

## **Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 Appendix 12 Additional Information**

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## **4 BOTLEY MILL, BOTLEY ROAD (HER REF. PRN D6398)**

### **4.1 Introduction**

- 4.1.1 CH2M (on behalf of the Environment Agency) has commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) to carry out additional research on the site of Botley Mill. This report is an addendum (Appendix 12) to the 2016 Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 Heritage Desk-Based Assessment. The site of the mill and its associated watercourses will be affected by the scheme.
- 4.1.2 The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme passes through the site of a now-demolished mill which once stood in the village of Botley. It is uncertain exactly when it was established, though a mill is recorded in the area as early as the 11th century. The building was demolished in the 1920s due to widening of Botley Road to the north, and it appears that the building may have been in a poor state by this time.

### **4.2 Location**

- 4.2.1 Botley Mill stood on the Seacourt Stream, a tributary of the River Thames, around one mile west of the city of Oxford. The mill had a water wheel over the Seacourt Stream with the mill located on the eastern bank and the mill house located on the western bank of the stream. The site lies just south of Botley Road, the main route west from Oxford. The site of Botley Mill is shown on Figure 29.
- 4.2.2 Botley, a hamlet in North Hinksey (which was once in the parish of Cumnor), was in Berkshire until 1974, when it passed to the Vale of White Horse in Oxfordshire. The city boundary passes down the Seacourt Stream on the east side of the mill.
- 4.2.3 Although the mill itself was demolished in the 1920s, the George Inn, immediately to its north survived, and only recently closed and became an electronics showroom and shop.

### **4.3 The site**

- 4.3.1 A walk-over of the site was conducted on the morning of the 4th April 2017. Conditions were overcast and damp. The site can be accessed from Botley Road via a gate onto a public footpath which runs along the east side of Seacourt Stream, leading south to fields currently under pasture (Figure 48).
- 4.3.2 On the east bank, the area between the stream and the footpath is low-lying rough ground which is largely inaccessible due to nettles, trees and other plants (Figure 49). There is no visible evidence of the remains of the mill or water management features within this area, though the east bank juts out into the stream close to where a stone bridge stood in the early 20th century (Figure 50 and 51). The ground level noticeably rises from the east bank to the pathway, and while there are some incidences of building rubble in the surface of the pathway it seems likely that this consists of modern, made-up ground, no doubt to guard against flooding.
- 4.3.3 South of the Botley Road only one main stream is now present, the one that was widened in c.1923 when the mill was removed. There is no sign of the eastern stream (still present as a silted ditch on the north side of the road), though it may survive in a culvert between the river and the Wickes warehouse. The modern east-west footpath crosses a slight hollow on the site of this stream/ditch, and further to the south it again becomes a wet ditch following the southern perimeter of the warehouses.
- 4.3.4 On the west side of Seacourt Stream the former George Inn survives as an audio shop, but apart from that its environs are now an area of modern development, including buildings, roads and carparks. A modern footpath crosses the stream at this point, south of where the mill would have stood (Figure 52), and to the north of this the river bank revetment has been built of concrete blocks. There is no sign of the streams that crossed the site (although again the ditch survives in part on the north side of the Botley Road): it seems that some of the channels must be culverted, as there are two concrete drain exits on the west bank between the former

George Inn and the footbridge. There is no sign any other structures or water-management features on the west bank.

- 4.3.5 To the north of the Botley Road the historic pattern of streams is intact (although partly silted), with an irregular island shape bisected by the Seacourt Stream, and an electricity pylon standing in the eastern half of this island (Figure 53). There is at least one pre-existing water-management feature on the Seacourt Stream, where a ‘lasher’ is labelled on early Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (Figures 34-37) shown as a side stream with its entrance closed off by a line. The side stream has now become a large silted pond, and at its entrance is the remains of a stone sluice or weir that could control the flow of water into the lasher stream (Figure 54).
- 4.3.6 Several large pollarded willow trees were noted to the west and east of the site of Botley Mill and appear to be over 100 years old. These may have defined the edges of the historic watercourses (Figure 55).

#### 4.4 *Sources and map regression*

- 4.4.1 A number of sources were consulted for this study including:

- Maps, photographs and prints at the Oxfordshire History Centre
- Maps and prints held locally by Oxford Archaeology
- Aerial photographs held by the Historic England Archive
- Primary and secondary sources held within the Bodleian Libraries

A full list of cartographic and secondary sources consulted can be found in the bibliography.

