2: Composite plan of phase 1 with associated sections

extended west from this wall. Overlying cultivation soil (64)/(67)/(83) was bedding layer (65) (also recorded as 82), a firm light grey silty clay 0.1m to 0.15m in thickness; this was overlain by (81) a compact mid yellowish grey mortar (Fig. 2: Sections 2 & 7 & Fig. 3). Floor **43** was 4.1m in length, >2.1m in width and was built from red brick set in a herringbone pattern; the eastern and western edges of the floor were defined by a string and soldier course. To the south the floor was truncated by cellar construction cut 78.

Like wall **53** the floor extended beyond the l.o.e to the north and was truncated by construction cut 78 to the south. The floor butted fireplace and chimney breast **44** at its western end. This structure measured >1.4m in length and 1.4m in width, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north; it was of mixed brick and stone construction, built within construction cut 158 that truncated cultivation soil (64) (Fig. 2: Section 3). The sandstone and chalk was roughly squared and set in random courses with occasional bricks also present. A small amount of plaster (128) survived on the outside faces to a thickness of 5mm. The hearth faced outwards towards floor **43**, its position evident due to the presence of heat-affected bricks. This suggests that wall **53** and fireplace **44** formed the eastern and western boundaries of a room.

To the west of fireplace **44** were brick floors **41**, **42** and **11**. These floors appeared to belong to a separate room than that of floor **43** that was demarcated by the difference in brick bond and location to the west of the fireplace. Floor **41** was located immediately behind fireplace **44**; this floor measured >1.5m in length and 1.5m in width; it was bedded on a compact light yellowish grey mortar (164) which overlay a levelling/bedding deposit of firm light grey silty clay 0.1m in thickness (165). The bricks were set in a stretcher bond and an earthenware vessel with a diameter of 220mm and a depth of 250mm had been set into the south western corner of the floor, with the rim of the vessel set at floor level (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Earthenware vessel set into floor 41. 0.5m scale.

Floor **42** formed the southern and western boundary of **41**; this floor was set one course of bricks higher, creating an area of raised flooring that extended to the south-west, measuring 3.4m in length by >1.2m in width. The floor was also built from brick, set in a basket weave bond and bedded on a light yellowish grey mortar which overlay (69) a soft dark greyish brown silty clay. This floor ran south under later wall **13** where it was recorded as **11**. To the south the floor was heavily truncated, although bedding layer (69) remained, where it was recorded as (85). This deposit was bounded by wall **5**, aligned north east- south west and built of roughly hewn chalk and flint blocks that survived to a depth of one course (Fig. 2: Section 8). This wall ran for >1.2m, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the west and truncated by later wall **74** to the east. Wall **5** appeared to continue to the east of **74** where it was recorded as **58**. Only a small segment survived, truncated to the east by construction cut 78 and to the west by wall **74**. This wall was also built of roughly hewn chalk blocks and shared the same alignment.

A small area of this earlier phase was also present to the south east (Figure 2: Section 18). Wall **153** was built from roughly hewn chalk blocks, measuring 0.5m in length by 0.26m in width and aligned north west - south east. Floor **146** (overlain by 143 on Fig. 2, plan 1) was bedded on (147) a compact mid grey sandy silt, which overlay (148) a compact mid brownish grey silty clay levelling deposit. This deposit overlay cultivation soil (64). The floor shared the same herringbone bond as **43**. **153** and **146** were truncated to the north by cellar construction cut 78; to the south **153** was truncated by robber cut 144. From the position of this cut it was evident that the wall had turned 90° west, running 1.2m before being truncated by later wall **23**.

It is likely that a wooden floor (80), located to the east of wall **53** was also part of the earliest phase (Fig 2, Fig 4: Sections 13, 14). Although no direct relationship between this floor and the other structures of this phase was evident, the position of the floor within the stratigraphic sequence suggests it is contemporary. Floor (80) was laid directly onto cultivation soil (64). This layer was seen as a soft dark blackish brown loam with moderate areas of organic material interpreted as part-decayed wood; within the layer were a number of corroded iron nails, and the grain of the wood was visible in places. The floor measured >3.5m in length by >3.0m in width and had a thickness of 10mm; it extended beyond the l.o.e. to the north and east was truncated to the west by cellar construction cut 78.

Building Phase 2 – Late 17th to early 18th century (Figure 4; Appendix 1, Table 8)

Wooden floor (80) was capped by deposit (112), a compact mid grey clayey silt with frequent chalk and tile fragments, 0.11m in thickness (Fig. 4: Section 13). This was overlain by garden soil (108), a soft mid brownish grey silty clay 0.21m in thickness. Cut into this deposit were walls **76** and **77**, built of roughly hewn chalk. **77** was >2.8m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.3m in depth; the wall was built from un-coursed roughly hewn chalk blocks measuring 200mm x 100mm x 80mm. At its western end this wall was truncated by cellar construction cut 78, and part way through its length was truncated by the construction cut for wall **40**. The low quality of this wall suggests it may have been the foundation for an external wall such as a garden wall, rather than a load bearing wall. Wall **76** butted the southern side of **77**; this wall was J-shaped in plan, measuring 2.2m by 1.6m by 0.4m in length, 0.2m in width and 0.4m in depth. Construction was of roughly hewn chalk set in random courses. These were

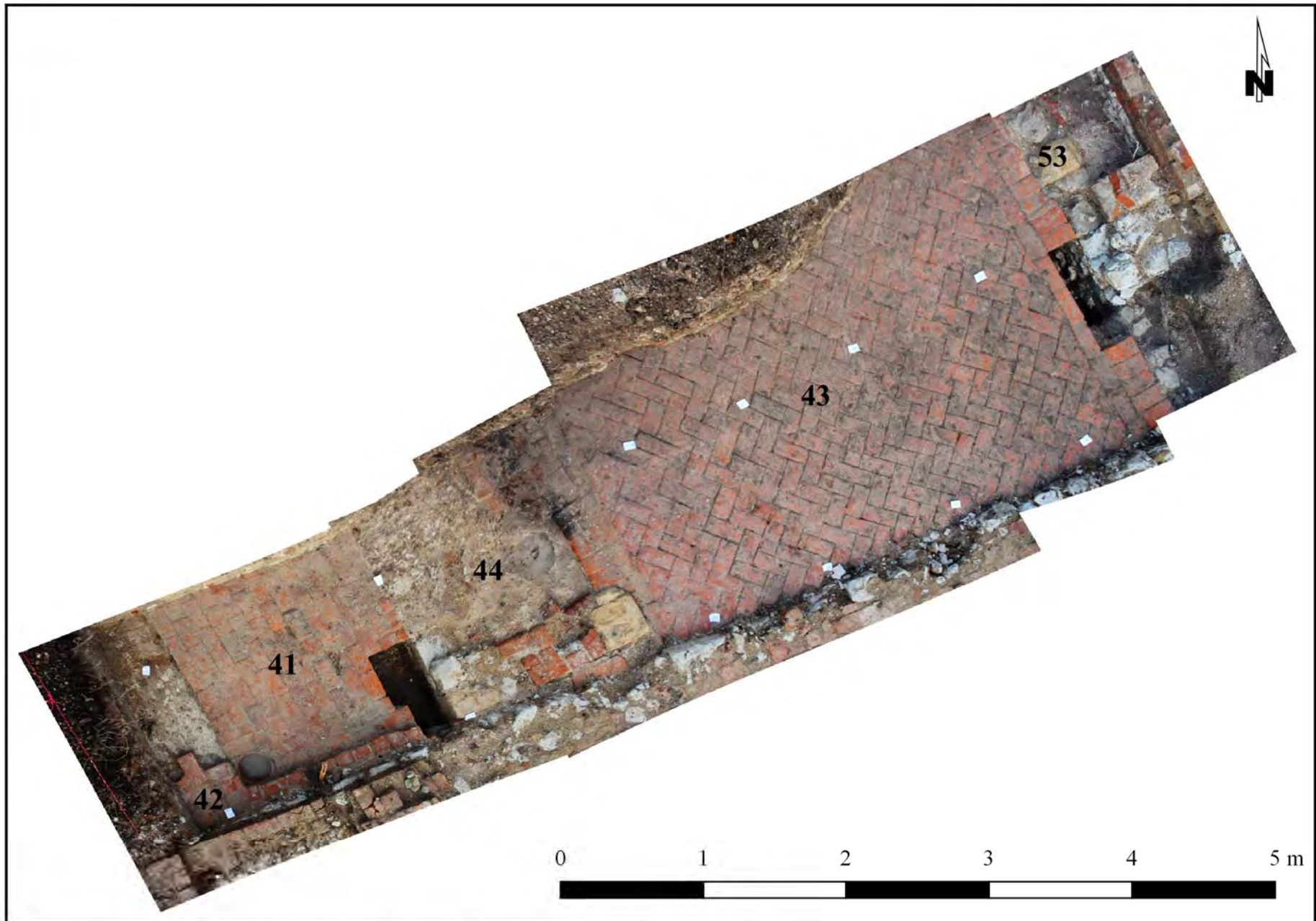


Figure 3: Floors and hearth associated with phase 1.

