

Biomass Development, Mapledurham, South Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

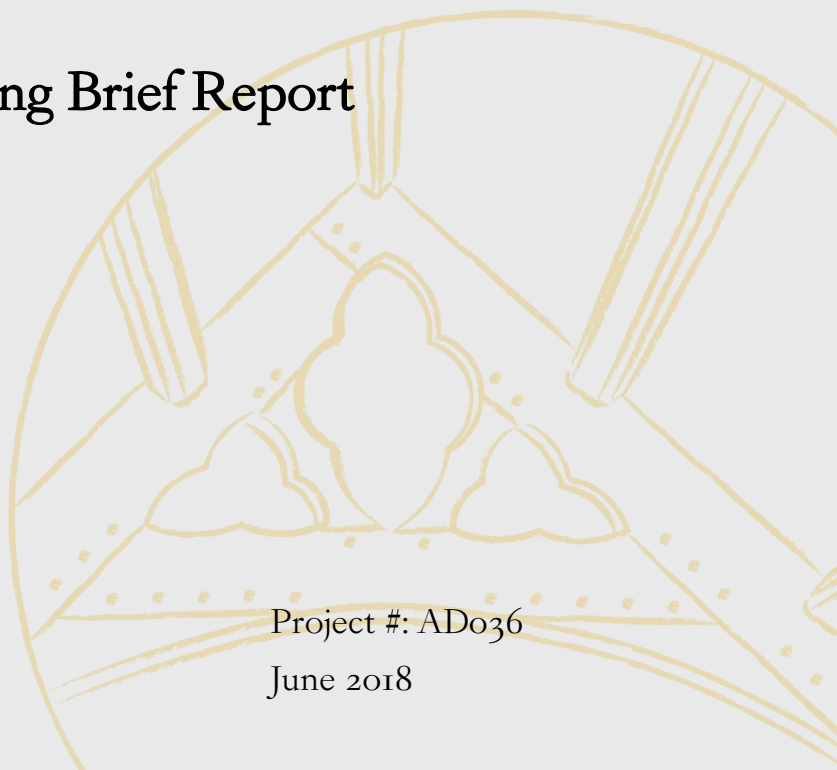
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Abbreviations used in this report

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

Project Team

Ross Cook - An experienced archaeologist and surveyor with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. He has undertaken archaeological fieldwork throughout Wales and has also worked to produce detailed surveys of a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Buildings through Wales and England; this has included Neath Abbey, Llansteffan Castle, Tretower Castle, Cilgerran Castle, Newport Castle Pembrokeshire, Picton Castle, and Brymbo Ironworks. He previously worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology), where he recorded buildings and Monuments, and provided advice on historic buildings at a national level. Currently he is involved with project work with Cadw, The Brymbo Heritage Group, and The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine Research Project.

Ross also works as an Associate Dendrochronologist with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, through which he has undertaken work on sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Winchester Cathedral, Queens House Greenwich, The Tower of London, Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford, Llwyn Celyn (Mons), and a large number of other smaller listed buildings and scheduled sites throughout Wales and England.

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook. An affiliate member of the CIfA, and adheres to the CIfA codes of conduct. He also holds a valid CSCS card.

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Excavations at Mapledurham House, Mapledurham, Oxfordshire

Watching Brief Report

Summary

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services was commissioned by Mapledurham Energy to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation, and undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during excavations at Mapledurham House to allow for the development to be undertaken whilst monitoring for any potential archaeological resource.

*The development comprises of a new boiler house with associated underground pipework, to take hot water from the biomass boilers to Mapledurham House. Planning was granted on 10th January 2017 by South Oxford District Council, under planning number **PR17/SO112/FUL**.*

The Watching Brief was maintained during all works, and was undertaken on 9th - 11th April 2018 and 1st - 3rd May 2018.

During the course of the Watching Brief several archaeological features were uncovered and recorded. Evidence for the greenhouses to the Walled Garden survived flanking the north-east and south-west walls. An Flemish bond garden wall was uncovered running east-west centrally through the Walled Garden. Levelling was observed through most of the ground to the south of the Walled Garden, across the Lawns and rear of Mapledurham House, which clearly demonstrates a period of landscaping to formalise the lawns and rear access. Much of the rear of Mapledurham House has previously been disturbed by service trenching, but foundations for the mid-19th century Game Larder and some cobbling were observed and recorded. Finds were limited to building rubble, with a single late Medieval glazed floor tile recovered from within a later fill context.

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I INTRODUCTION

I.1 Project

I.1.1 ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Mapledurham Energy to undertake an archaeological Watching Brief at Mapledurham House, Mapledurham, Oxfordshire. (hereafter also referred to as the site), prior to the erection of a biomass boiler house and associated trench.

I.1.2 Planning permission (**P17/SO112/FUL**) was granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for the *construction of a small, purpose designed building to house a biomass boiler installation serving Mapledurham House and other estate properties*, to which an archaeological planning condition was applied. The condition stated:

5. 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 groundworks 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 safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

I.1.3 The fieldwork was commenced on 9th April 2018 and concluded on 3rd May 2018, in accordance with the guidance given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, CIfA *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (November 2014), *Watching Brief* (November 2014) and *Archaeological Excavation* (December 2014) and involve the continuous monitoring during all excavations on site.

I.1.4 The purpose for the Watching Brief is to provide information to the County Archaeologist and Local Planning Authority with information regarding any archaeological resources on the site. Requirements for this are set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). This framework ensures that heritage assets, archaeological remains and deposits are fully investigated, recorded and catalogued if they are uncovered as a result of activities associated with the development.

I.1.5 All work has been undertaken by qualified staff and in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

I.1.6 This report documents the results of the Watching Brief and presents an assessment of the results of this work.

I.2 Site and Location

I.2.1 Mapledurham House is located in rural South Oxfordshire, sitting c. 100m north-east of a meander in the River Thames, and 5.6km north-west of Reading. The estate comprises of some 2,500 acres, with the majority of which is mixed agriculture. St Margaret Church forms part of the core of the estate, sitting just c. 30m to the north-west of Mapledurham House, along with the village they form the civil parish of Mapledurham. The site is accessed by a series of small roads and lanes running south-west from the A4074 between Reading and Oxford. The site sits at c. 42m above sea level and occupies a small area of river plain on the edge of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

I.2.2 The local bedrock is a chalk deposit known as the Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven

Chalk Formation (BGS) with a Kempton Park Gravel Formation quaternary deposit (BGS), and a layer of freely draining slightly acidic but base rich soil (Luvisols) (UKSO).

I.2.3



Fig. 1 - Location of the Mapledurham.

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I.2.4

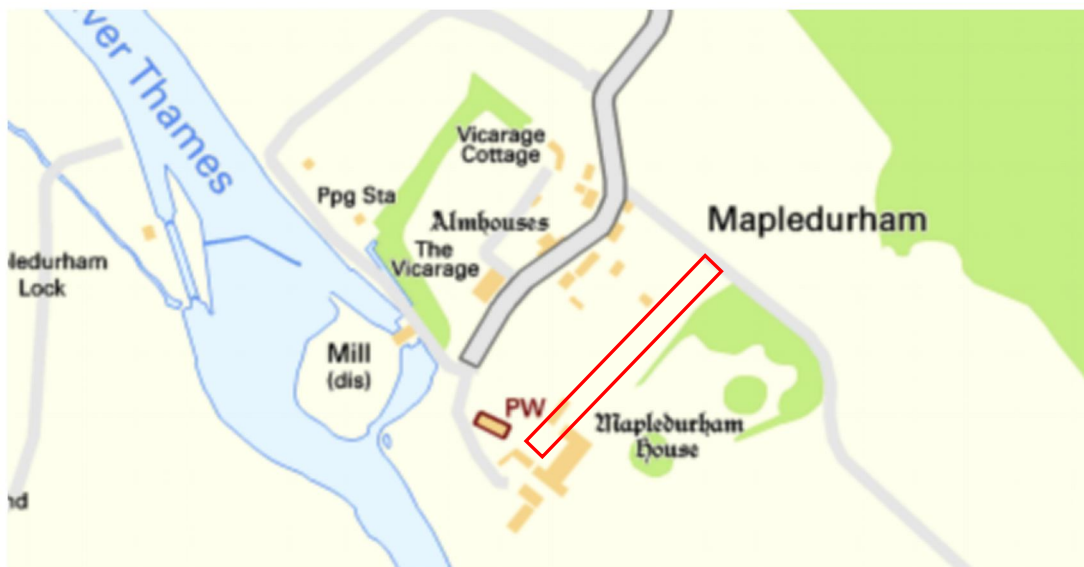


Fig. 2 - Location of Mapledurham House and area of work.

