

John Perryman Associates

The Church of St John, Barford St John, Oxfordshire

NGR SP 4370 3350

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Oxford Archaeological Unit

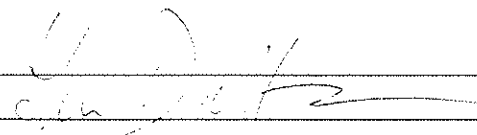
November 1998

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Prepared by: 

Date: 2/12/98

Checked by: 

Date: 4/12/1998

Approved by: R. Williams

Date: 8/12/1998

Oxford Archaeological Unit

November 1998

Summary

In April 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at the Church of St John, Barford St John, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 4370 3350). No archaeological features were seen and no finds were retrieved.

1 Introduction (Fig. 1)

The development proposal comprised the excavation of a trench for a new drain around the northern side of the church. The watching brief was commissioned by John Perryman, the project architect, on behalf of St John's Church. It was undertaken in consultation with the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee's Archaeological Advisor, Mr David Miles.

2 Background

St John's Church is located immediately east of the Manor House and north-west of Manor Farm, in Barford St John. The church was heavily restored between 1860 and 1861; at this time its distinctive octagonal tower was added, as well as the south porch. Now a small building, without a central aisle, it has retained its Norman south door complete with zigzag decorated arch. Inside, the church has a Norman tub-shaped font with quatrefoil decoration.

3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to record any archaeological remains exposed on site during the course of the works to established standards (Wilkinson 1992), in order to secure the preservation by record of any archaeology, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance.

4 Methodology

One inspection visit was made to the site by prior arrangement with the project architect, during the course of the works. All of the excavation was by hand, and was undertaken by David Tew, the main contractor. The majority of the trench had already been dug prior to the visit.

Within the constraints imposed by health and safety considerations the deposits exposed were cleaned, inspected and recorded in plan, section and by colour slide and monochrome print photography. Written records were also made on proforma sheets. Soil descriptions use standard charts for the approximation of percentage of inclusion types in soil deposits.

5 Results (Figs 2 and 3)

The drain trench was excavated to a width of 0.75 m and an average depth of 0.50 m. The section displayed the following sequence:

- (1) – topsoil; 0.12 m of mid brown/gray silty clay loam with 5% subangular fine gravel, sealing;

(2) – subsoil/graveyard soil: 0.38 m of mid brown clay loam with 5% subangular fine gravel and small-medium sandstone pieces (0.10 – 0.15m in diameter) and lenses of mortary sand.