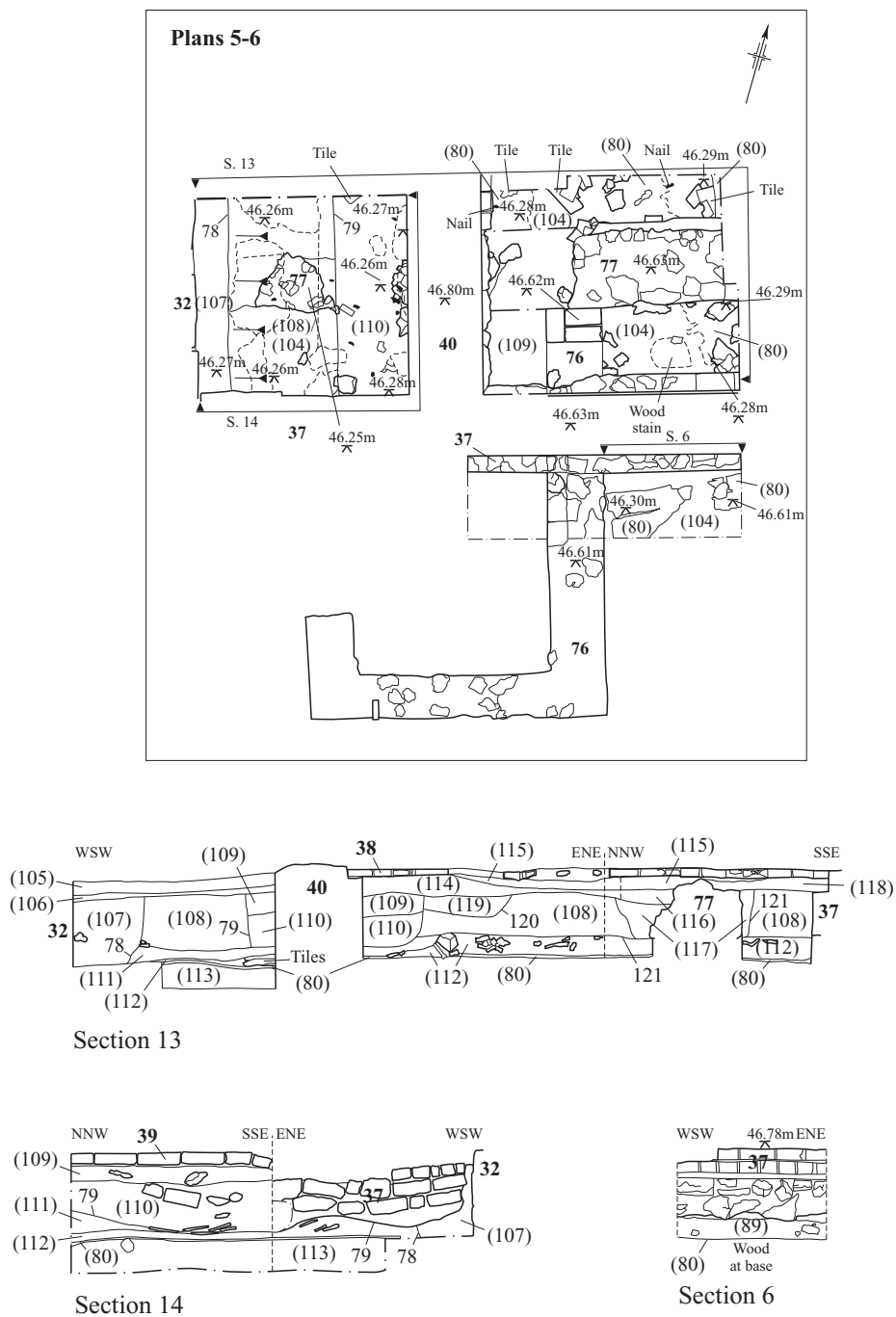


Figure 4: Phase 2: Composite of plans 5 and 6, with associated sections.

bonded with a light brownish yellow mortar. These walls were truncated by the construction cuts for later walls **37** and **40**, and overlain by a series of bedding and levelling layers associated with tile floors **38** and **39** (Fig. 4: Section 13).

Building Phase 3 – Mid 18th century (Figures 5, 6; Appendix 1, Table 9)

This represents the next major phase of development and shows a clear break from the first phase, which appears not to have been incorporated at all. This phase comprised a north west – south east wing to the west and a north east – south west wing to the north. In places these walls were built directly onto the earlier floors, while elsewhere they truncated them.

The north west –south east wing of this new phase comprised a series of chalk built walls: wall **74** formed the main longitudinal wall; this ran for 5.5m and was built from roughly hewn chalk set in random courses (Fig. 5). At its southern end wall **74** was keyed into walls **75** and **50** which ran in a north east – south west direction for 2.0m, extending beyond the l.o.e. in both directions and apparently forming the southern limit of the wing (Fig. 5: Section 12) The extent of **75** is not known; an intervention was excavated along the projected line of this wall 4m to the east but the wall was not recorded, perhaps indicating that it had been removed during a later phase of construction or had turned to run north east – south west before this point.



Plate 2: Floor **11** overlain by wall foundations **13** and **74**.

Wall **49**, located against the western l.o.e., was keyed into **50**. The form of this wall suggests that it may represent the eastern wing of a fireplace foundation. At its northern end wall **74** was keyed into wall **13**, a chalk wall that formed the northern limit of the wing (Plate 2). The upper surviving course of this wall was built from brick. **13** extended beyond the l.o.e. to the west, while to the east it was keyed into wall **45**, the northern wall of a brick and chalk built cellar that extended to the east. This cellar was built within construction cut **78**. This cut extended beyond and below

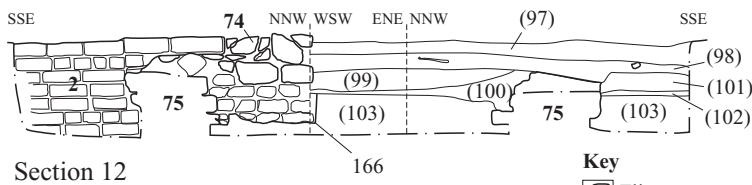
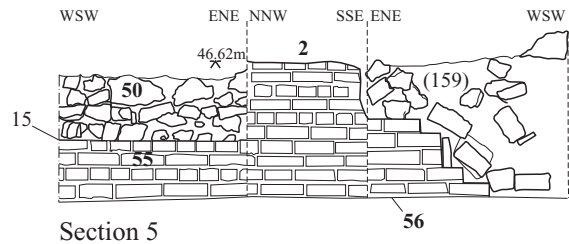
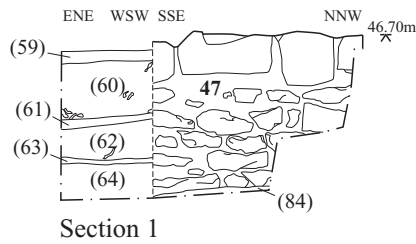
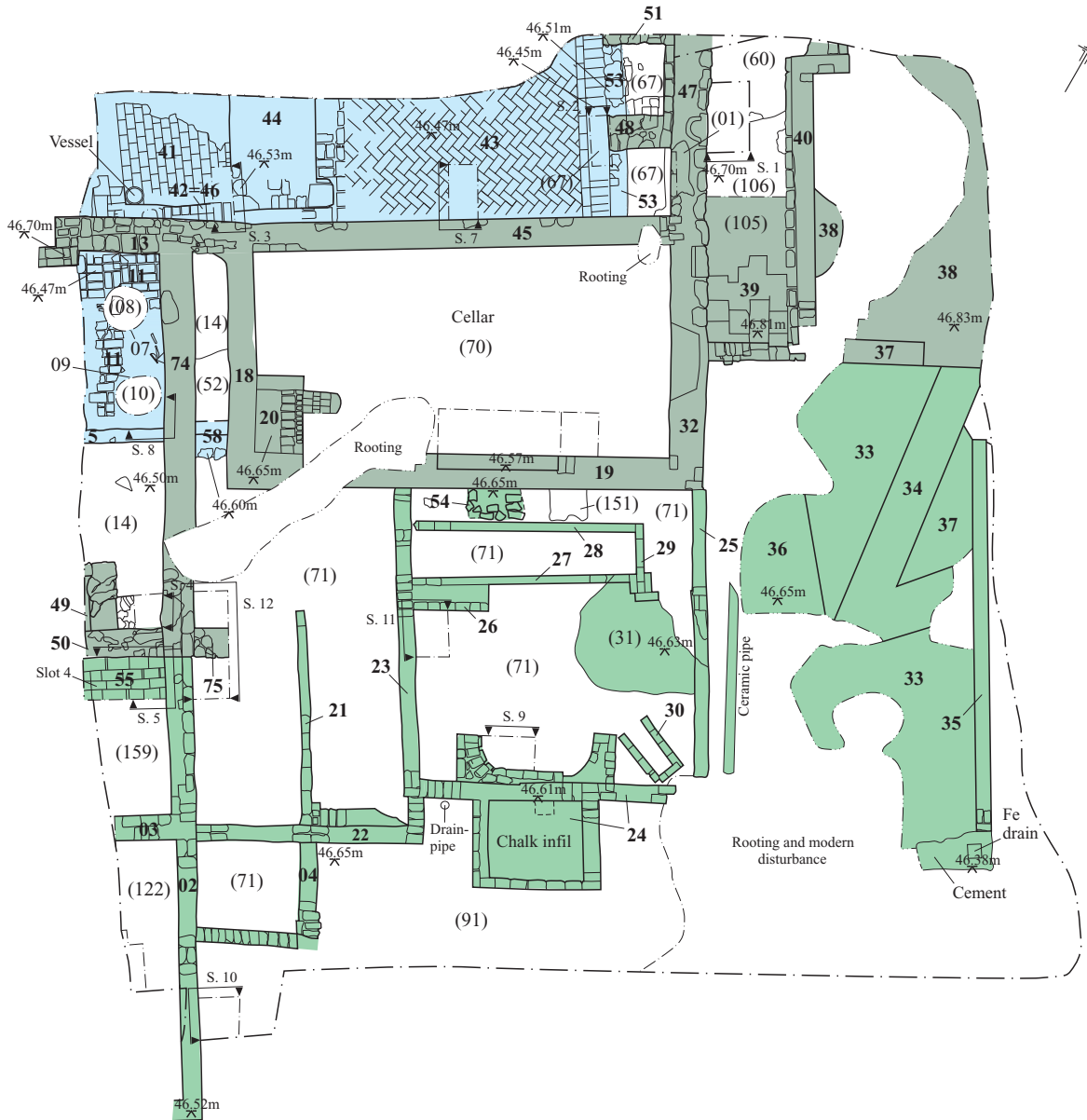
the l.o.e., but was likely to extend 6.7m in length, 3.5m in width and 1.2m in depth, aligned with the position of the cellar walls. This cut truncated floors **41**, **43** and **46** and walls **77**, **53**, **58** and **153** (Fig. 2). The cellar itself comprised walls **18**, **19**, **32** and **45** and measured 6.7m by 3.5m and 1.2m in depth. The walls were faced in brick, surviving to 15 courses, and set in a stretcher bond; the outer face of the walls was randomly laid chalk rubble and the bonding material throughout was a light yellowish brown mortar (Plate 3). The internal faces of the cellar were whitewashed. Located in the south western corner was what appeared to form a staircase **20** leading into the cellar. This was also of brick, 0.8m in width; the core of the staircase was packed with chalk rubble. A possible light well or access point was seen in the eastern wall, surviving to a height of 1 course; this measured 1.1m on the interior face, narrowing to 0.8m on the external. Floor **130**, located at the base of the cellar, was also built of brick, set in a stretcher bond and is presumed to have extended to the full length and width of the cellar (this feature was recorded during footings trench excavation: plate 4). The brick surface was bedded on (150) a compact light brownish yellow sandy silt measuring 15mm in thickness; this in turn overlay natural (84) (Fig. 2: Section 18).

Extending north from the eastern wall of the cellar was **47**. This wall ran for 2.5m, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north, was 0.5m in width and had a depth of 0.8m. A single course of sandstone blocks survived on the eastern face, below which the wall comprised roughly hewn chalk set in semi-regular courses (Figure 5: Section 1). This indicates that this was a substantial stone faced wall. Three pieces of re-used worked stone were seen in this wall. Projecting at 90° from the internal face of this wall were two short chalk walls, **48** and **51**; these both measured 0.6m in length and were interpreted as the foundations of a fireplace.

Wall **161** was recorded during excavation of drainage trenches to the north west of the main area of excavation (Fig. 6: Section 20; Fig 7). This was >0.45m in length, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north east and south west, 0.6m in width and >0.25m in depth, extending below the l.o.e. A garden soil layer, (160) was present to the north west. This was a soft dark greyish brown clayey silt, possibly the same as (64). Levelling deposit (52) was present to the south east. The form and location of this wall indicates that it was the external northern wall of the building, and was likely constructed during phase 3.