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2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A historic environment search to a radius of 2km was undertaken using the Heritage Gateway, with permission of the County Planning Archaeologist and showed there to be 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument, 66 Listed Buildings, plus 34 sites registered by the National Monuments Record, 105 by the Regional Historic Environment Record, and 6 National Museum Archaeology Collections Sites and Findspots.

2.2 Designated and Undesignated Sites

2.2.1 The development area lies at the heart of the medieval estate of Mapledurham and alongside Mapledurham House, a Grade I Listed Building (**ID 1368944**). There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments immediately bounding or overlooking the site.

2.2.2 Heritage Assets within immediate proximity to the development area:
Mapledurham House - Grade I - ID 1368944 - SU 67067 76648
Church of St Margaret and Bardof Aisle - Listing ID 1059519 - SU 67001 76677
Old Manor House - Listing ID 1368945 - SU 67037 76626
Stables - Listing ID 1285430 - SU 67030 76603
Triton Statue - Listing ID 1059521 - SU 67089 76686
Garden Walls, inc. Fernhouse and Gateway - Listing ID 1059520 - SU 67136 76769

2.3 Archaeology and History

2.3.1 Mapledurham sits within a rich archaeological landscape that provides evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon settlements. The current village nucleus is considered to be the location of the medieval village of Mapledurham, with outlying farmsteads also surviving from this period. The open field system has also remained largely intact around the central holdings of the estate. A number of cruck framed hall houses survive on the estate, providing a vision of the estate during the medieval period.

2.3.2 The Domesday Survey of 1086 refers to two manors in Mapledurham; Mapledurham Chazey belonging to Milo de Crispin, and Mapledurham Gurney belonging to William de Warene. It is around the latter of the two which the Mapledurham estate remaining today was formed after the two manors were combined in 1582.

2.3.4 Today the estate is centred around the Grade I Listed Mapledurham House, for which construction started in 1608/9 under the direction of Sir Richard Blount, and completed in 1612. The nucleus of the estate is also bounded by a number of Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings, including the 15th century manor house and 13th century St Margaret Church. The underlying archaeological deposits are unknown and may pertain to the early development of the estate.

2.4 Prehistoric

2.4.1 Two flint finds of unknown date have been found near the centre of the Mapledurham Estate. These include HER numbers **1967** and **12908**. A Prehistoric-Roman Trackway and Field System survives in part to the east of the estates core (**HER 15341**).

2.5 Palaeolithic

- 2.5.1 The earliest recorded finds in Mapledurham are Palaeolithic handaxes; three found during dredging works near the lock on the River Thames (**HER 8087**); two found in the Boyne Hill Terrace gravel at Chazey Farm (**HER 8086**); and three found at Chazey Court Farm in an unidentified location (**HER 12909**).

2.6 Mesolithic

- 2.6.1 The Mesolithic also turns up a Tranchet axe and flint blade (**HER 27654**) dredged up from Mapledurham Lock, and an axe and long blade from the same location (**HER 26236**).

2.7 Neolithic

- 2.7.1 A single flint pick found in 1958 at Bottom Farm (**HER 1971**) and three axes found in the Thames (**HER 26230**), provide some evidence for Neolithic occupation/use of the land around Mapledurham during this period.

2.8 Bronze Age

- 2.8.1 The best represented of the prehistoric period, the Bronze Age find on the estate include two sets of two bronze spearheads (**HER 7705; 9025**); the first found opposite the Roebuck Inn, the latter found in Mapledurham Lock. A Bronze Age barrow cemetery of five ring ditches survives to the south-east of the manor (**HER 15343**). Five lithic scatter clusters were identified through 150 test pits across Caversham Heath Golf Course (**HER 16095-9**).

2.9 Iron Age

- 2.9.1 Post holes and pit (**HER 28560**), in which pottery was found in the latter of the two, provide evidence for Iron Age activity associated with settlement or agricultural and industrial use.

2.10 Roman

- 2.10.1 Roman occupation is evident through a number of sites scattered to the east of the site. The largest of the sites is a Later Prehistoric - Roman Field System and Settlement (**HER 15342**), dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, with evidence for a possible earlier site. Five find spots have yielded Roman coins (**HER 26229; 26228; 26229; 8018; 26240; 2228**). **HER 8018** is a small hoard dredged from Mapledurham Lock, which are said to have been to the volume of 1 pint. On 16th September 1892 a collection of pots and urns were dredged from the Thames (**HER 26228**) to the south of Mapledurham House, suggesting a possible cemetery in the location of or just up river from Tilehurst.

2.11 Early Medieval

- 2.11.1 The earliest formation of the Mapledurham Estate, at least that around which the current estate is centred of Mapledurham Gurney, is thought to have originated as an Anglo-Saxon Manor or at least semi-disbursed settlement towards the end of the Early Medieval period. Two spearheads have been found relating to this period, one dredged from the Thames near Appletree Eynot (**HER 26240**) and a second south of Mapledurham House (**HER 26235**). Archaeological material and documentary evidence, as with most Anglo-Saxon sites in England, is very slim, but it is clear that the nucleus of the village was established during this

period, only being superseded by the later village that survives today.

2.12 Medieval

- 2.12.1 The Medieval is well represented in Mapledurham, with the building and agricultural landscape surviving from this period. The manor of Mapledurham Gurney comes into existence around 1088-86, under the ownership of William de Warene. The Park was established around the Mapledurham Gurney manor, with an account from 1233 detailing a grant of 2 bucks and 12 does from Henry III Windsor Forest to Hugh de Gurney (**HER 11684**). Another account from the early 13th century names a farmer, William Page, as being in the ownership of a parcel of woodland, known as Pages Shaw Woodland (**HER 13250**).
- 2.12.2 The estate is home to Mill Farm, one of the oldest complete peasant hall houses to survive in Britain, dated to 1335d (**HER 7711**). Four other houses within the search radius have been dated to this period through dendrochronology; Whittles Farm, 1413d (**HER 7723**), Pithouse Farm, 1455d (**HER 10283**), Three Chimneys, 1458d (**HER 7716**), and the Old Manor House, 1448d (**HER 20296**).
- 2.12.3 The original church foundation was in the late 11th - early 12th century, with the surviving Church of St Margaret (**HER 12400**) dating to the late 13th century, the Bardof Aisle is a late 14th century addition.
- 2.12.4 Mapledurham Mill appears in the Domesday Book of 1086, which survives until its rebuilding as part of a large programme of works by Sir Richard Blount around 1625d.
- 2.12.5 The remains of a medieval farmstead are recorded on Caversham Heath Golf Course (**HER 16100**), and two moated sites Pithouse (**HER D4065**) and Lilley Farm (**HER 4064**). The medieval open field system survives surrounding the estates core, with Lynchets surviving at Goring Heath (**HER 15340**), and trackway and field boundaries at Green Dean Woods (**HER 15881**).
- 2.12.6 A multi-period site, spanning the Early to Post Medieval, survives at Chazey Court Farm (**HER MRM18199**). the site is formed of multiple features, including ditches, kiln, two wells, a structure, and pits. The site archaeology demonstrates its use as a multi-phase kiln/ceramic site, which spans multiple periods.