- 4.4.2 Several cartographic sources provide information about the site, including Rocque’s map of Berkshire 1761 (Figure 30), the Ordnance Survey 1811 drawing and printed First Series 1-inch map of 1830 (Figure 31). There is a series of early estate and enclosure maps, not all of which were accessible, and one of which (the Harcourt North Hinksey estate map of 1842 – Figure 32) is in private hands;<sup>1</sup> others are the 1853 Enclosure Plan for St Thomas’ Parish (Figure 33) and the 1:2500 OS maps including the 1876 1st Edition, 1899 2nd Edition, 1921 Edition, and the 1938 Edition (Figures 34-37).
- 4.4.3 The earliest cartographic evidence for Botley Mill appears on Rocque’s map of Berkshire 1761 (Figure 30) which labels a cluster of buildings south of Botley Road as ‘Mill’. This map also shows a 45 degree kink in the road to the north-west of the mill indicating that Botley Road may have passed directly north of the mill at this time. Hanson notes that there was a causeway from Botley village leading eastward into Oxford which was deviated south in 1728 to use the bridge adjacent to Botley Mill (Hanson 1996, 186). This suggests that before the new bridges were built as part of the Botley turnpike road in 1769 the main route from the west into Oxford passed just north of Botley Mill (Hanson, 1996, 185).
- 4.4.4 The Ordnance Survey preparatory drawing of 1811 at a scale of 2 inches to a mile (OSD 157: Wallingford, not illustrated) is slightly damaged at this point, but the 1830 printed OS 1-inch map (First Series) shows the position of a building, which is almost certainly the mill, on Seacourt Stream just to the south of Botley Bridge (Figure 31). The 1842 Harcourt estate map (Figure 32) of 1842 (reproduced as a tracing by Hanson – 1996, 235) is hard to read in detail, but shows a road and bridge immediately north of the mill (and the Botley Road bridge yet further north). It labels Botley Mill as 17 (which is hard to make out), land to the south-east of the mill as 18 ‘The Rod Eyott’, land to the north-west (15) and north-east of the mill (16) as ‘Mill Ham’.

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<sup>1</sup> See note on maps in Bibliography.

- 4.4.5 The 1848 pre-enclosure map of the meadows between Osney and Botley reproduced from a tracing in the Oseney cartulary<sup>2</sup> [Cart OS II, 633] has been found in Christ Church archives<sup>3</sup> and is likely to show the same area as the 1853 Enclosure Plan for St Thomas' Parish (Figure 33), i.e. the bridge over the eastern watercourse and not Botley Mill itself. Of special interest is its depiction of the present and former line of Botley Road, suggesting that at this date the road passed much nearer to the mill and was moved north later. The 1853 Enclosure map of St Thomas' Parish (Figure 33) shows the position of a footpath crossing the watercourse to the east of the Seacourt Stream, close to where the mill stood, but not the buildings. The OS 25-inch 1876 1st Edition (Figure 34) and 1899 2nd Edition OS maps (Figure 34) are the first to show the mill and house buildings and their surrounding features in greater detail. The 1921 Edition OS (Figure 36) shows that the mill was still extant and the 1938 Edition OS map (Figure 37) shows the mill had been demolished but the mill house still standing on the west bank. During the later 20th century the west bank of the mill site became increasingly industrial as shown on the 1958 1:1250 and the 1968-1970 1:250 OS maps (not illustrated). By 1970 the western watercourses associated with the mill (Figure 46) had been built on with a large joinery works and associated buildings. These works were then replaced by the Minns Business Park and associated car parks. The eastern bank of the mill site has remained undeveloped.
- 4.4.6 Aerial photographs held by Historic England show how the mill site was redeveloped during the later 20th century, particularly the western bank. An aerial photograph dated 1947 shows the north-south George Inn building with an east-west building to the south which may be the mill house or another building in the same footprint (CPE/UK/2268 Part II 29Aug47 – 5232). The 1:1250 OS map of 1958 (not illustrated) also shows an east-west building in the location of the mill house. Another photograph dated 1968 shows that by this date the western bank had been developed into an industrial estate and another building had been constructed on the footprint of the mill house (ZE155 049, 1 July 1968, 66-236).
- 4.4.7 Several photos of the mill building dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries exist in Oxfordshire County Council Photographic Archive. Two photos from the Taunt Collection show the mill in use during the later 19th century (Figures 40 and 41), while another shows the building during demolition work in 1924 (Figure 43). There are also two other views of Botley Mill house in c1924 (Figures 44-45) which Hanson copied from private collectors and used in his 1995 book on Botley (Hanson, 1995, 17).
- 4.4.8 A watercolour of the mill, painted in 1907 by J. Allen Shuffrey, depicts the south-facing side of the mill with Seacourt Stream in the foreground (Figure 41). A drawing of the mill by John Natt (1778-1843) (Figure 38) is almost identical to an anonymous engraving of the mill from the west side dated 1799, with the spires of Oxford in the background (Figure 39), and contains information that can readily be identified on Taunt's photographs.
- 4.4.9 A useful overview of the history of the site is presented in Belsten's (1970) *The Story of Botley Mill*, while further information can be found in the Oxfordshire and Berkshire volumes of the Victoria County History and Hanson's (1996) seminal study of the landscape history of Cumnor, Wytham and North Hinksey.