Floors **41**, **42**, **43**, **146** and fireplace **44** of phase 1 were overlain by chalky clay deposits (6), (52) and (143); these deposits comprised firm light grey silty clay with frequent chalk and plaster fragments and had a thickness of 0.1-0.25m. It is likely that these deposits formed a bedding layer for a floor that was removed during demolition in the early 20th century (phase 5). Wall **153**, located to the south of cellar cut 78 (Fig. 2), was truncated by robber cut 144 over a length of 1.2m. This cut was 0.8m in width and 0.22m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base; it was filled by (145) a firm mid brownish grey silty clay.

Two smaller rooms were located east of wall **47**; these rooms formed the most easterly part of the building seen within the area of excavation. Wall **40** ran parallel to **47** for a length of 4.1m, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north west; to the south this wall was keyed into **37**, which ran north east for 2.3m to the l.o.e. These walls had chalk foundations, with brick uppers that survived to one course. They were built within a construction cut, 79, that had truncated earlier walls **76** and **77** (Fig. 4: Sections 13, 14). This cut was 1.0m in width, 0.3m in depth and was filled by a soft



Key Phase 1 Phase 3 Phase 4

Key Flint

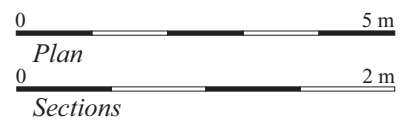


Figure 5: Overall plan, showing phases 1, 3 and 4 with associated sections
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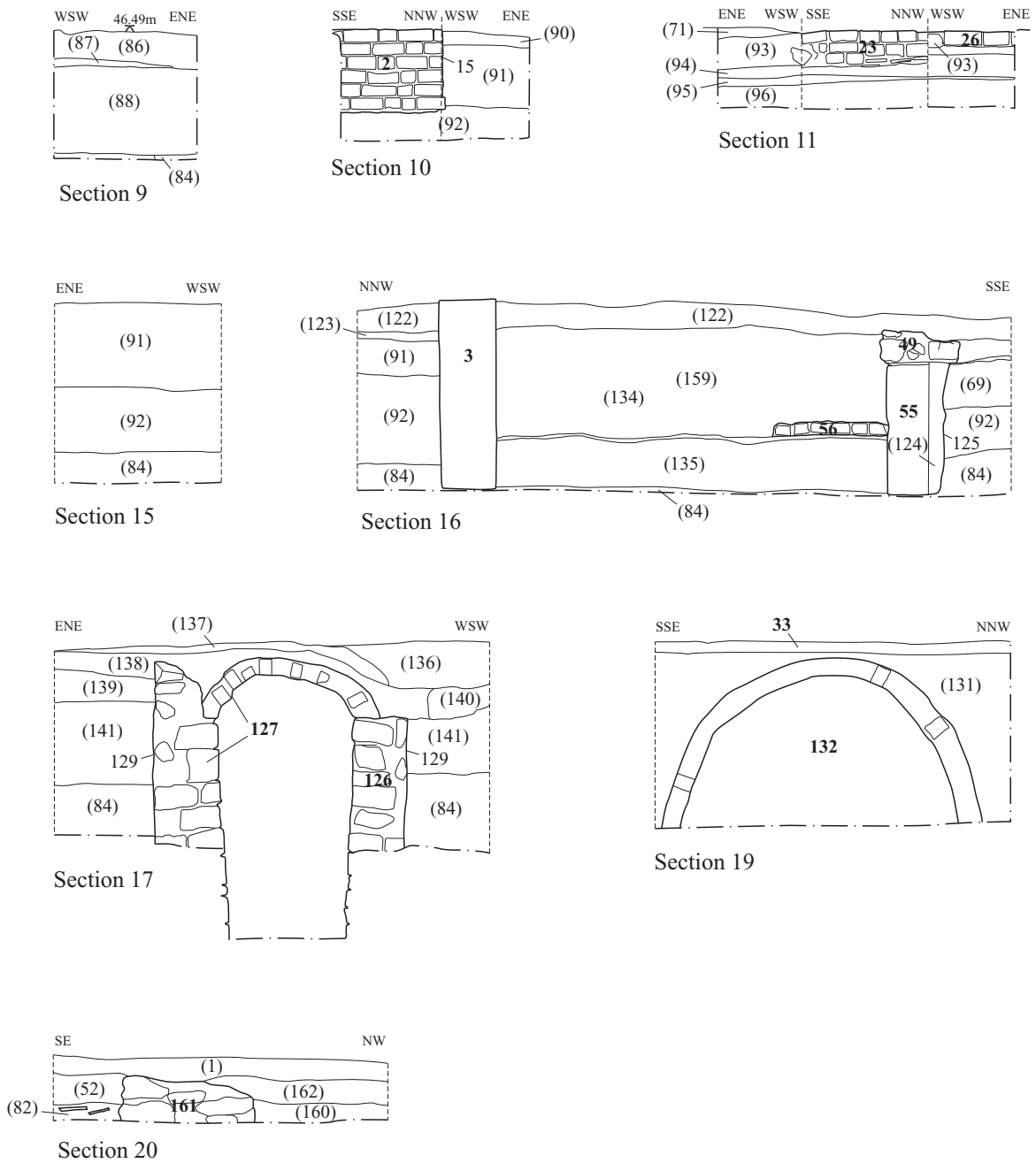


Figure 6: Sections associated with phases 3 and 4.
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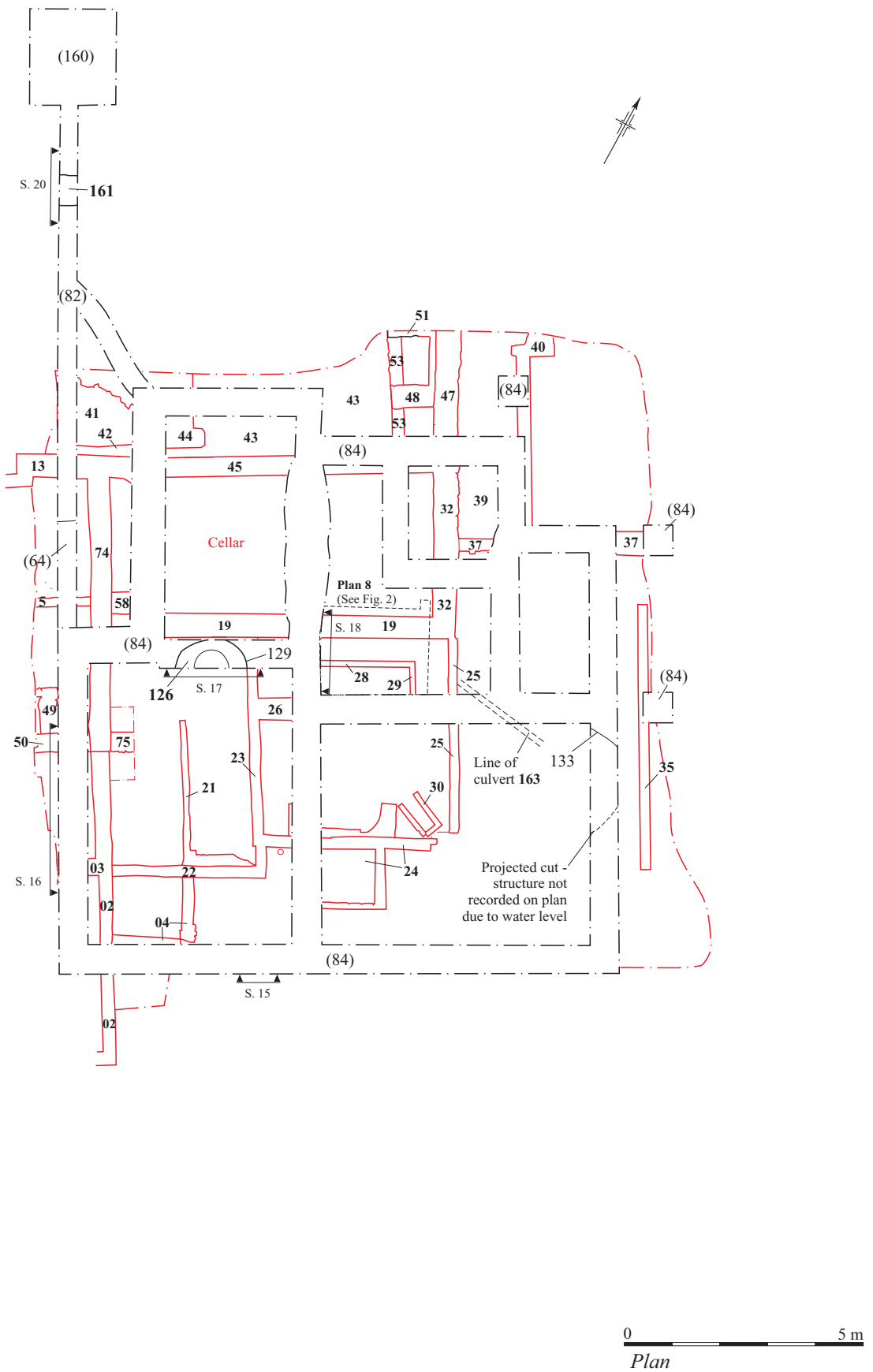


Figure 7: Footings, drainage trench and post pads.



Plate 3: Southern cellar wall, showing whitewashed brick.



Plate 4: Cellar floor seen during excavation of footings trench.

mid brown sandy silt (110) that was overlain by a friable mid brownish-yellow sandy gravel (109).

Associated with the walls were two tile floors. Floor **39** was located between walls **40** and **47**; the floor was heavily truncated, only surviving for a length of 1.5m and a width of 1.1m. Bedding layer (106) was present underneath the floor: this deposit was a compact mid brownish grey silty clay with a thickness of 0.04m (Fig. 4: Section 13).

This floor butted a later cobbled surface to the south. The spacing of walls **40** and **47** suggest that this area formed a passageway between rooms. Tile floor **38** was located to the east of wall **40**; this survived for a length of >4.8m and a width of >2.5m, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north and east. Like **39** this floor sat on a sequence of levelling and bedding deposits (Fig. 4: Section 13): (116) was the lowest of these, overlying fill (109) of construction cut 79. This deposit was a soft mid greyish brown silty clay with a thickness of 0.12m; this was overlain by (115), a compact mid greyish white chalky silt with frequent crushed chalk, 0.06m thick. The last in the sequence was (114), a firm mid brownish grey silty clay 0.1m in thickness. A single sherd of Creamware was recovered from this deposit, providing a mid-18th century date.

Pre-Phase 4

A chalk built well, **126**, belongs to this phase (Plate 5). Due to the lack of stratigraphic relationships between the well and earlier phases of development, at best the well can be said to pre-date phase 4, and to post-date cultivation soil (64). Well **126** was built within construction cut 129 that truncated garden soil (64) – here recorded as (141). Within the trench **126** measured 1.5m in diameter, with an internal diameter of 0.95m, and >1.6m in depth, extending below the l.o.e (Fig. 6: Section 17; Fig. 7). It was built from squared chalk blocks measuring 300mm x 250mm x 200mm (average). The faces of these blocks had been carved to be slightly concave and they were set in random courses.



Plate 5: Chalk well **126**, seen during excavation of footings trench. Brick capping associated with Phase 4 is also evident.