2.13 Post-Medieval

- 2.13.1 As with most sites in England, the Post-Medieval period is very well represented, with a large number of buildings and boundaries surviving. A continued period of construction, alteration and rebuilding appears to extend through much of the 17th to 19th centuries on the estate. The most obvious building from this period is Mapledurham House (**HER 1970**), which was begun in 1585 by Sir Michael Blount (1530-1610), and completed in 1612 by his son, Richard (1565-1619). The Catholic Chapel was added to the rear of the house by Michael Blount (1743-1821). The Walled Garden (**HER 20292**) was built in the mid-late 17th century, with gateway and fernhouse incorporated in the 18th century.
- 2.13.2 Other notable buildings from this period include;
- 2.13.3 Stirrups of 1557 (**HER 7722**), The Almshouse of 1613 (**HER 1512**), Mapledurham Mill of 1625d (**HER 1400**), and The Forge of 1691 (**HER 11310**).
- 2.13.4 The 16th century houses of Hardwick House (**HER 1999**) and Holly Copse (**HER 20223**).
- 2.13.5 The 17th century Park Farmhouse (**HER 7717**), The Bothy and Park Farm Cottage (**HER**

7715), New Farmhouse (HER 7728), Cherry Tree Cottage (HER 20287), Hodmore Cottages (HER 20281), Hodmore House (HER 20299), The Pack Horse Inn (HER 7726), Rose Farmhouse (HER 16051), and Holly Copse Cottage (HER 20224).

2.13.6 The 18th century Toll House (site of) (HER 10237), the Icehouse (HER 3617), The White House (HER 7718), Yew Tree Cottage (HER 20285), Well Cottage (HER 7712), and Step Cottage (HER 7714).

2.13.7 The 19th century brings the Wash House (HER 20290), and Game Larder along with a number of smaller buildings to the rear of Mapledurham House.

2.13.8 Part of the wider economic history of the area is represented by the Great Western Railway (HER 05053), which was authorised by an Act of Parliament in 1835.

2.14 Cartographic Sources

2.14.1 The earliest drawn record of Mapledurham is the Belgrave estate map of 1587. Unfortunately the map has been damaged over the years by people pointing to the house, but what it does appear to show is a walled garden in the area to the north of the house arranged with box hedging (Fig. 3), and that the historic road layout remains to this day.

2.14.2



Fig. 3 - Blgrave Estate Map, 1587.

Reproduced courtesy of J J Eyston for the Mapledurham Estate, photo credit D Miles.

2.14.3 The next estate map, produced by Collier in 1722 (Fig. 4), shows a much clearer image of Mapledurham House during the early 18th century. To the north-east of the house an arrangement of formal gardens can be seen, which we can assume to be walled. Although not accurate to the same level of later mapping, the arrangement does show two distinct areas of gardens.

2.14.4



Fig. 4 - Collier Estate Map, 1722.

Reproduced courtesy of J J Eyston for the Mapledurham Estate, photo credit D Miles.

2.14.5

In 1816 an estate map is produced which is the most clear of the early historical maps for the estate (**Fig. 5**), but is bereft of some detail clearly evident on earlier maps. The map shows the area affected by recent development in very clear detail, with historical layouts of the field system surrounding the core of the estate. The map also shows a number of smaller buildings near the core that are no longer standing or in use, such as the Fern House. Most interestingly the map displays the walled garden as subdivided.

2.14.6



Fig. 5 - 1816 Estate Map. Photo: Dan Miles.

Reproduced courtesy of J J Eyston for the Mapledurham Estate, photo credit D Miles.

2.14.7

The 1877 Six-inch Ordnance Survey Map (**Fig. 6**) shows the estate laid out in much the same manner as the 1816 estate map, with further detail to depict formally laid out gardens within the walled garden area. The map shows the mid-19th century Game Larder standing to the rear of Mapledurham House, within the confines of the development area.

2.14.8



Fig. 6 - 1877 Six-inch Ordnance Survey Map.
Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland 2018.

2.14.9 The 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map from 1910 is the earliest of this series accessed, with the earlier editions being only available as partial maps. The area of the walled gardens have changed little since this map was produced. Since 1910 the area to the rear of Mapledurham House has seen the demolition of the Game Larder and building to the north of the Old Manor, and the construction of a new range of garages and sheds (**Fig. 7**)

2.14.10

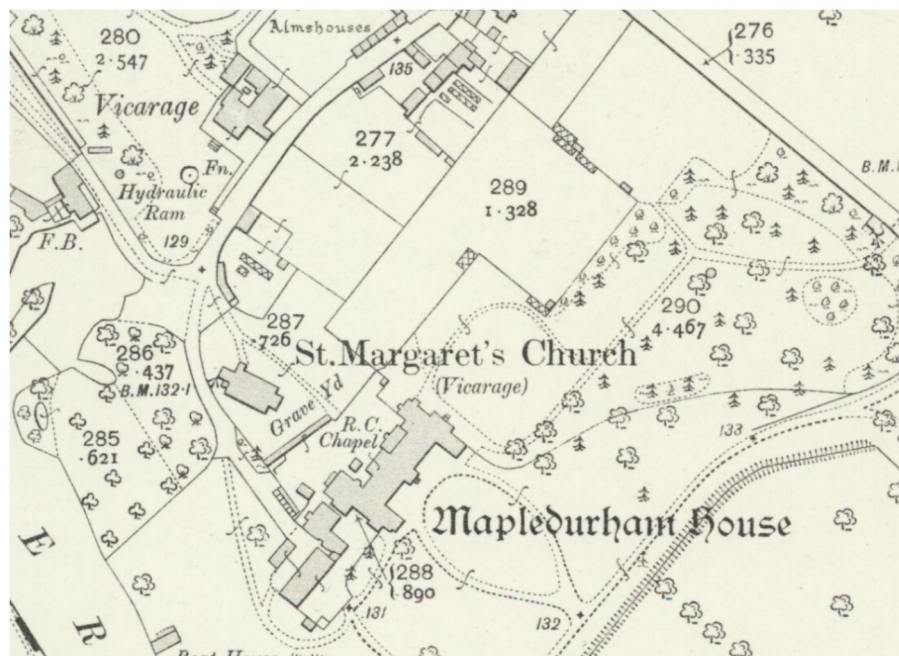


Fig. 7 - 1910 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map.
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2.14.11 The latest mapped record of the estate is Google's Terrain Mapping (**Fig. 8**, 2018), which has produced a 3D topographic map of the estate. The image demonstrated the change in building development behind Mapledurham House during the 20th century.

2.I4.I2



Fig 8 - Mapledurham House.
Map data 2018 Google

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 **Watching Brief**

3.1.1 The aims of the Watching Brief, as defined by the ClfA (2008; revision 2011), are:-

To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.

To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

3.1.2 The aims of the watching brief at Mapledurham House is to identify and record any potential archaeological remains during groundworks on site.

3.1.3 The watching brief will also seek to identify evidence, or lack therefore of, for the archaeological remains, deposits or finds associated with the medieval development of the estate.