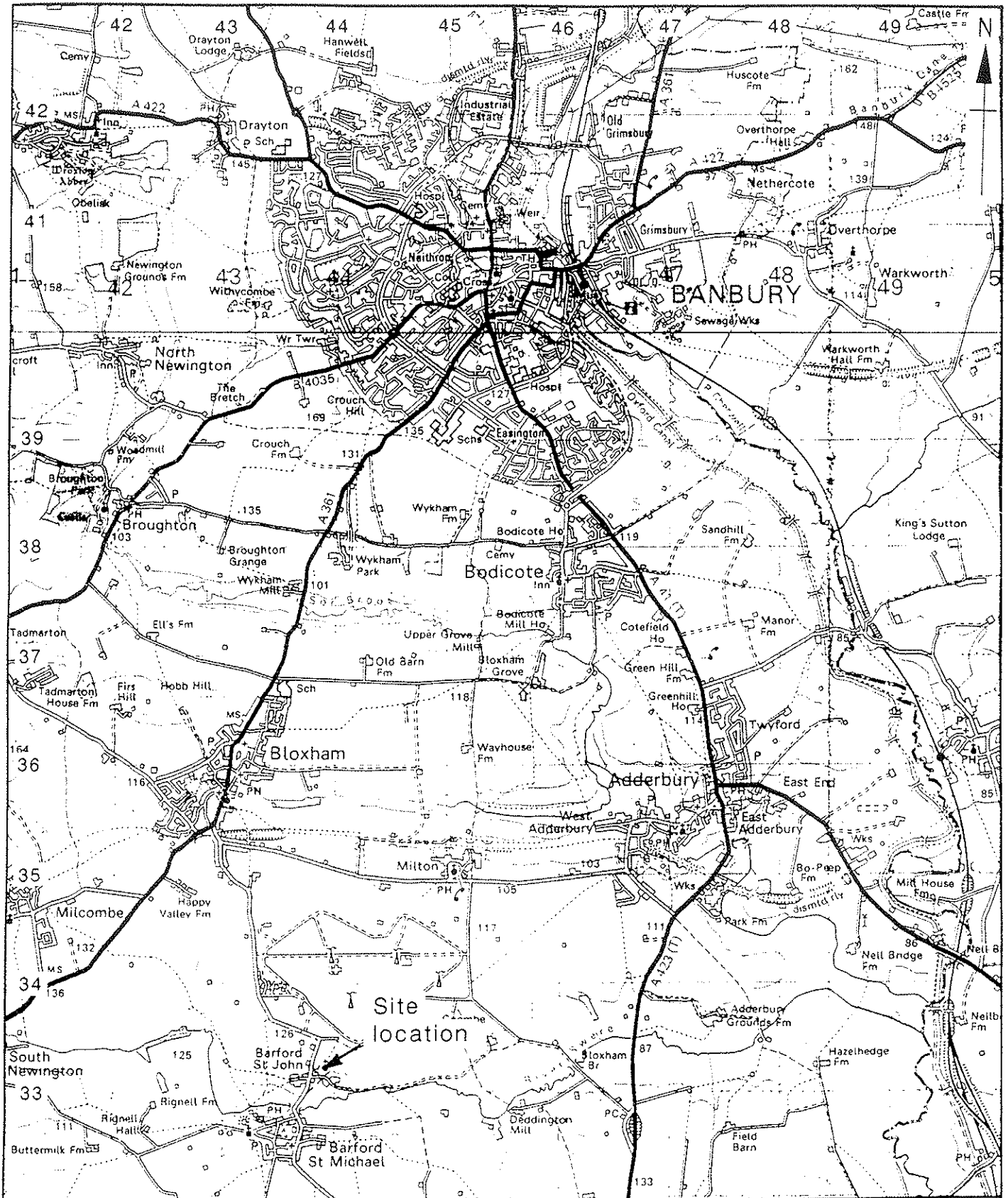
Deposit (2) was consistent to the base of the cut, and no further deposits were seen.

6 Discussion

It is thought likely that the sandstone pieces and lenses of mortar seen in deposit (2) relate to the 1860/61 rebuild of the church. Nothing further was seen.

References.

Wilkinson, D (Ed) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual. (First edition, August 1992).



scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1

St. John's Church, Barford St. John

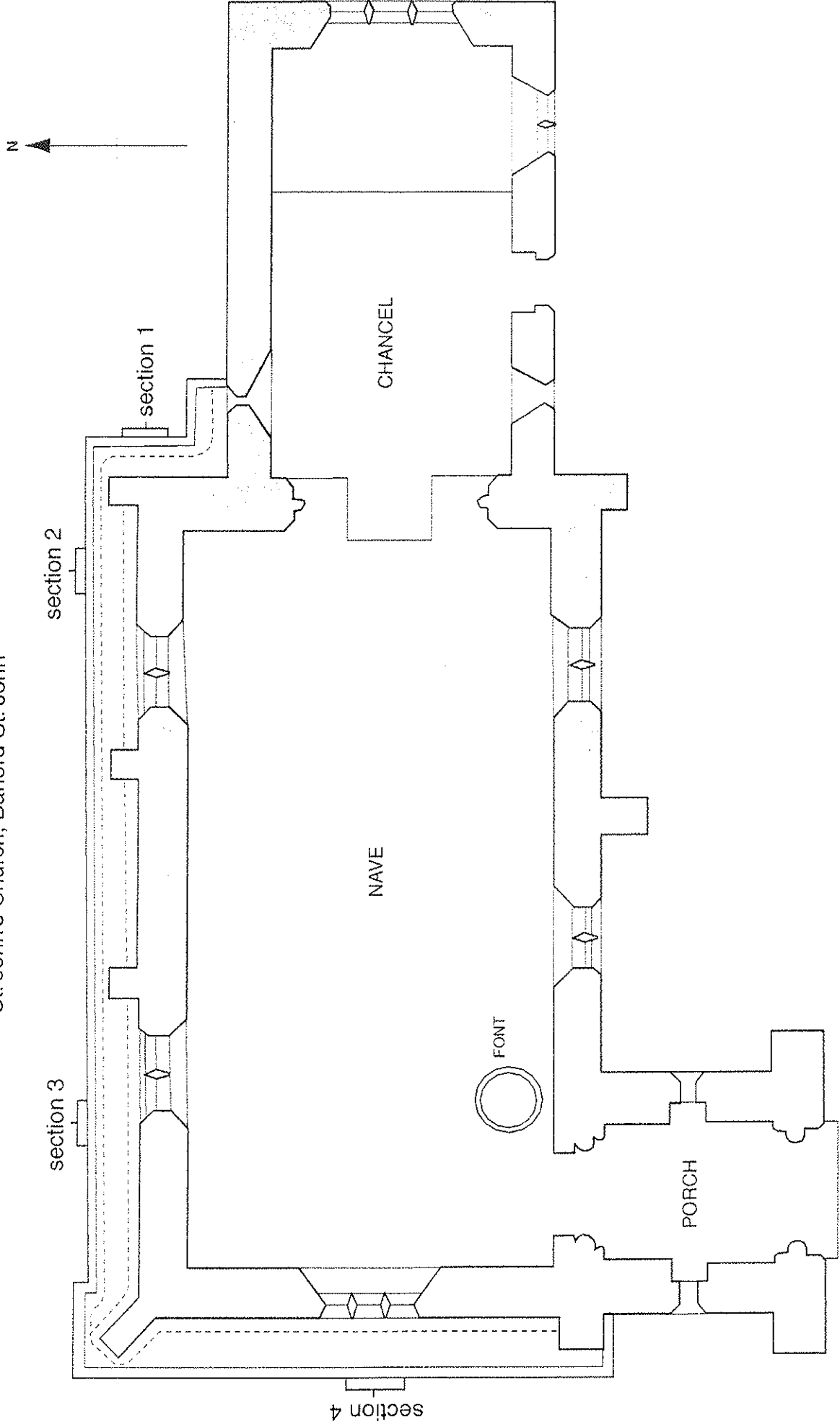


Figure 2

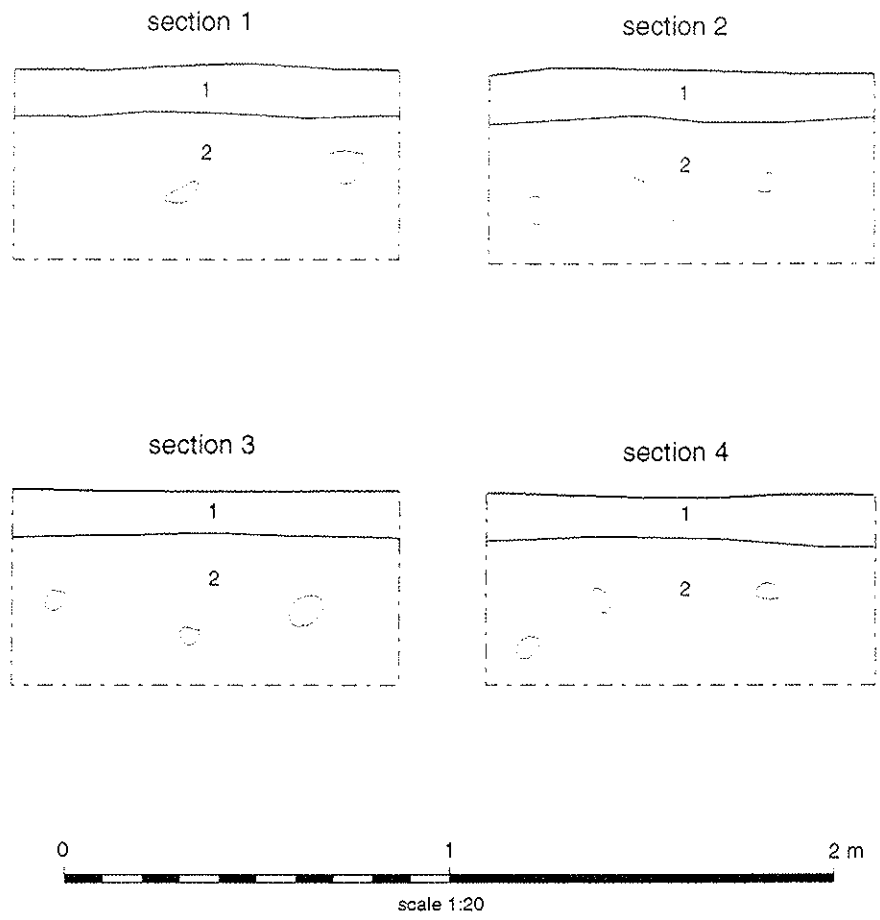


Figure 3



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