A garden soil layer (139) had accumulated or was deposited against the well; this was a soft mid grey silty clay 0.2m in thickness. Bedding layers associated with phase 4 overlay this deposit. Layer (139) was similar to garden soil (91) recorded further to the south. This was a soft mid grey clayey silt, 0.38m in thickness; this also overlay

(64) and was overlain by features associated with phase 4. These garden soils may have accumulated during Phase 3.

The position of this well suggests that it may have been within in a kitchen or yard associated with phase 3, as it was located in the area defined by cellar wall **18** and wall **75**, which is presumed to mark the southern extent of the house during this phase.

Building Phase 4 – Late 18th or early 19th century (Figure 5; Appendix 1, Table 10)

The last phase of addition to the building saw the extension of the house to the south, represented by a series of brick built walls. This phase was distinct archaeologically due to the predominance of brick in construction and the similarity of the mortar used throughout (and its difference relative to that used previously).

Prior to the construction of this phase, wall **75**, which extended east from the southern end of **74**, was demolished to a height of three courses. A mortar rich deposit that presumably represented this demolition was recorded as (100); this deposit was friable light yellowish brown silty sand, 0.22m in thickness where it butted the wall, thinning to 0.02m to the north (Fig. 5: Section 12). The upper courses of well **126** were also demolished, presumably at the same time as wall **74**; a domed brick capping, recorded as **127** was built to cover the well (Fig. 6: Section 17). In section **127** measured 1.1m in length by 0.4m in depth; the bricks were randomly bonded in order to form a domed cap. This capping was overlain by (138) a firm mid grey clayey silt measuring 0.3m in thickness. This deposit was recorded for a length of 3.5m and a width of >0.7m. Butting (138) to the west was (140) a friable light yellowish grey sand 0.2m in thickness, >0.7m in length by >0.6m in width and extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north, west and south. (138) was overlain by (137) a compact mid reddish brown sandy silt 2.0m in length by >0.7m in width and with a thickness of 0.1m.

Three distinct rooms were visible in plan. The largest, measuring approximately 4m x 4m was located directly to the south of the cellar and comprised walls **23**, **24** and **25**; these formed the west, south and east walls consecutively while the northern wall was formed by cellar wall **19**. As such walls **23** and **25** butted cellar wall **19** at their northern ends. These walls are likely to have been built within construction cuts, although these were not visible. Walls **23** and **25** were wholly brick in their construction, surviving to a depth of 0.2m and 0.5m respectively. Wall **24** contained a large fireplace; the foundation of which was built from coursed chalk blocks, while the surviving upper courses were brick (Plate 7). Either side of the hearth were two curved brick wings, while to the exterior was a square chimneybreast foundation faced in brick with a chalk rubble core. Within this room were a series of small brick walls: **26**, **27**, **28** and **29**. The function of these was unclear, although they may have formed the support structure for cement floor (31) that overlay walls **27** and **29**, or alternatively **26** may have formed a support for a staircase that was aligned along **27**.

Located in the south east corner of the room was rectangular brick structure **30**, of unknown function. This could be a support for a tank or basin that would have been filled with water heated in containers over the fireplace. This U-shaped structure measured 0.9m by 0.6m and was filled with demolition rubble (71). The concrete

floor, large hearth and brick structure suggest this room may have been a kitchen or other utility room.



Plate 6: Brick built extension 2 keyed into chalk wall 74.



Plate 7: Fireplace 24, showing remnant hearth and bedding surfaces.

The north west-south east wing of the previous phase was extended to the south: wall 02 was butted against the southern end of 74, running for a length of 6.5m before turning west to form the end of the extension (Fig. 5: Section 12; Fig. 6: Section 10. Plate 6). This wall was built within construction cut 15. A half-cellar was inserted

immediately to the south of wall **50**; in order to accommodate this **50** was underpinned in brick **55**. This cellar did not extend for the whole length of the wing; it was recorded for a length of 2.2m, terminating in brick wall **03** at its southern end (Fig. 5: Section 5; Fig. 6: Section 16).

The cellar floor was found to be intact; **57** measured 2.2m by >1.0m within the trench and was also of brick, set in a stretcher bond. An additional brick built structure, recorded as **56**, was present which appeared to represent the remains of a staircase leading into the cellar, although this had been truncated during demolition (Fig. 5: Section 5). To the south of wall **3** the wing extended for a further 4m, before turning west to form the presumed gable end. The area bounded by walls **02** and **03** contained a thin layer of compact mid yellowish brown silty sand 0.06m in thickness; this was interpreted as the truncated bedding layer for a floor removed during demolition (Fig 6: Section 16).

A final room was formed between the above wing (wall **02**) and the possible kitchen (wall **23**). The southern wall of this room was formed by **22**, measuring 3.17m in length; a small square structure, recorded as **04**, measuring 1.7m by 1.7m was present to the south of **22**, butted against **02**. This may represent a small structure such as a porch, providing access to the garden to the south of the house. A small internal wall **21** ran in a north west – south east direction from **22** for a length of 3.0m. The function of this feature is unclear, although its purpose may have been to divide the area into two rooms

A number of levelling and bedding layers were associated with phase 4. Where construction cuts were likely to be present (walls **02**, **22**, **23** and **25**) there was no evidence that they had been cut through these layers, indicating that the walls were built prior to their deposition. A sequence of deposits was recorded in the area of demolished wall **75** (Fig. 5: Section 12): Deposit (99) was a firm mid brownish grey silt with moderate brick and tile fragments <100mm in size, measuring 0.11m in thickness. This butted wall **75** and extended beyond the l.o.e. to the north and east; one sherd of residual Romano-British Greyware and one sherd of Red Earthenware were recovered from this deposit. To the south of **75** was (101), a firm mid grey clay with moderate chalk fragments, 0.09m in thickness. This deposit extended beyond the l.o.e. to the south and east. Deposits (99) and (101) were overlain by (98), a firm light reddish brown clayey silt 0.12m in thickness. This deposit butted wall **2** to the west and extended beyond the l.o.e. in all other directions. Overlying (98) was (97), a compact light grey clay with frequent chalk fragments 0.1m in thickness. This deposit also butted wall **02** to the west and extended beyond the l.o.e. in all other directions.

Elsewhere the sequence was not as complicated. An intervention placed next to walls **23** and **26** recorded deposit (94) a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt 0.12m in thickness and >0.75m in length by >0.5m in width (Fig. 6: Section 11. Plate 8). This was overlain by (93); a compact light grey clay 0.2m in thickness. This deposit was very similar in form to (97). An intervention placed against fireplace **24** recorded deposit (87), a firm mid brownish red silty sand >0.85m in length by >0.5m in width and 0.08m in thickness (Fig. 6: Section 9); this deposit overlay cultivation soil (64) and was overlain by (86) and **73**. **73** comprised heat affected bricks set in mortar and was interpreted as the fragmentary remains of the hearth. This was butted by (86) a firm light whitish grey chalky clay 0.2m in thickness. Deposits (86), (93) and (97) are likely to be contiguous; having been laid within the interior of the building to bed a

floor that was subsequently removed during demolition. Internal walls **21**, **26**, **27**, **28** and **29** were also bedded within this deposit. Walls **27** and **29** were overlain by concrete floor (31) (Fig. 5); this floor, a dark grey concrete with fragments of brick and stone, was heavily truncated but survived in the north east of the room over an area of 1.7m by 1.6m and to a depth of 0.05m.



Plate 8: Walls **23** and **26**, showing associated bedding layers overlying earlier cultivation soil.

Located to the east of the main structure was a brick soakaway **132**, linked to the possible kitchen or utility room via a brick built drain **162** (Fig. 6: Section 19; Fig. 7). **132** was built from bricks measuring 220mm x 110mm x 75mm set in a stretcher bond; these were built into a beehive shaped structure measuring 1.7m in diameter with a depth of >1.0m, extending below the l.o.e. Drain **162** entered on the north west side. Where **162** was encountered in the footings trench it was 0.5m in height, 0.5m in width and built from the same brick as **132**. This structure ran for at least 2.5m, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the north west. The orientation suggested that it was running toward the north eastern corner of the building, where wall **25** butted cellar wall **19**; this is not certain however as the structure extended beyond the l.o.e. Both were built within construction cut 132, which followed the dimensions of the structures closely; this truncated cultivation soil (64). Fill (131) overlay the structures within the construction cut; this was a soft dark greyish brown silty clay with a thickness of at least 1.0m, extending below the l.o.e. This deposit was overlain by exterior cobbled surface **33**.

Three exterior surfaces were present in the eastern third of the site (Fig. 5. Plate 9). Cobbled surface **33** was the most extensive of these; this surface measured 6.8m in length, 2.56m in width and 0.05m in depth. It was built from waterworn flint pebbles with an average size of 60 mm x 50 mm x 40mm and bonded with a dark greyish brown clayey silt. Walls **25**, **32** and **37** formed the northern and western boundaries of the surface while to the east and south the boundary was formed by wall foundation

35. Associated with this surface was brick path **34**; this was built from diamond patterned-frogged bricks measuring 250mm by 120mm by 60mm and set in a stretcher bond. The pathway measured 0.6m in width and had a depth of 0.06m and ran south from wall **37** for a distance of 4.0m before substantial truncation by tree roots obscured the intended course onwards.



Plate 9: Exterior surfaces **33**, **34** and **36**.

Another branch of the pathway was visible heading in a south easterly direction towards wall **35**, however further truncation had also obscured this route. Brick surface **36** was located north east of wall **25**; this was built from bricks measuring 220-230mm x 110mm x 45-50mm set in a stretcher bond and bedded in a light grey sandy mortar. Although this surface was heavily truncated by rooting and later disturbance it evidently ran parallel to the eastern wall of the building, surviving for a length of 1.3m, a width of 1.2m and to a depth of 0.06m.

Wall **35** formed the eastern boundary of this yard area. This was built from bricks measuring 220mm x 110mm x 60mm and bonded with a light brownish yellow sandy mortar. **35** was aligned north west – south east and extended for a length of 6.0m; it measured 0.22m in width and was one course in depth. At the southern end an iron drain was set into a piece of moulded concrete. The form of this wall suggests it was a low boundary wall.

Phase 5: Demolition – Mid 20th century

The demolition of the building was represented archaeologically by a number of mixed deposits containing frequent quantities of fragmented chalk, brick and tile. Demolition deposit (14) (also recorded as 71) was present overlying much of the building. This was a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent brick, tile and chalk fragments; it measured 0.1m in depth and was bounded by the extant walls of the building. Both cellars had been backfilled with deposits of demolition material. The larger cellar was backfilled with (70) a loose mid grey clayey silt that contained

frequent brick, tile fragments and chalk blocks (Fig. 2: Section 18) some of the chalk pieces were substantial, measuring 400mm x 300mm 300 to 200mm, and had been squared, perhaps suggesting that the earlier phases of the building were faced in chalk. The smaller cellar to the south west was backfilled with (159) a loose mid brownish grey silty sand (Fig. 6: Section 16); this deposit also contained frequent fragments of building material.