3.2 **Report**

3.2.1 The final outcome of the work to compile any findings into a report for submission to the client and LPA to fulfil their planning obligations.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All archaeological works has been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2017) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (November 2014) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 The area to be observed during the watching brief are as follows:-
- ❖ Slab for biomass boiler house
 - ❖ Service trench to carry piping to/from Mapledurham House
- 4.2.2 The service trench runs from **SU 67191 76787** to **SU 67045 76645**, initially travelling on a N-W alignment before curving south to run S-W towards Mapledurham House.
- 4.2.3 The top and subsoil was removed under continuous archaeological supervision, by a tracked 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless trenching bucket. The ground level was reduced to the archaeological horizon or the natural geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. The average depth of which was 600mm below the current ground surface. The generated spoil was visually inspected to maximise the recovery of archaeological artefacts.
- 4.2.4 Areas of potential archaeological features were manually cleaned to prove their presence or absence. During the fieldwork several areas of archaeological interest were uncovered and recorded both photographically and physically.
- 4.2.5 Small finds were collected and bagged in relation to their context.
- 4.2.6 A general photographic record was made using a Canon 760D 24 megapixel camera, with an 18-55mm EFS lens, with ranging rods used where required.
- 4.2.7 The physical archive for the site is held by the Mapledurham Estate at Mapledurham House.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout with a Canon EOS 760D 24 megapixel digital camera, with a Canon EFS 18-55mm lens. 2 x 1m ranging rods or smaller photo scales were used for scale where appropriate.
- 4.3.2 Finds will be recorded and stored with the site archive, unless otherwise specified.
- 4.3.3 A measured survey of the site was undertaken using a Leica TSo6 Total Station, with direct link to AutoCAD via TheoLt. Scaled drawings were produced in AutoCAD 2013 at 1:1 in scale and prepared at 1:500 at A2, 1:100 at A3, and 1:20 at A4 for inclusion within this report.

4.4 Reinstatement

- 4.4.1 Once development has been completed, the remaining topsoil will be used to level the site, with residual soil carted away.

4.5 Health and Safety

- 4.5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and *Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology* (BAJR 2005).

6 FIELDWORK RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 In this section the results of the Watching Brief are presented. The extent of the excavations is shown in **Appendix 1** (Fig. 4), and the photographic archive in **Appendix 2** and **3** (Plates 1 - 79).

- 6.1.2 The groundworks included the excavation for the biomass boiler house foundation slab, and service trench. The pad measures approximately 11 x 9.5m and is located to the northern most end of the development. The service trench measures approximately 240m and runs from the boiler house, across a paddock, through the walled garden, across the lawn and along the rear of Mapledurham House.

- 6.1.3 To provide clarity, the service trench has been divided into four separate trench areas, which are as follows:-

- ❖ **Trench 1** - North-East of Walled Garden, inc. Boiler House Foundation
- ❖ **Trench 2** - Interior of Walled Garden
- ❖ **Trench 3** - Levelled Lawn
- ❖ **Trench 4** - Rear of Mapledurham House

- 6.1.4 **Appendix 1** provides plans of the Trenches and their associated contexts.

- 6.1.5 All excavations were monitored during the groundworks associated with development.

6.2 Stratigraphy

- 6.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence for the site is available in **Appendix 4**.

6.3 Archaeological Result

- 6.3.1 The Watching Brief was undertaken on the 9th - 11th April 2018 and 1st - 3rd May 2018, and monitored all groundworks associated with the development.

- 6.3.2 The watching brief was undertaken to monitor works associated with development at Mapledurham House.

- 6.3.3 Context numbers have been attributed to the stratigraphic sequence, which are described in **Appendix 4**.

- 6.3.4 The topsoil was stripped to a depth of 900mm through Trench1 and reduced gradually in level to 450mm by Trench4.

- 6.3.5 Excavations to the Walled Garden showed the foundation depth to be:-

- ❖ **North-East:** External 75cm, Internal 52cm
- ❖ **South-West:** Internal: 92cm, External, 84cm

- 6.3.6 During the watching brief archaeological material was uncovered within the walled garden, and to the exterior of the north-eastern wall. Context numbers **104, 204, 205, 208, and 209** (**Plates 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15**) are the remains of foundation trenches and hardcore of former greenhouses. Context **207** is of unknown origin, its alignment doesn't correspond with the garden walls, but might be the base of a former path or plant bedding. Context number **206**, which runs centrally through the garden on a northwest-southeast alignment, is the remains of an earlier garden wall or potentially a dividing wall (**Plates 10-12**). This wall is built from 17th century red brick in a Flemish bond with lime mortar, and is not contemporary with the surviving garden walls.
- 6.6.7 The formal lawns to the north-east of Mapledurham House show clear evidence of levelling. Context **302**, clearly demonstrates the use of both building rubble and chalk over an earlier ground surface. Rubble recovered from the levelling contexts shows a use of material from the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 6.3.8 Further levelling can be observed to the rear of Mapledurham House, using chalk as the predominant material (**403**). Later sub-base gravel (**402**) and shingle (**401**) have been used to the rear of the house to provide further levelling and provide a hard surface for vehicular access.
- 6.3.9 Two red brick cylindrical drains (**305 & 411;1-2, 40-41**) were uncovered, both of which running to onion drains/soakaways to the west of the house. The drains carry rainwater runoff from the roof, delivered by downpipes from the houses guttering. These are 19th century in date, and are bonded with a lime mortar.
- 6.3.10 Foundations were exposed to the north-east of the rear southern wing of Mapledurham House. The foundations were formed of a single layer of red brick set in mortar, and belong to the mid-19th century Game Larder (**413**) that once occupied this area (**Fig. 9; Plates 42-43, 45-46**). This area was overlain by a layer of mixed rubble (**414**), from which a late medieval glazed tile was recovered, and large piece of worked sandstone.
- 6.3.11 Much of the rear of Mapledurham House has been disturbed by past trenching to supply services to the house. This has been in the form of the supply of consumables to the house; water, electricity, and oil; and the removal of waste products; sewage and rainwater. As such, the greater proportion of the area had been disturbed in some manner. A small area of cobbles was observed to the north-east corner of the old Manor House (**420; Plate 50**), which are likely bought from off-site and appear to be river worn.
- 6.3.12 A small finds assemblage was recovered from the excavated material. These finds have been rapidly assessed and recorded by ArchaeoDomus and presented in the table below:

Context	Material	No.	Wt (g.)	Comments
206	Red Brick	2	-	Red brick, hand made, clamp fired. 1 heat distorted. L 24.5cm x D 11cm x H 7cm (L 9 x D 4 x H 2). 17 th Century.
302	Red Brick	1	-	Broken brick fragment - representative. H 5.5cm (H 2). Unknown date.
302	Roof Tile	1	-	Broken clay roof tile - representative. Evidence of torching surviving. 19 th Century.
414	Quarry Tile	1	-	Broken quarry tile fragment - representative. 19 th Century. From the Game Larder.
414	Ridge Tile	1	-	Broken clay ridge tile. Red. 19 th Century. From the Game Larder.
414	Gully Brick	1	-	Redbrick drainage gully. 19 th Century. From the Game Larder.
414	Glazed Tile	1	-	Broken glazed floor tile. Late Medieval.
106	Bottle	-	-	Late 19 th - 20 th century earthenware ink bottle.
106	Pottery/China	-	203	Mixed late 19 th and 20 th century pottery and china. Predominantly willow pattern. Plain.
414	Bone	2	-	Animal bone; pig, sheep.

6.3.13 Given the nature of the finds, no further work has been taken on them. The small finds will be retained and form a part of the Project Archive and stored at Mapledurham House.

6.3.14 *No further archaeological deposits, or features were observed during the Watching Brief.*

6.4 Environmental

6.4.1 No environmental deposits for sampling were identified during the Watching Brief.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The archaeological watching brief demonstrated that there is unrecorded archaeological material present on the estate and that areas of the land around its core has been disturbed through processes of development and landscaping. This has been made evident by the exposing of a number of former walls, exposure of service trenches, and the deposition of materials for levelling around the house and lawns.

7.2 No evidence was uncovered that confirmed the existence of any buildings earlier in date than the early 17th century when Mapledurham House was built. All works were closely monitored to identify any potential deposits associated with the moated manor, but none were observed.

7.3 The earliest find is that of the late medieval floor tile (**FN008; Plates 67-69**). However, this does not provide us with any dating evidence for the sequences observed as it sits out of context within a later deposit of rubble. Despite its discovery in a later deposit, the tile is likely to have originated from a building on the estate, potentially from a building at its core. The tile bares no comparison in size or decoration to those seen in the church when viewed for comparison.