The demolition deposits were directly overlain by topsoil (1) a friable dark brown chalky loam or clayey loam with frequent fine gravel and moderate small fragments of brick and chalk. This measured 0.1 to 0.3m in thickness and was present across the whole site.

4.2 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was undertaken in relatively favourable conditions given the time of year and adequate time was taken in order to ensure that excavation and recording was carried out to a high standard. As such the reliability of the results achieved is considered high.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (Appendix 2, Table 11) by *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 47 sherds with a total weight of 906g. It was mostly post-medieval, although a few sherds of Romano-British and medieval material were also noted. The medieval wares were recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1994), as follows:

OXBFB:	North-East Wiltshire Ware , AD1050–1400. 1 sherd, 11g.
OXBXB:	Late Medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware , 15 th – early 17 th century. 1 sherd, 2g.
OXY:	Medieval Oxford Ware , AD1075–1350. 1 sherd, 17g
WA38:	Wallingford Ware , AD1050 – 1250. 1 sherd, 14g

The post-medieval wares were recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDY:	Yellow-glazed Border Ware , 1550-1700. 2 sherds, 16g.
CREA:	Creamware , 1740-1830. 7 sherds, 33g.
FREC:	Frechen Stoneware , 1550-1750. 1 sherd, 4g.
METS:	Metropolitan-type slipware , 1480 – 1900. 1 sherd, 3g.
MPUR :	Midland Purple Ware , 1400-1700. 1 sherd, 173g.
PMR:	Post-medieval Redware , 1550+. 26 sherds, 562g.
REFW:	Refined Whiteware , 1800-1900. 2 sherds, 12g
TGW:	English Tin-Glazed Ware , 1600-1800, 1613–1800. 1 sherd, 15g.

In addition, two sherds (44g) of Romano-British pottery were also noted. They are both grey wares. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 11 (see Appendix 2). Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. Most of the sherds are fairly large and in good condition, and appear reliably stratified.

The medieval material included an OXY jar rim from context 113 with a thumbled, “piecrust” rim. Such jars are usually of 12th – early 13th century date (e.g. Mellor 1994, fig. 18). A plain jar rim in WA38 occurred in context 118.

Most of the post-medieval material consisted of fragments of utilitarian vessels in PMR. The sherds from context 69 are mostly from a single vessel, a large internally-glazed bowl which is a typical product of the tradition. The context also produced a fragment of flat roof-tile weighing 107g. It is 11mm thick, and of a similar date to the pottery. The sherd of TGW from context 103 is from the base of a mug with manganese sponged decoration. These are generally of mid-late 17th century date (Orton 1988, 321).

5.2 Faunal Remains by *Simona Denis*

Animal Bone

Forty-six animal bone fragments, weighing 502.9g in total, were collected during the excavation. The state of preservation of the material is generally fair, although extremely fragmentary; the bird right femur recovered from context (67) being the single complete example.

- Distribution

Levelling deposit (69) was found to be the richest (16 fragments, or 34% of the assemblage) in animal bone fragments; an additional 19% (9 examples) were recovered from garden soil (96). Contexts (67) and (103) yielded 6 fragments each (13% of the group), while the remaining 21% was collected from 5 different deposits.

Context	Identification	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Marks
67	Sheep/Goat	Distal tibia	1	13.3	Chop
	Undetermined bird	R Femur	1	1.9	
	Small mammal	Costal body	4	12.4	
69	Sheep/Goat	Tibia diaphysis	1	18.2	
		Calcaneous	1	6.6	
	Pig	Mandible with molars M1, M2	1	31.4	
		Premolar P4	1	3.7	
		?Tibia diaphysis	1	10.9	
	Small mammal	Costal body	4	27.7	
		?Mandible cortex	3	13.4	
Long bone cortex		4	39.8		
72	Undetermined bird	?Sternum	1	0.6	
88	?Sheep/Goat	Radius diaphysis	1	10.3	Chop
92	Small mammal	Costal body	1	2.8	
		Long bone cortex	1	3.9	
96	Sheep/Goat	Proximal	1	7.9	

		metacarpus			
		Metatarsus diaphysis	2	20	?Chop entry
		Mandibular hinge	1	8.7	Fine slice Point insertion
	?Sheep/Goat	?Proximal tibia cortex	1	4.8	
		?Proximal humerus	1	16	
		Long bone cortex	1	6.3	
	Small mammal	?Mandible cortex	2	11.9	
99	Sheep/Goat	Distal tibia	1	16.1	?Chop exit
	?Sheep/Goat	Thoracic vertebrae	1	22.6	?Chop entry
		Costal body	1	15.6	
103	Pig	Mandible with incisors, canine, premolars P1, P2, P3	1	50.8	
	Small mammal	?Cranium	1	8	Chop
		?Costal body	2	22.1	
		Long bone cortex	1	3.3	
	Undetermined mammal	Undetermined cortex	1	0.3	
108	Sheep/Goat	Distal femur	1	33.7	
	Horse	Distal metatarsus	1	57.9	Chop ?Saw

Table 1: Animal bone occurrence by context and type

- Species Identification

22 of the remains, representing over 47% of the assemblage, were identified on the basis of the observation of *Genus*-specific characteristics; the remaining 24 items were recognised as belonging to small mammals of undetermined species. Due to the variable sizes and robustness of animal bones taphonomic factors may favour preservation of certain species, resulting in the under-representation of other, smaller animals (Kasumally 2002).

Sheep/Goat is the most represented *taxa*, with 15 items, or 32% of the collection; 4 of the identified fragments (8% of the group) belonged to pig, including one example of juvenile individual. Birds and horse constitute a minor part of the assemblage, with 4% and 2% respectively.

- Butchering Marks

Butchering evidence was recorded on nine of the bone fragments, representing 19% of the assemblage. Primary butchering consists of hide removal, joint dismemberment

and meat removal, whereas secondary butchering involves detailed meat and smashing the bone into smaller portions for marrow extraction and grease rendering (Watts 2004).

Since the portioning of a carcass involves so much work, butchers prefer to disjoint the articulations rather than cut through bones, resulting in a larger amount of chop marks on the epiphysis and metaphysis of the bones compared to evidence of sawing (Colley 2006), although sawing marks are considered by some authors as indicative of bone working rather than butchering (Seetah 2009).

The material collected at Lynchgate House conforms to this pattern, with 88% of the observed butchering marks being chops, mostly (6 out of 8 examples) concentrated around the epiphysis of long bones. An association of multiple butchering marks was observed on two of the bones: the single horse metatarsus recovered from levelling deposit (108) showed a chop mark associated with a possible saw mark, while the sheep/goat mandibular hinge from garden soil (96) showed a combination of fine slice marks and a point insertion.

It is not recommended to retain the unmarked, undiagnostic bone fragments due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

Oyster Shell

A very small assemblage of four shell fragments, of a combined weight of 22g, was recovered from three different contexts. The material is in a fair state of preservation, although fragmentary.

Three of the items were positively identified as right oyster shell valves. The remaining example, collected from garden soil (96), was tentatively identified as a fragment of left valve (Winder 2011), although its small size prevented from a positive identification.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (gr)
69	Right valve	1	4.4
96	?Left valve	1	0.8
103	Right valve	2	16.8

Table 2: Oyster shell occurrence by context and type

It is not recommended to retain the oyster shell fragments due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

5.3 Building Materials *by Simona Denis*

Ceramic Building Material

A collection of 41 ceramic building material items, constituting 34 objects and weighing 27,310.5g in total, was recovered during the excavations at Lynchgate House. The material, generally dated to the 18th – 19th century, includes brick, roof and floor tiles, and is generally in a good state of preservation, with a number of completely preserved examples.

Over 70% of the assemblage is composed by roof tile, while brick represents 20%. The two floor tiles recovered constitute 6% of the group. A single fragment, found in context (9)6, remains unidentified.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm) LxWxT	Comments	Date Range
02	Brick	1	2000	223x108x65	Complete	18 th – 19 th C
19	Brick	1	1900	236x115x55	Complete. Dark glaze	
22	Brick	1	1900	218x103x59	Complete	
24	Brick	1	2000	223x104x65	Complete	
38	Floor tile	1	7500	283x283x50	Complete	
39	Floor tile	1	4000	230x223x45	Complete. Matt red glaze	
41	Voussoir brick	1	1100	223x116x38-53	Complete	
42	Brick	1	1900	230x112x53	Complete	
43	Voussoir brick	1	1500	225x108x39-44	Complete. Dark glaze	
72	Peg tile	1	1191	265x163x11	Complete	
		7	890		Conjoining fragments	
		1	210		Corner	
	Plain tile	1	67.5			
92	Plain tile	5	132.9			
		2	88.4	Edge preserved		
		1	35.5	Thickness not fully preserved		
96	Plain tile	3	72.1			
	Undetermined	1	1.4			
99	Plain tile	1	41.5			
103	Plain tile	2	142.1			
		2	117.9	Edge preserved		
		2	227.6	Corner. Conjoining fragments		
		1	49.2	Glazed		
108	Plain tile	1	130.6		Edge preserved. Oxidised iron object on surface	
149	Plain tile	1	112.8			

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material occurrence by context and type

- Roof Tile

24 of the ceramic building material objects were positively identified as roof tiles; of these, three preserved complete, circular peg holes, and were therefore positively identified as peg tiles.

Seven of the fragments collected from fill (72) were found to be conjoining, forming 80% ca. of a peg tile, measuring 265x163x11mm; a complete peg tile was also

recovered from the same deposit. Traces of glaze were observed on one of the fragments found in cultivation soil (103).

The material can only broadly be dated to the 18th – 19th century, as hand-made peg tiles were commonly used until the 19th C, when machine-made tiles became popular, with little variation in the manufacturing technique. Also, good quality roof tiles were reused over long period of times; therefore, the potential for dating evidence of plain roof tiles remains limited.

- Floor Tile

Two complete floor tiles were collected as representative examples of floors **38** and **39**. A layer of red, matt glaze was observed on the item from floor **39**.

- Brick

20% of the assemblage was composed of 7 complete bricks, representing a sample of the variety recovered during the excavation. All of the examples preserved traces of mortar; the bricks collected from cellar wall **19** showed traces of a dark decorative glaze.

It is not recommended to retain the fragmentary and plain tile examples due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

Slate

A single fragment of slate, measuring 84mm in width and 98mm in length, and weighing 93.2g, was found in demolition deposit (14). The item, although extremely fragmentary, was in a fair state of preservation.

The lack of any diagnostic feature prevented from a positive identification of the function of the object; however, it was likely to be a fragment of a tile, commonly used as roofing material from the 19th century. Alternatively it could have come from a writing tablet.

Plaster

Nine fragments of wall plaster, weighing 419g in total, were found in levelling and demolition deposit (52). The material, a lime-based mix with frequent stone inclusions, measured 20mm in thickness, and preserved a light moss green paint on the surface. The date of the wall plaster remains undetermined.

5.4 Worked Stone by Dr Stephen Yeates

WS1: Context 32: Possible limestone fragment of a yellow colour (possibly oolite or ragstone) measuring approximately 280mm x 250mm x 20mm. The piece was only viewed in photographed form so a detailed analysis of the stone is not possible, but some form of oolite is possible as ragstone contains far higher percentage of fossilised shell fragments. Less likely it could be a yellow sandstone. The stone is roughly squared and has obviously been reused with evidence of moulding on its one side. The moulding contains a chamfer probably cut at about 45° alongside which is a hollow chamfer. Insufficient form of the hollow chamfer survives to indicate if this was a semi-circular hollow or a ¾ hollow. The hollow feature is mainly used in later

Romanesque (Norman) and Early Gothic (Early English or Decorated) and occurs in use from the 12th to the 14th centuries (Morris 1992, 13).

WS2: Context 32: Possible piece of limestone of a yellow colour (possibly oolite or ragstone) measuring approximately 460mm x 200mm x 190mm. This block was also not seen visually other than on photographs. It is likely the same possibilities apply here. This is a rectangular piece with a simple chamfer of a plain form. This type of feature was used early in abaci and plinths, and obtained a regular use for arch mouldings, ribs and mullions from the 13th century (Morris 1992, 12). The feature continued in use into the 17th century at least. The feature was also used for angles, and it is possibly what this stone was originally used for, though part of an arch moulding is also possible.

WS3: Context 47 (Plate 10): Piece of limestone of a yellow colour (oolite or ragstone) measuring approximately 510mm x 360mm x 210mm. The stone was only viewed in photographic form and, therefore, oolitic limestone is only the most plausible piece. The comments from WS1 as to the composition also apply here. The piece has been reused it was undoubtedly circular in form with a diameter of approximately 510mm. The piece is derived from a column, being either part of an upside-down capital or a column base. In probability it is probably part of a column base. The edge of the moulding does not appear to survive without erosion, but it would seem that this is probably a roll or a keel in a circular form around the base, forming what would be called a torus. The tori are divided by a scotia. In this particular example the lower roll forming a torus dips down, thus creating a profile in which water could be retained. If a column base these mouldings were called Water Houlding Mouldings and were in use in Early English architecture of the late 12th and 13th century. If a capital this would have to be part of a Bell Capital (Verey and Brooks 1999, 769-794). The reuse saw the removal of part of the column base to create a flat side.



Plate 10: Worked stone 3.

The first two stones WS1 and WS2 are not overly distinctive enough in their design and survival to provide a precise architectural date. WS3, however, is a different matter as it is more elaborate in its design and appears to show traits that indicate that it is highly plausible that one of these pieces of sculptured stone was re-used from a building of a late 12th to 13th century date. It is possible that the other two could be reused from the same structure, but this cannot be considered conclusive.

5.5 Metalwork by Simona Denis

A small assemblage of 14 metal objects, of a combined weight of 501.2g, was collected from 7 different contexts. The entirety of the iron assemblage was poorly preserved and severely oxidised, therefore only limited observations were possible. Copper alloy objects were better preserved, although largely incomplete and affected by *Verdigris*.

Iron is the most represented material, constituting 71% of the collection; the remaining 29% of the items is made of copper alloy.

Context	Material	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Comments
14	Fe	Clasp nail	1	71.8	Rectangular cross-section
	CuA	Decorative element	1	3.1	Embossed decoration
70	CuA	Fitting/mount	1	116	Bell pull crank
80	Fe	?Lath nail	1	3.5	?Rectangular cross-section, T-head
		?Floor brad	1	6.6	Rectangular cross-section, L-head
		?Common nail	1	2.3	?Square cross-section
		Nail	3	13.5	
		Undetermined	1	7.9	
91	CuA	?Window latch/quadrant	1	91	
96	CuA	Strip	1	5.9	Flat strip, one end twisted
108	Fe	?Patten	1	169	
114	Fe	Nail	1	10.6	Rectangular cross-section

Table 4: Metalwork occurrence by context and type

Iron

14 of the recovered objects, representing 50% of the metalwork assemblage, were positively identified as fastener. The extremely poor state of preservation, showing severe oxidation, allowed only for limited observations of the manufacturing details. A general dating to the post-medieval to early modern period is suggested. A rectangular cross-section was observed on 4 of the examples, indicating the items were produced during the 19th century (Chervenka).

The iron object collected from levelling deposit (108), weighing 169g, was composed of an oval-shaped flat strip with two protruding elements at the two ends of its long axis. Although severely corroded and incomplete, the artefact was tentatively identified as a circle-type patten, a protective overshoe (Fern 1977, Bailey 2001) commonly worn in muddy environments, used until the early 20th century.

It is not recommended to retain the iron objects due to their extremely unstable state of preservation and their very limited potential for further analysis.

Copper Alloy

The decorative element recovered from demolition deposit (14) consisted in a thin, circular object, with an embossed decoration composed of a central flower, encircled by a mesh pattern and an outer circle. The object appeared to be incomplete; no mounting or fitting element was preserved. The general aspect of the artefact suggested a Post-Medieval or early modern date; however, the exact function of the item remains undetermined.

The cast object collected from demolition deposit (70) was composed of a T-shaped fitting with three circular holes for nails, supporting a protruding element at a 45° angle. The latter supported a horizontal-swivelling oval element, to which two very thin, twisted copper alloy wires were attached. The object was identified as a bell pull crank, perhaps used in conjunction with a domestic bell system.

Garden soil (83) yielded a copper alloy item, weighing 91g and measuring 260mm in length. The object was composed of a torqued bar, measuring 210mm in length and 9mm in diameter, with an attached element at one end, made of a small, flat rectangular plate. The object was tentatively identified as part of a window latch or quadrant, although its incompleteness prevented from a positive identification.

The copper alloy assemblage is not recommended for retention due to its poor state of preservation and limited potential for further analysis.

5.6 Miscellaneous by Simona Denis

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A collection of seven clay tobacco pipe fragments, weighing 27.2g in total, was recovered from 6 different contexts. The material was extremely fragmentary, but in a good state of preservation.

The largest portion (6 items, or 86%) of the assemblage was composed of plain, unmarked, undiagnostic stem fragments, a regular occurrence in clay tobacco pipe assemblages. Off-centre bore holes were observed on all the fragments. Plain stem fragments have very little dating value, and can only generally be assigned to the Post-Medieval period.

The remaining item, collected from garden soil (88), was a stem fragment including the complete bowl base and a very small fragment of the bowl. The example is similar to no.14 of Oswald's Simplified general typology (Oswald 1975; Fig. 3,G). The bowl showed traces of red paint, possibly representing a decoration.

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (gr)	Comments	Date Range
88	Stem with spur	1	7.3	Ref: Oswald 1975 no.14	E19 th C
96	Stem	1	1.1		Post-Medieval
99	Stem	2	7.3		
108	Stem	1	4.8		
112	Stem	1	1.7		
113	Stem	1	5		

Table 5: Clay tobacco pipe occurrence by context and type

It is not recommended to retain the plain, unmarked and undiagnostic clay tobacco pipe stem fragment due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

Glass

A small collection of 19 glass fragments, weighing 39.6g in total, was recovered from 4 individual contexts. The items were extremely fragmentary and generally in a poor state of preservation, showing extensive degradation and iridescence.

Context	Type	Colour	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Comments
15	Window	Clear	1	1.8	Iridescence
96	Window	Aqua	2	2.1	Conjoining
		?Amber	1	0.4	Degradation
		Undetermined	2	2.6	Degradation. Belonging to the same pane
108	Case bottle	Olive green	1	16	Degraded
	?Wine bottle	Olive green	1	5.7	Bubbles
112	Window	Clear	10	10.1	Iridescence. Belonging to the same pane. 5 items preserved the edge
		Undetermined	1	0.9	Degraded. Possible stained glass

Table 6: Glass occurrence by context and type

The largest part (17 examples, or 90%) of the assemblage was positively identified as window glass, dating to the post-medieval period. One of the fragments collected from context (112), could potentially represent an example of stained glass, although

the poor state of preservation prevented from a positive identification. The two remaining items, recovered from levelling deposit (108), were identified as post-medieval bottle fragments.

It is not recommended to retain the plain window and bottle glass fragments due to their unstable conditions and very limited potential for further analysis.

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological excavation undertaken at Lychgate House has enabled the development of a substantial post medieval building to be recorded.

While the post-medieval building comprises the predominant feature of the excavation there was also a small amount of evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate area. This comprised two sherds of Romano-British pottery, a common residual find throughout the region. The nearest known Romano British settlement is located approximately 200m north of the site adjacent to Grim's Ditch.

The lack of medieval remains and scarcity of medieval pottery suggests that the site of the medieval rectory is likely to be located elsewhere. Only four sherds were found during excavation and these were probably derived from household waste spread over areas of cultivation during manuring or transported to the site in soils used for levelling during construction. Two pieces of worked stone incorporated into a wall of the post medieval rectory are likely to date to the medieval period, with one piece (WS3) more precisely dated to the late 12th to 13th century. These pieces are likely to be from a relatively high status medieval building, however whether these are from the medieval rectory or from a different building cannot be determined. It is possible that these fragments were also incorporated into the first phase of the post-medieval building, before being reused in later phases.

The earliest culturally derived deposit recorded within the area of excavation was a thick layer of cultivation soil, found throughout the site underlying all phases of the building. Sherds of pottery recovered from this soil suggest a *terminus post quem* of the mid-17th century. The presence of this layer throughout indicates that the site lay within an area of arable cultivation during the medieval and early post medieval period.

The first phase of the post-medieval building was located towards the northern end of the area, and measured approximately 7.5m in length by 7.5m in width within the area of excavation. On the basis of typological analysis of the bricks used in construction and stratigraphic relationship with the earlier cultivation soil, it is likely that the first phase of the rectory was built no earlier than the mid-17th century. Substantial truncation by later phases and the extension of the building beyond the northern and western limit of excavation meant that the full plan of this phase could not be identified. The defining feature of this phase, as seen within the area of excavation, was a large room with a decorative herringbone brick floor, **43**, and substantial fireplace **44**; a section of a similar herringbone floor, **146**, was recorded to the south although due to truncation it is not known if this formed part of the same room or was separate. The size of this room and the decorative form of the floor suggest it formed one of the main living rooms within the building. To the west of the large room

behind the fireplace was a smaller room defined by brick floor **41**; the brick here was set in a less decorative stretcher bond and an earthenware vessel set into the floor is likely to have served a utilitarian function, although the exact nature of this is not known. A further brick floor, **11**, with a basket weave bond extended to the south of this area, perhaps indicating the location of another room or corridor. A wooden floor (80) located to the east of floor **43** may have been associated with additional ancillary buildings, although no walls or other features relating to these were found.

The next major phase of the building (Phase 3) saw an almost total break with the previous phase, suggesting that the earlier building was mostly dismantled; the walls and fireplace were removed down to their foundation courses and all features were covered with chalky levelling deposits. Pottery found within levelling deposits suggests that this phase is likely to date to the mid to late-18th century. A historical document dating to 1794 details exchanges of land between the Bishop of Durham and previous Rectors of the Parish and may be pertinent. This document makes reference to alterations made to the rectory:

'Dr Robert PRICE who succeeded to the living in 1776 at a very considerable expense made alterations in these particulars as well as in the house itself, which could best render the residence comfortable, and for which the situation was so well adapted.'