7.4 The east-west wall observed (**306; Plates 10-12**) within the Walled Garden is suggestive or either an earlier walled garden, set back slightly towards the house, or it originally existed as a spine wall, dividing the garden in two. If the latter of the two is a possibility any evidence to

help substantiate this has been lost, such as grazing to the remaining walls, as the current garden walls have been rebuilt; made evident by the lack of any formal coarsing and reuse of brick. The wall was built in a Flemish bond, and therefore postdates 1631 when the first known use of this bond was used in England. The size of the bricks from the garden wall match well with those used to build Mapledurham House (1608/9), and therefore leads to conclude a mid to late 17th century date.

7.5 The garden walls have largely been rebuilt and altered, probably sometime during the 19th century, with evidence of greenhouse foundations demonstrates the continued development of the walled garden through the 19th and 20th centuries. The west wall of the garden is English bond broken by a diaper pattern formed from glazed header bricks, which dates to the 16th century and survival of the walled garden seen on the Blagrave map of 1587, but provides no evidence for the earlier wall observed in context 206. A surviving 18th century rubbed brick entrance to the garden survived to the east end of the north-east garden wall, with extensive rebuilding to either side of the posts. The Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps of 1877 - 1932, also demonstrate the existence of greenhouses both internally and externally to the Walled Garden.

7.6 The foundations uncovered to the rear of Mapledurham House can be attributed to the Game Larder (**Fig. 9**), a mid-19th century building of red brick and under clay tile roof, which was demolished in c. 1964. Game Larders were small domestic outbuildings use for the storage of game carcasses, where they can mature in a cool environment before consumption.

7.6.1



Fig. 9 & 10 - Game Larder viewed from the north (Left) and from the south-west (Right), seen behind the South Wing.

7.7 The small area of cobbling (420: **Plate 50**) surviving to the rear of the Old Manor House, leads to the supposition that the rear access to the house was once cobbled, although to what extent it is unclear.

7.8 The block of dressed stone found within context 414 (**Plates 76-79**), is of unknown origin and appears to be a window jamb. It is likely to have origins on the estate, but with no certainty as to where from.

7.9 *No mitigation or further archaeological works are recommended at Mapledurham House for the fulfilment of this planning condition.*

IO ARCHIVING

- IO.I The results of the Watching Brief is this written report and photographic archive (**Appendix 2 & 3**). This will be held by ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services, and will be deposited with the regional HER.. Field notes will be stored by ArchaeoDomus and the finds assemblage stored at Mapledurham House. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

II SOURCES

II.1 Books / Publications

- II.1.1 ClfA 2014, *Standard and guidance; Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- II.1.2 ClfA 2014, *Standard and guidance; Archaeological Evaluation*.
- II.1.3 ClfA 2014, *Standard and guidance; Archaeological Excavation*.
- II.1.4 Cooke, A. H. 1925. *The Early History of Mapledurham*. The Oxfordshire Record Society.
- II.1.5 Long, M. H. 1953. *A History of the Manors or Mapledurham Gurney and Mapledurham Chazey*. University of Oxford.
- II.1.6 Williams, R. G. 2012, *Mapledurham House, Oxfordshire; History and description of contents*. Mapledurham House.
- II.1.7 VCH, 2017, *Mapledurham; Introduction*, Victoria County History; Oxfordshire Texts in Progress
- II.1.8 VCH, 2017, *Mapledurham; Economic History*, Victoria County History; Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

II.2 Online Sources

- II.2.1 **British Geological Survey:** www.bsg.ac.uk
Accessed: September 2018
- II.2.2 **UK Soil Observatory:** www.ukso.org.uk
Accessed: September 2018
- II.2.3 **British Listed Buildings:** www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk
Accessed: September 2018
- II.2.4 **Heritage Gateway:** <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>
Accessed: June 2018

II.3 Maps

- II.3.1 1809 Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing, Tenby
From: www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw
- II.3.2 1877 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map - Oxfordshire LVI

From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/102346849>

11.3.3 1897 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map - Oxfordshire LVI.SW
From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/101458185>

11.3.4 1910 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map - Berkshire XXIX.SW
From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/97791064>

11.3.5 1931 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map - Berkshire XXIX.SW
From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/97791067>

11.3.6 1938 OS Six-inch to One Mile Map - Berkshire XXIX.SW
From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/97791070>

11.3.7 1910 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map - Berkshire XXIX.9
From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/104197159>

11.3.8 1932 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map - Berkshire XXIX.9
From: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/104197156>

Appendix I

Proposed Plans

Trench Plan

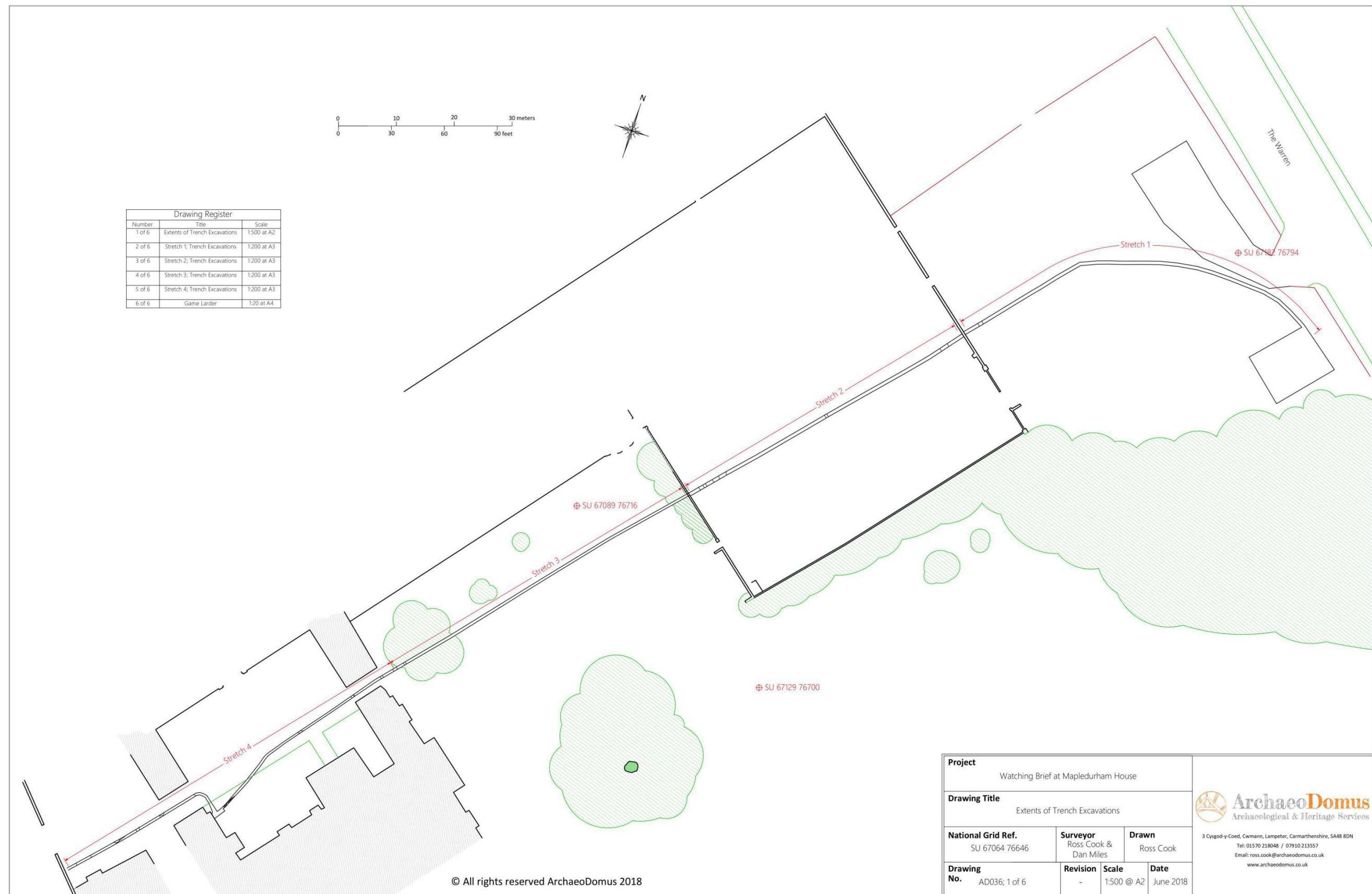
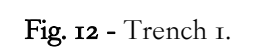


Fig. 11 - Extents of trench excavations.