While it is uncertain which phase of building work is represented here the most likely interpretation is that the house referred to here is that recorded as Phases 1 and 2. As such it is likely that Phase 3 represents the archaeological remains of the 1776 refurbishment or rebuilding of the rectory. A series of rooms associated with this phase were identified during excavation: A fireplace foundation (**49** and **51**) was present in the northern half of the building built out from wall **47**; the position of the fireplace on this wall suggests the room extended to the south west, along what is likely to have been the front of the house. The location of this room suggests it would have been one of the main rooms of the house, such as a dining room or living room. The cellar to the south may have therefore been associated with a service room such as a kitchen or parlour. To the east of these rooms tile floor **39** (bounded by wall **40** and **47**) appears to indicate the location of a corridor that ran between the front of the house and the rear yard area. A further tiled floor **38** was located to the east, showing the location of a further room. This room may form part of an ancillary service wing attached to the north eastern end of the main house, as seen on the Tithe Map of 1841 (Plate 11). As depicted on this map the main building is square, with a smaller rectangular wing to the north east and possible apse or bay extending from the south western end. This arrangement appears to correspond to Phase 3 of the archaeological remains. However, archaeologically the south eastern exterior wall of the building was only seen for a short length within the area of excavation, where it was recorded as wall **75**. It is therefore likely that this wall was almost completely removed during the construction of Phase 4.

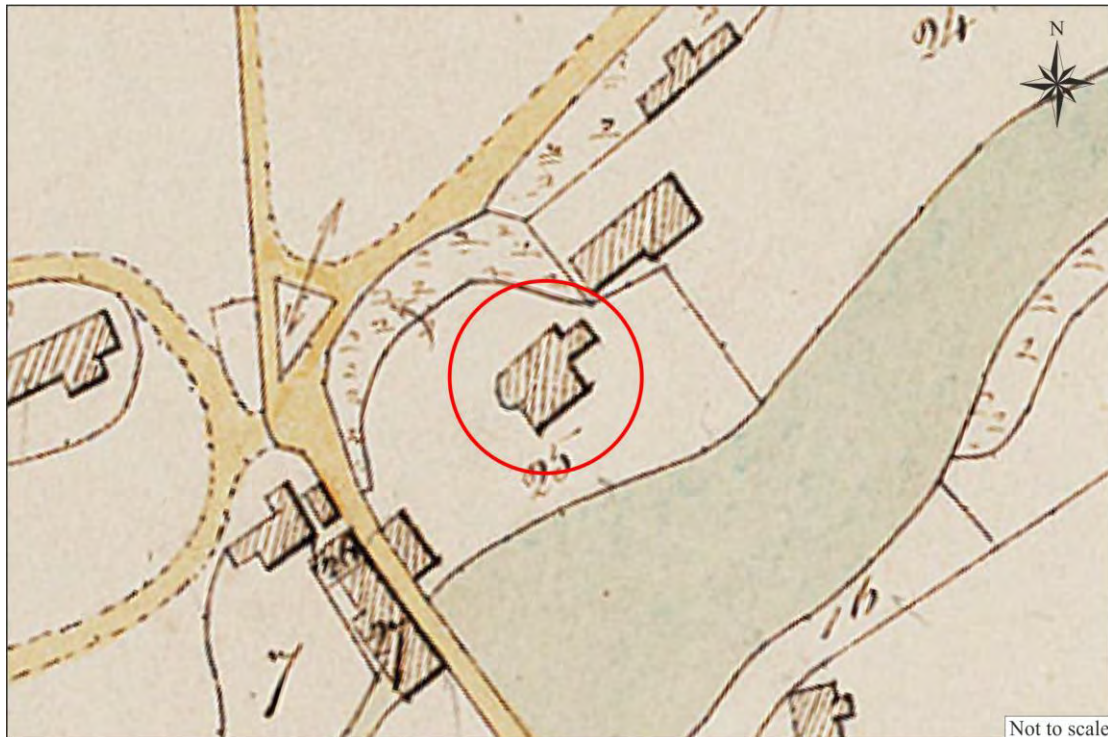


Plate 11: Detail of Tithe Map of Mongewell Parish 1841 (Oxfordshire History Centre Reference 276/M)

The last phase of construction saw the addition of a predominantly brick-built extension to the south, creating a western wing and at least two new rooms to the east. The precise date of this phase is unknown. However, if the building shown on the Tithe map of 1841 represents Phase 3, Phase 4 must date to between 1841 and 1877, when the house is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The largest identified room of Phase 4 contained a fireplace next to which was a brick structure of unknown form, possibly a support for a water tank. A small area of concrete floor was also present. The features of this room perhaps suggest that it was a kitchen; in larger houses the service rooms such as the kitchen, pantry and dairy were often found towards back of the house. The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1877 (Plate 12) appears to show the building in this configuration. A small rectangular ancillary building is shown to the east of the main house, bounded by two walls that extend from the north east wing; this was not seen within the trench during the watching brief, perhaps suggesting it had been removed at a later date. A carriage drive is shown at the front of the house and walled gardens are seen to the east. A small boathouse is also shown to the south of the house on the bank of the millpond.

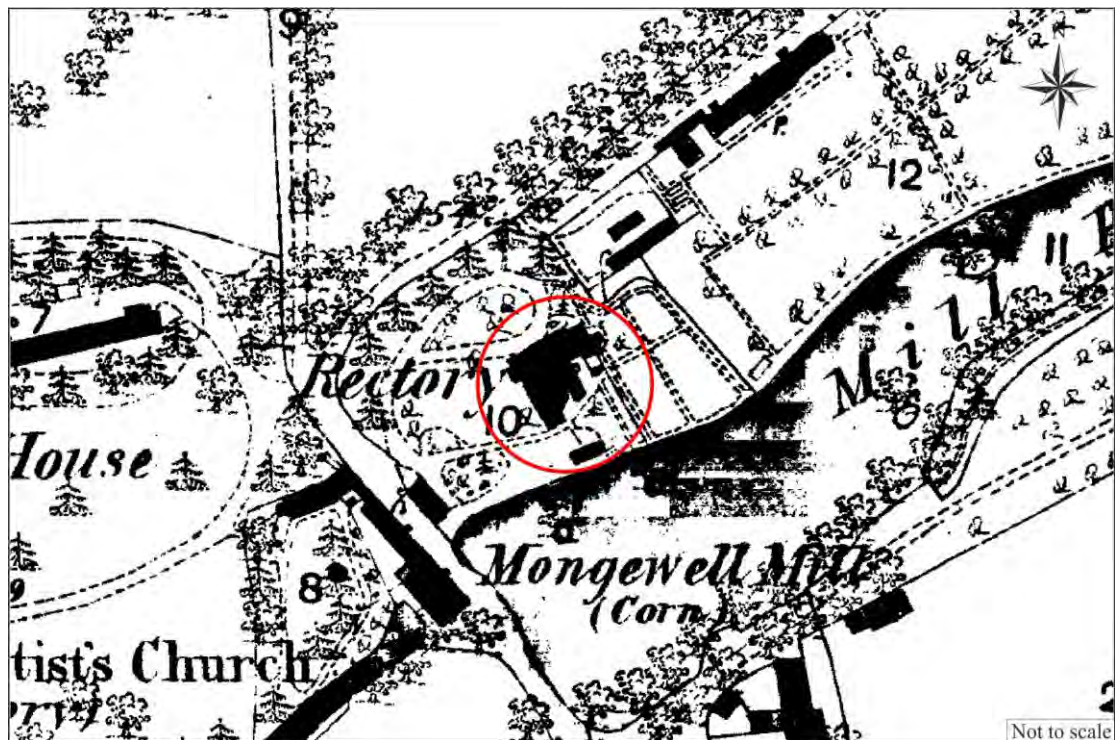


Plate 12: Ordnance Survey First Edition of 1877 (Oxon XLIX/15).

The configuration of the house itself does not change between the 2nd and 3rd Edition maps of 1898 and 1912, however the walled garden is not shown on the 2nd edition and by the 3rd edition the boat house has also been removed. Plate 13 shows the position of walls recorded during excavation overlaid on the Second Edition OS map of 1899 in order to give an indication of possible rooms within the building.



Plate 13: Ordnance Survey Second Edition of 1899, with overlay of walls recorded during excavation (Oxon XLIX/15).



Plate 14: Photograph of Mongewell Rectory taken in 1901 (Historic England Archive).

A photograph of the rectory taken by Henry W. Taunt in 1900 during a photographic survey of the Mongewell Park Estate gives further detail of the rooms seen archaeologically (Plate 14). The photograph is taken from the south west, therefore the western façade of the building is the most visible. The most northerly portion of the wing is a gable end, indicating that the front of the house was aligned east – west; a parapet is just visible on the northern façade of the building, perhaps indicating that the front face of the building had a Georgian style façade. This is likely considering the 1776 date of the renovations by Dr Robert Price. A two storey bay containing windows on both floors is present on the gable end of the wing and fabric sun shades are seen extending from the tops of these windows. A chimney stack located on the ridge of the gable end perhaps suggests that the bay was a later addition to the house.

A north – south wing extends from the gable end, this is presumably the wing represented archaeologically by wall **74**; this wing appears to have been 2 ½ storeys in height, with two windows visible on the ground floor, one on the first and a single flat roofed dormer in the roof. A chimney stack is present at the gable end of this wing, which may be shown archaeologically as **49**. A further wing extends to the south of this, which is represented archaeologically by **2**. This wing is 1 ½ storeys in height; along the western wall one window is present on the ground floor and a gabled dormer is seen in the roof. On the gable end a wide multi light window is seen on the ground floor and a smaller window is present on the first floor. A chimney stack extending from the ridge of this wing presumably marks the position of wall **3**, indicating that this wing was divided into two. It may be the case that the half depth cellar seen between walls **55** and **3** was associated with a hot water boiler or similar feature.

Due to the location the photograph was taken from the rest of the building is not so readily identified. A gable end is visible to the right of the western gable; this is likely to be wall and fireplace 24. A structure is apparent at the base of the gable that may represent the exterior chimney breast associated with this wall. Above this is a possible trellis, although this is not certain due to the resolution of the photograph. While no other wings can be readily identified from the photograph the number of chimneys present indicate that the building was subject to a number of internal divisions that were not encountered archaeologically.

In conclusion, the archaeological watching brief at Lychgate House, Mongewell was successful in fulfilling the aims of the Written Scheme of Investigation, specifically: 'to make a record of any significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains' and in particular 'any... medieval and post-medieval remains to add to the known local landscapes of these periods.' Mongewell rectory was evidently a substantial post-medieval building of several phases; initially built in the mid to late 17th century, the structure appears to have been almost entirely rebuilt in the 1770s under the direction of Dr Robert Price, the rector at the time. In the mid to late 19th century the house saw further additions to the south east before eventual demolition in the mid-20th century.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive is currently maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire Museum Resource Centre with the accession number OXCMS:2017.123.