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Fig. 13 - Trench 2.

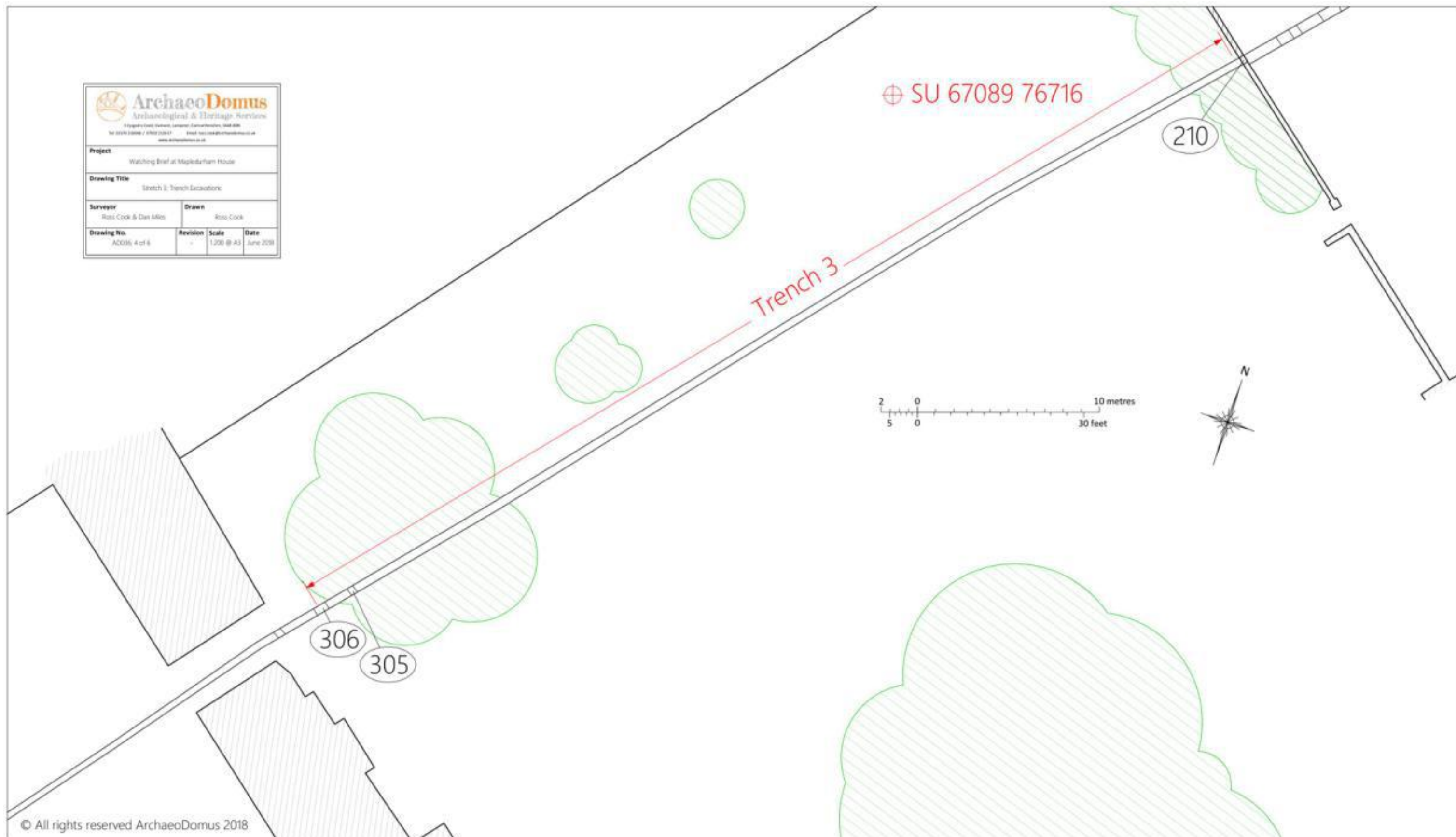
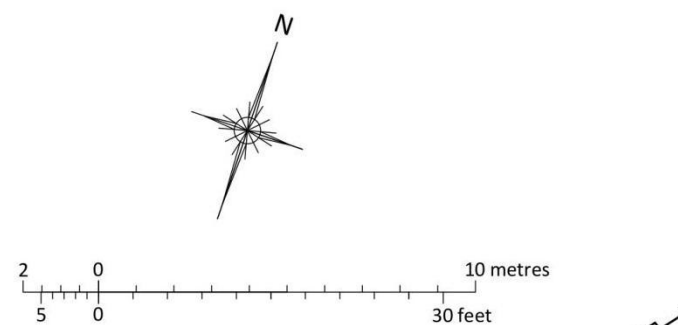


Fig. 14 - Trench 3.

 ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services <small>3 Crigod-y-Coed, Cwmarn, Lampeter, Carmarthenshire, SA48 8DN Tel: 01570 218048 / 07910 213557 Email: ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk www.archaeodomus.co.uk</small>			
Project Watching Brief at Mapledurham House			
Drawing Title Stretch 4; Trench Excavations			
Surveyor Ross Cook & Dan Miles		Drawn Ross Cook	
Drawing No. AD036; 5 of 6	Revision -	Scale 1:200 @ A3	Date June 2018



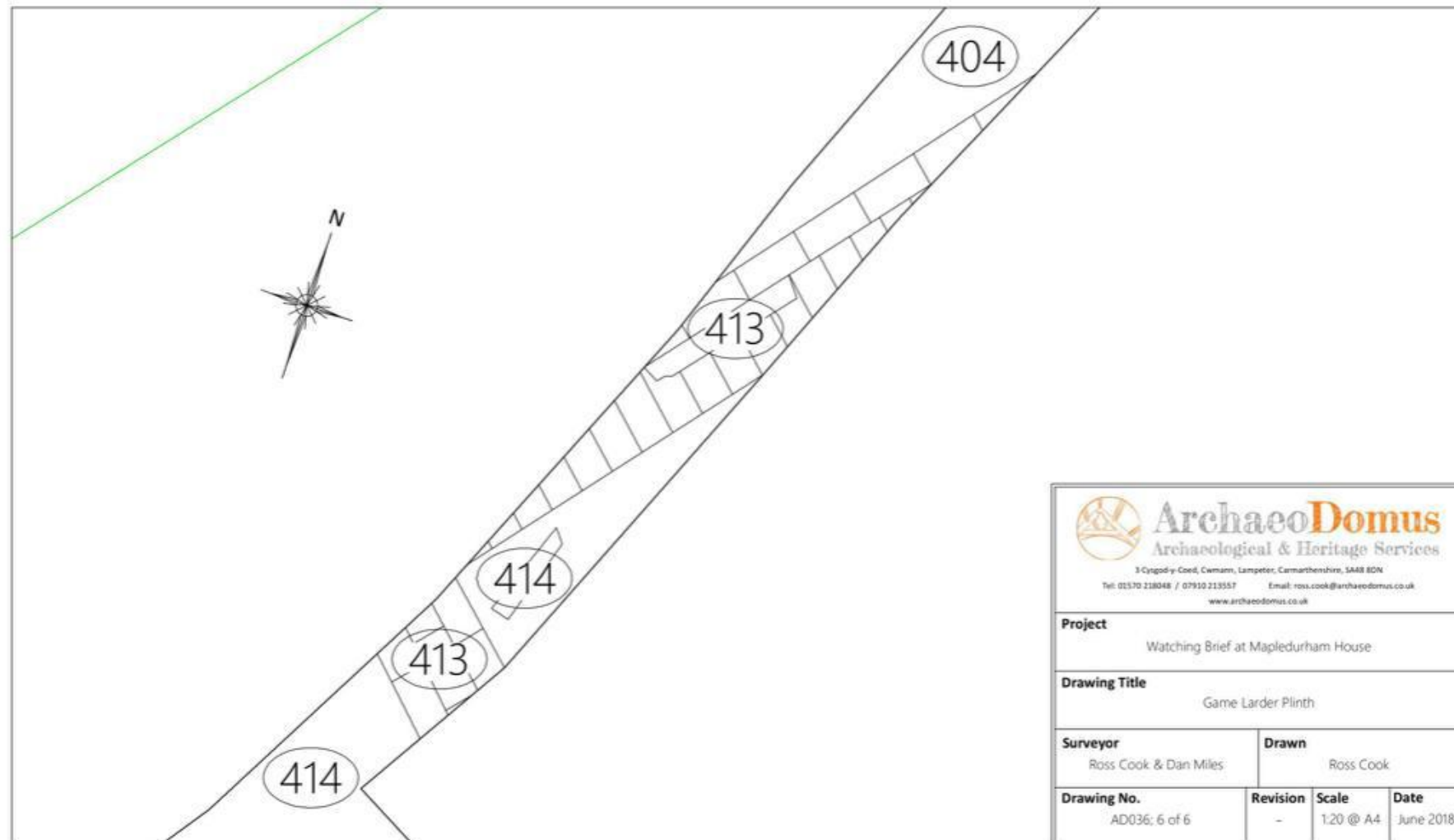


Fig. 16 - Game Larder (413).

Appendix 2

Photographic Record - Watching Brief



Plate 1 - AD036_001 - Red brick drainage pipe to onion drain. Context 305; Trench3.



Plate 2 - AD036_002 - Red brick drainage pipe to onion drain. Context 305; Trench3.



Plate 3 - ADO36_003 - Greenhouse foundation fill. Context 104; Trench1.



Plate 4 - ADO36_004 - Base of north-east wall of Walled Garden (external). Context 105; Trench1.



Plate 5 - ADo36_005 - Base of north-east wall of Walled Garden (internal). Context 105; Trench2.



Plate 6 - ADo36_006 - Drainage bed to greenhouse. Context 204; Trench2.



Plate 7 - AD036_007 - Foundation for former greenhouse. Context 205; Trench2.



Plate 8 - AD036_008 - Foundation for former greenhouse. Context 205; Trench2.



Plate 9 - AD036_009 - General view of contexts 204 and 205; Trench2.



Plate 10 - AD036_010 - Former wall. Context 206; Trench2.



Plate 11 - AD036_011 - Former wall. Context 206; Trench2.



Plate 12 - AD036_012 - Former wall. Context 206; Trench2.



Plate 13 - AD036_013 - Chalk deposit. Context 207; Trench2.



Plate 14 - AD036_014 - Greenhouse foundation. Context 208; Trench2.



Plate 15 - AD036_015 - Greenhouse foundation. Context 209; Trench2.



Plate 16 - AD036_016 - Base of south-west wall of Walled Garden (internal). Context 210; Trench2.



Plate 17 - AD036_017 - General view north-east through Walled Garden.



Plate 18 - AD036_018 - General view north-east through walled garden, showing context 206.



Plate 19 - AD036_019 - General view south-west through Walled Garden.



Plate 20 - AD036_020 - Base of south-west wall of Walled Garden (external). Context 210; Trench3.



Plate 21 - AD036_021 - Levelling to lawn. Context 302; Trench3.



Plate 22 - AD036_022 - General view north-east across lawn.



Plate 23 - ADo36_o23 - General view south-west through to rear of Mapledurham House.



Plate 24 - ADo36_o24 - General view south-west across lawn.



Plate 25 - AD036_025 - General view of base for Boiler House. Context 106; Trench1.



Plate 26 - AD036_026 - General view of base for Boiler House. Context 106; Trench1.



Plate 27 - AD036_027 - General view of base for Boiler House. Context 106; Trench 1.



Plate 28 - AD036_028 - General view south-west across area North-East of Walled Garden.



Plate 29 - ADO36_o29 - General view south-west across area North-East of Walled Garden.



Plate 30 - ADO36_o30 - General view south-west across area North-East of Walled Garden.



Plate 31 - AD036_031 - General view south-west across area North-East of Walled Garden.



Plate 32 - AD036_032 - General view south-west across area North-East of Walled Garden.



Plate 33 - ADo36_o33 - General view of turf strip for loading/unloading area.



Plate 34 - ADo36_o34 - General view of turf strip for loading/unloading area.



Plate 35 - ADo36_o35 - General view of turf strip for loading/unloading area.



Plate 36 - ADo36_o36 - Former wall, Context 206; Trench2.



Plate 37 - ADO36_o37 - Wall, post medieval. Possible English bond. Context 306; Trench4.



Plate 38 - ADO36_o38 - Red brick wall and path. Context 408; Trench4.



Plate 39 - AD036_039 - Red brick wall and path, general location. Context 408; Trench4.



Plate 40 - AD036_040 - Red brick drainage pipe to onion drain. Context 411; Trench4.



Plate 41 - AD036_041 - Chalk levelling. Context 403; Trench4.



Plate 42 - AD036_042 - Game Larder foundation plinth. Context 413; Trench4.



Plate 43 - AD036_043 - Game Larder foundation plinth. Context 413; Trench4.



Plate 44 - AD036_044 - Stone jamb. Context 414; Trench4.



Plate 45 - ADO36_o45 - Red bricks and remaining late concrete pointing. Context 413; Trench 4.



Plate 46 - ADO36_o46 - Location of Game Larder. Context 413; Trench 4.



Plate 47 - ADO36_o47 - Stone jamb before removal. Context 414; Trench 4.



Plate 48 - ADO36_o48 - General view north-east along rear of house. Trench 4.



Plate 49 - ADO36_049 - General view south-west along rear of house. Trench 4.



Plate 49 - ADO36_049 - General stratigraphy to rear of S wing, Contexts; 401, 402, 404; Trench 4.



Plate 50 - AD036_050 - Exposed cobbling. Context 420; Trench 4.



Plate 51 - AD036_0561 - General view south-west towards the Old Manor House. Trench 4.



Plate 52 - AD036_052 - General view north-east along rear of Old Manor House. Trench 4.



Plate 53 - AD036_053 - General stratigraphy to rear of Old Manor. Context 401, 402, 404. T4.



Plate 54 - ADO36_054 - General view along rear of N wing. Trench 4.



Plate 55 - ADO36_055 - General view north-east towards lawn. Trench 3.