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Mongewell Tithe Map 1842	276/M
Ordnance Survey First Edition 1877	Oxon. XLIX/15
Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1898	Oxon. XLIX/15
Ordnance Survey Third Edition 1912	Oxon. XLIX/15

APPENDIX 1: Masonry Structures

Table 7: Masonry features associated with Building Phase 1

Context	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Material and size (mm)	Bond or Coursing	Bonding material	Overlies	Underlies
5	Wall	>1.2	0.22	0.15	Chalk, Flint: 100 x 100 x 100	N/A	None	Bedding layer (69)	Deposit (52)
11 = 42	Floor	3.4	>1.2	0.05	Brick: 230 x 112 - 115 x 50 - 53	Basketweave and Stretcher	Light yellowish grey mortar	Bedding layer (69)	Deposit (52)
41	Floor	>1.5	1.5	0.05	Brick: 220 - 223 x 115 - 116 x 40	Stretcher	Light yellowish grey mortar	Bedding layer (164)	Deposit (52)
43	Floor	4.1	>2.0	0.05	Brick: 220 x 105 - 110 x 46 - 50	45° herringbone	Mid yellowish grey mortar	Bedding layer (65)	Cut 78
44	Fireplace	>1.4	1.4	0.25	Sandstone, Chalk: 250 x 200 x 200. Brick: 230 x 110 x 45	Random courses	Light brownish yellow mortar	Construction cut 158	Deposit (52)
53	Wall	2.6	0.26	0.2	Marlstone, Sandstone: 200 x 200 x 150	N/A	None	Cultivation soil (64)	Cut 78
58	Wall	0.2	0.4	N/A	Chalk: 150 x 100 x 100	N/A	None	N/A – below l.o.e.	Cut 78, Wall 74
146	Floor	>0.85	0.45	0.05	Brick: 220 x 110 - 115 x 45 - 50	45° herringbone	Light grey mortar	Bedding layer (147)	Deposit (143)
153	Wall	0.5	0.35	N/A	Chalk: 250 x 200	N/A	None	Construction cut 154	Deposit (152)

Table 8: Masonry features associated with Building Phase 2.

Context	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Material and size (mm)	Bond or Coursing	Bonding material	Overlies	Underlies
76	Foundation wall	2.2	0.2	0.4	Roughly hewn chalk: 220 x 110 x 75	Randomly coursed	Light brownish yellow mortar	Construction cut 120	Construction cut 79
77	Foundation wall	>2.8	0.4	0.35	Roughly hewn chalk: 200 x 100 x 80	Randomly coursed	Firm brownish grey silt	Construction cut 121	Construction cut 79

Table 9: Masonry features associated with Building Phase 3.

Context	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Material and size (mm)	Bond	Bonding material	Overlies	Underlies
13	Foundation wall	1.5	0.4	0.4	Roughly hewn chalk: 250/300 x 200 x 200	Random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Floor 11	Demolition deposit
18	Cellar Wall	3.4	0.4	1.2	Brick 230-6 x 115 x 55 Chalk 200 x 150 x 150	Brick: stretcher Chalk: random	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Demolition deposit (70)
19	Cellar Wall	6.0	0.4	1.2	As 18	Brick: stretcher Chalk: random	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Demolition deposit (70)
20	Stairs	>1.10	1.25	1.2	Brick 230-6 x 115 x 55 Chalk 200 x 150 x 150	Brick: stairs Chalk: random	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Demolition deposit (70)
32	Cellar Wall	3.4	0.4	1.2	Brick 230-6 x 115 x 55 Chalk 200 x 150 x 150	Brick: stretcher Chalk: random	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Demolition deposit (70)
37	External wall	>3.4	0.3	0.4	220 x 110 x 55	Stretcher	Light brownish yellow mortar	Construction cut 79	Topsoil (1)
38	Tile floor	>4.8	2.5	0.05	290 x 290 x 35	Stretcher	Light brown sandy mortar	Levelling deposit (115)	Topsoil (1)
39	Tile floor	1.5	1.1	0.05	230 x 230 x 45	Stretcher	Light brown sandy mortar	Levelling deposit (106)	Topsoil (1)
40	Internal wall	>4.1	0.3	0.4	220 x 100 x 55	Stretcher	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 79	Topsoil (1)
45	Cellar wall	6.0	0.4	1.2	Brick 230 x 115 x 45 Chalk 200 x 150 x 150	Brick: stretcher Chalk: random	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Demolition deposit (70)

Context	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Material and size (mm)	Bond	Bonding material	Overlies	Underlies
47	Foundation wall	>2.5	0.5	0.8	Brick 230-236 x 110 x 50-55 Chalk 250 x 115 x 100 Sandstone 350 x 300 x 200	Brick: stretcher Chalk: semi-random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Topsoil (1)
48	Fireplace	0.6	0.45	>0.35	Chalk 200 x 150 x 100	Random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Topsoil (1)
49	Wall	0.9	0.4	0.4	Roughly hewn chalk: 250/300 x 200 x 200	Random courses	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 166	Demolition layer (14)
50	Foundation wall	>1.0	0.4	0.45	Roughly hewn chalk: 250/300 x 200 x 200	Random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 166	Brick underpinning 55
51	Fireplace	0.6	>0.2	>0.35	Chalk 200 x 150 x 100	Random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 78	Topsoil (1)
74	Wall	2.0	0.4	0.55	Roughly hewn chalk: 250/300 x 200 x 200	Random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Construction cut 166 and brick floor 11	Construction cut 15
75	Wall	>0.5	0.4	0.4	Roughly hewn chalk: 250/300 x 200 x 200	Random courses	Light yellowish brown mortar	Cultivation soil (103)	Construction cut 15
130	Floor	5.9	3.0	0.06	Brick 220 x 110 x 50	Stretcher	Light brownish yellow sandy silt	Bedding layer (150)	Demolition deposit (70)

Table 10: Masonry features associated with Building Phase 4.

Context	Form	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Material and size (mm)	Bond	Bonding material	Overlies	Underlies
2	External Wall	4.0	0.3	0.5	Brick: 220 x 100 x 75	Stretcher	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 15	Demolition layer (71)
3	Internal Wall	1.0	0.3	0.5	Brick: 220 x 100 x 80	Not identified – below l.o.e.	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 125	Demolition layer (71)
4	External Wall	1.7	1.39	Below	Brick: 226 x 100 x 70	Soldier	Light greyish white	Construction cut	Demolition layer (71)

				l.o.e.			mortar	169	
21	Internal Wall	3.0	0.11	0.065	Brick: 230 x 110 x 65	Stretcher	Light greyish yellow mortar	Bedding layer (97)	Demolition layer (71)
22	Internal/ external Wall	3.17	0.4	Below l.o.e	Brick: 220 x 105 x 60	Not identified – below l.o.e.	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 169	Demolition layer (71)
23	Internal wall	3.25	0.22	0.2	Brick: 220 x 110 x 60	Stretcher	Light whitish grey mortar	Bedding layer (93)	Demolition layer (71)
24	External wall and Fireplace	3.7, 2.2	0.22, 0.7	0.9	Brick: 223 x 104 x 65	Stretcher/ random courses	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 168	Demolition layer (71)
25	External wall	4.1	0.22	0.5	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Not identified	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 167	Demolition layer (71)
26	Internal wall	1.1	0.11	0.07	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Stretcher	Light whitish grey mortar	Bedding layer (93)	Demolition layer (71)
27	Internal wall	>2.8	0.11	Below l.o.e.	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Not identified	Light whitish grey mortar	Bedding layer (93)	Floor (31)
28	Internal wall	>3.1	0.11	Below l.o.e.	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Not identified	Light whitish grey mortar	Bedding layer (93)	Floor (31)
29	Internal wall	>0.8	0.11	Below l.o.e.	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Not identified	Light whitish grey mortar	Bedding layer (93)	Floor (31)
30	U-shaped structure	0.9	0.6	Below l.o.e	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Not identified	Light whitish grey mortar	Bedding layer (93)	Demolition layer (71)
55	Internal cellar wall	>1.2	0.22	0.78	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Stretcher	Light whitish grey mortar	Construction cut 125	Bedding layer (135)
56	Cellar stairs	0.65	Beyond l.o.e.	0.4	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Stretcher	Light whitish grey mortar	Floor 57	Demolition deposit (159)
57	Cellar floor	2.32	>1.0	0.6	Brick: 220-225 x 108-110 x 70	Stretcher	Light yellowish grey mortar	Bedding layer	Cellar stairs 56
73	Hearth	>0.4	>0.35	0.08	Brick: 221 x 110 x 70	None	-	Bedding layer (86)	Demolition deposit (71)

APPENDIX 2: Pottery

Table 11: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	RB		WA38		OXBF		OXY		OXBX		MPUR		BORDY		PMR		FREC		METS		TGW		CREA		REFW		Date		
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			
14											1	173														2	12	MOD	
69															19	311													M16thC
88															2	53													M16thC
96										1	2			2	16	1	19	1	4	1	3								17thC
99	1	22													2	37													M16thC
103															1	32						1	15						M17thC
108					1	11									1	110								6	24				M18thC
113							1	17																					12thC
114																								1	9				M18thC
118			1	14																									M11thC
149	1	22																											RB
Total	2	44	1	14	1	11	1	17	1	2	1	173	2	16	26	562	1	4	1	3	1	15	7	33	2	12			

APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Archaeological Watching Brief at Lychgate House, Mongewell Park, Mongewell, Oxfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a single detached dwelling at Lychgate House, Mongewell Park, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 61098 87906). The watching brief was successful in recording the remains of Mongewell Rectory, a substantial post-medieval building. Archaeological evidence indicates that prior to the construction of the rectory the area was under cultivation, while finds of Romano British pottery from this cultivation soil suggest activity nearby. No medieval remains were identified, suggesting that the medieval rectory was located elsewhere, however three pieces of worked stone likely to date to the 12th to 14th centuries may have come from this building. The post-medieval rectory was built in the mid to late 17th century. The structure appears to have been almost entirely rebuilt in the 1770s under the direction of Dr Robert Price, the rector at the time. In the mid to late 19th century the house saw further additions to the south east before being demolished in the mid-20th century.	
Project dates	18-12-2017 to	
Project type	Recording Project – Watching Brief	
Previous work	No	
Future work	Not known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Crowmarsh, Lychgate House, Mongewell Park	
Study area	140m ²	
Site co-ordinates	NGR - SU 61098 87906	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	John Moore Heritage Services	
Project Brief originator	South Oxfordshire District Council	
Project Design (WSI)	JMHS	
Project Manager	John Moore	
Project Supervisor	Tom Rose-Jones	
MONUMENT TYPE	Vicarage: Post-medieval	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pot Sherd, Nail, Animal Remains, Roof Tile, Window Glass, Clay Pipe (Smoking), Wall Plaster, Dressed stone: Post medieval Pot sherd: Medieval, Pot sherd: Roman	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	OXCMS:2017.123	Finds
Paper	OXCMS:2017.123	Context sheet; misc material; photograph; plan; report; section
Digital	OXCMS:2017.123	Images: Raster; Report; Spreadsheet
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Rose-Jones, T 2018 Archaeological Watching Brief at Lychgate House, Mongewell Park, Mongewell, Oxfordshire		