Appendix 3

Photographic Record - Finds



Plate 56 - AD036-FN001-1



Plate 57 - AD036-FN001-2



Plate 58 - AD036-FN001-3



Plate 59 - AD036-FN002



Plate 60 - AD036-FN003-1



Plate 61 - AD036-FN003-2



Plate 62 - AD036-FN004-1



Plate 63 - AD036-FN004-2



Plate 64 - AD036-FN005 - 006



Plate 65 - AD036-FN007



Plate 66 - AD036-FN008



Plate 67 - AD036-FN009-1



Plate 68 - ADo36-FNo09-2



Plate 69 - ADo36-FNo09-3



Plate 70 - AD036-FNo10



Plate 71 - AD036-FNo11-1



Plate 72 - AD036-FN011-2



Plate 73 - AD036-FN012-1



Plate 74 - AD036-FNo12-2



Plate 75 - AD036-FNo13



Plate 76 - AD036-FN014-1



Plate 77 - AD036-FN014-2



Plate 78 - AD036-FN014-3



Plate 79 - AD036-FN014-4

Appendix 4

Context Inventory

Finds Inventory

Trench 1 - North-East of Walled Garden, inc. Boiler House Foundation				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0.00 - 0.25m	Dark brown to black topsoil, clayey loam heavy in organic material.	Modern
102	Deposit	0.25 - 0.50m	Orange-brown clayey subsoil. Underlies 101.	Natural
103	Deposit	0.50 -	Orange-brown clay, not bottomed.	Natural
104	Structure	0.04 - 0.25m	Foundation cut and fill for greenhouse. Gravel and chalk. Cuts 102.	Post-medieval
105	Structure	0.00 - 0.80m	Garden wall. Flint, chalk, and lime mortar foundations. Red brick coursing. Cuts 101, 102, 103.	Post-Medieval
106	Deposit	0.00 - 0.58m	Mixed soil and rubbish deposit. Plastics, concrete, brick, and burned material. Overlies 102.	Modern

Trench 2 - Interior of Walled Garden				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
105	Deposit	0.00 - 0.25m	Garden wall. Flint, chalk, and lime mortar foundations. Red brick coursing. Cuts 101, 102, 103.	Modern
201	Deposit	0.00 - 0.18m	Dark brown to black topsoil, clayey loam heavy in organic material. Overlies all of Trench 2.	Natural
202	Deposit	0.18 -	Orange-brown clayey subsoil, partially mixed with 201. Underlies 101. Not bottomed.	Post-medieval
203	Deposit	0.25 - 0.45m	Mixed soil and subsoil, dark brown. Overlies 204.	Post-medieval
204	Deposit	0.45 - 0.52m	Greenhouse drainage bed mixed chalk and gravel.	Post-medieval
205	Structure	0.10 - 0.29m	Foundation cut and fill for greenhouse. Gravel and chalk. Cuts 201 and 202.	Post-medieval
206	Structure	0.45 -	Remains of red brick garden wall. Flemish bond with lime mortar. Not bottomed. Cuts 202.	Post-medieval
207	Deposit	0.74 - 0.80m	Chalk deposit. Sit within 202	Post-medieval
208	Structure	0.10 - 0.43m	Foundation cut and fill for greenhouse. Gravel and chalk. Cuts 202.	Post-medieval
209	Structure	0.95 -	Foundation cut and fill. Gravel and chalk. Not bottomed.	Post-medieval
210	Structure	0.00 - 0.89m	Garden wall. Flint, chalk, and lime mortar foundations. Red brick coursing. Cuts 201 and 202.	Post-medieval

Trench 3 - Levelled Lawn				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
210	Structure	0.00 - 0.89m	Garden wall. Flint, chalk, and lime mortar foundations. Red brick coursing. Cuts 201, 202, 301, 302, and 303.	Post-medieval
301	Deposit	0.00 - 0.14m	Dark brown to black topsoil, clayey loam heavy in organic material. Overlies all of Trench 3.	Post-medieval
302	Deposit	0.14 - 0.27m	Rubble and chalk levelling material. Contains 17 th and 18 th century brick. Underlies 301.	Post-medieval
303	Deposit	0.27 - 0.65m	Dark brown to black subsoil, probably buried land surface. Underlies 302.	Natural
304	Deposit	0.65 -	Orange-brown clay, not bottomed.	Natural
305	Structure	0.42 -	Red brick drainage pipe to onion drain/soakaway. Lime mortar. Not bottomed.	C19 th

306	Structure	0.55 -	Red brick wall, English bond (?). Lime mortar.	Post-medieval
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Trench 4 - Rear of Mapledurham House				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
306	Structure	0.55 -	Red brick wall, English bond (?). Lime mortar.	Post-medieval
401	Deposit	0.00 - 0.03m	Gravel/pea shingle drive surface.	Modern
402	Deposit	0.03 - 0.15m	Sub-base gravel levelling.	Modern
403	Deposit	0.15 - 0.27m	Chalk levelling.	Post-medieval
404	Deposit	0.27 - 0.38	Dark brown to black subsoil, probably buried land surface. Underlies 403.	Natural
405	Deposit	0.00 - 0.11m	Dark brown to black top soil to lawn area.	Modern
406	Structure	0.05 - 0.12m	Electric Cables.	Modern
407	Structure	0.51 -	Modern plastic heating pipes. Sand covered. Not bottomed.	Modern
408	Structure	0.31 - 0.43m	Red brick wall and path. Lime mortar.	Post-modern
409	Structure	0.17 - 0.21m	Iron water pipe.	Modern
410	Structure	0.20 - 0.35m	Disused clay soil pipe.	Modern
411	Structure	0.42 -	Red brick drainage pipe to onion drain. Lime mortar. Not bottomed.	C19th
412	Structure	0.22 - 0.25m	Electrical cable.	Modern
413	Structure	0.11 - 0.28m	Game Larder. Red brick and lime mortar. Some later cement surviving.	C19th
414	Deposit	0.11 - 0.32m	Rubble fill next to Game Larder. Mixed material. Late-medieval glazed tile found.	C20th
415	Structure	0.44 -	Modern heating pipework - from current biomass boiler house.	Modern
416	Structure	0.44 -	Electric cable.	Modern
417	Structure	0.32 -	Soil pipe. Not bottomed.	Modern
418	Structure	0.28 - 0.36m	Oil pipe.	Modern
419	Structure	0.34 - 0.40m	Electric cable/Pipe.	Modern
420	Structure	0.01 - 0.10m	River stone cobbles.	Post-medieval
421	Structure	0.17 - 0.21m	Electric cable.	Modern
422	Structure	0.24 - 0.35m	Plastic drainage pipe.	Modern
423	Structure	0.19 - 0.32m	Clay soil pipe.	Modern
424	Structure	0.22 - 0.40m	Plastic drainage pipe.	Modern

Finds Register				
Number	Type	Context	Description	Period
FN001	Brick	206	Red brick, clamp fired. Heat distortion. Hand Made. Lime mortar.	C17 th
FN002	Brick	206	Red brick, clamp fired. Hand Made. Lime mortar.	C17 th
FN003	Clay Tile	302	Clay tile, with peg hole and lime torching. Hand made.	Post-Medieval
FN004	Clay Tile	302	Clay tile, with peg hole and lime torching. Hand made.	Post-medieval
FN005	Brick	414	General rubble fill. Brick and floor tile. From the Game Larder.	C19 th
FN006	Tile	414	Quarry tile. From the Game Larder.	C19 th
FN006	Brick	302	Red engineering brick. Frog to both top and bottom. Machine made(?),	C20 th
FN007	Brick	306	Red brick, lime mortar. Hand made.	C17 th - C18 th
FN008	Floor Tile	414	Lead glazed floor tile. Floral(?) motif.	Late-Medieval
FN009	Brick	413	Red brick. Lime mortar. Hand made. From the Game Larder.	C19 th
FN010	Brick	414	Gully brick. From the Game Larder.	C19 th
FN011	Ridge Tile	414	Ridge Tile. Clay. From the Game Larder.	C19 th
FN012	Bottle	106	Earthenware ink bottle. Salt glazed.	C19 th - C20 th
FN013	Stone Jamb	414	Stone jamb, window? Earlier material in amongst multi-period fill.	Medieval / Post-Med

Appendix 5

Misc

Period	Approximate Dates
Palaeolithic	<i>circa</i> 225,000 BCE - 10,000 BCE
Mesolithic	<i>circa</i> 10,000 BCE - 3500BCE
Neolithic	<i>circa</i> 3500 BCE - 2000 BCE
Bronze Age	<i>circa</i> 2000 BCE - 600 BCE
Iron Age	<i>circa</i> 600 BCE - 43 CE
Roman	43 CE - 410 CE
Early Medieval	410 CE - 1066 CE
Medieval	1066 CE - 1485 CE
Post Medieval	1485 CE - 1700 CE
Early Modern	1700 CE - 1900 CE
Modern	1900 CE - Present

Table 1 - British Archaeological and Historical Time Periods.

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