## 4.5 *History of Botley Mill*

- 4.5.1 Historical evidence for the existence of a mill in Botley is recorded as early as the 11th century (Belsten 1970, 7–9). The site of Botley Mill is likely to have been within the manor of Cumnor (Berkshire) during the late 11th century. The Domesday Book (c1086) mentions two mills within the manor of Cumnor, although it is unknown where these were located within the estate (Palmer 2017).

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<sup>2</sup> There is a differential spelling between Oseney when referring to Oseney Abbey and the modern spelling of Osney

<sup>3</sup> The archivist within the Christ Church Library has identified the 1848 map but it could not be copied within the timeframe of this study

- 4.5.2 Oxford had several mills during the medieval period, which caused a considerable number of disputes over rights to water supply from land owners (Prior 1983, 43ff). The Chronicle of Abingdon Abbey reported a lawsuit in 1088 when the men of the neighbouring hamlet of Seacourt (whose lord of the manor was Anskill) damaged a watercourse (*ductus aquae*) in Botley called the lake (*Lacche*; Old English *lacu* meant stream or pond). The abbot's judgement was that 'the breach (*fracturam*) should not have been made as it was', and Anskill incurred a fine of 10 shillings, though he managed to contrive that this should be paid 'by the miller of that place' (Hudson 2002, 20-23). Later references to 'Anskill's mill-place', suggest that the damaged watercourse may have been for a mill leat or a sluice. Botley, being in North Hinksey, was part of the Abbot of Abingdon's great manor of Cumnor (VCH Berks IV, 405ff).
- 4.5.3 The 'lake' was perhaps what was later known as the 'Shirelake', that is the Seacourt Stream forming the county boundary between Oxon and Berks, that remained unchanged until the 20th century (and ran along the east side of the mill). The county boundary followed the outer stream on the west side of Oxford, and switched over to the inner stream of the river system at St Aldate's/Grandpont. The description of the boundaries of the great Cumnor estate (including Wytham, Seacourt and north Hinksey/Botley) in the Abingdon charter of AD 956 in which King Eadwig granted the estate to the abbey has the eastern boundary running along the mid stream of the 'Thames' (*on Temese ... a mid streame*) all the way to the 'maiden ford' at Kennington (Kelly 2001, 255; Gelling 1976, 729).
- 4.5.4 The mill is next mentioned in the Oseney Abbey cartulary, which records the presence of a mill in Botley in the early 13th century when it records the sale of two acres and four butts of meadow between 'Bolestake' and Botley Mill (*molendinum de Boteleya*) (Salter 1934, 68; Clark 1907, 55).
- 4.5.5 A 14th-century reference to a mill may be to a second mill in a different location, nearer Oseney than Botley. The Abingdon Cartularies contain a record of two agreements between the abbot and Sir Roger Damory (Lord of Headington) in 1339 and 1343 about repairs of damage to the mill pond which sent water onto his land, and his allowing the abbot access to carry out those repairs (Lambrick & Slade 1992, 288-9). There were meadows belonging to the manor of Headington in west Oxford, 'behind Oseney', but the reference here seems specifically to place the mill in the vicinity of Kingsmead, since the 1343 agreement allows the abbot's men in repairing the mill pond to block the ditch between Kingsmead and the abbot's hamme called Thacham (Lambrick & Slade 1992, 289). Kings Mead, south of Oseney Mead, seems to have been a parcel of the Oxford Castle mill, being granted with it in 1337 (CPR 1337, 401). This might be taken to imply that this mill was not the same as the one at Botley neighbouring Seacourt in 1088, but was another one nearer to Oseney Mead/Kings Mead (where there is indeed today a possible mill pond in the river). But this was again probably quite separate from the 'pond of the king's mills in the suburbs of Oxford' that was badly damaged by a group of men from Binsey, Medley, Oseney and Wyk in July 1337 (CPR 1337, 511).<sup>4</sup> A possible location of the Kings Mead mill is NGR 449863, 205706 located 940m south-east of the site of the Botley Mill. This area has a possible mill pond shown on the LiDAR and on modern aerial satellite view (Stafford pers comms).
- 4.5.6 The number of mills in Oxford and the surrounding areas reduced during the later medieval period, so that by the mid-17th century only Oseney, Castle, Langford (Hinksey), Holywell, King's and Botley mills were operating (Chance *et al.* 1979). Botley Mill is mentioned in a local enactment of 1582 with regards to the lease of a lock north of the mill and 'Shearlake', while in 1650, Shirelake between Botley Mill and Hinksey Ferry is recorded as being leased to John Wright. It is suggested that these leases were important for fishing rights (Belsten 1970, 9-10). The Shirelake was the local name for the county boundary stream between Oxon and Berks, the same as the 'Lacche' mentioned in 1088.

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<sup>4</sup> The account of all these documents in the VCH Oxon IV note on Botley Mill is somewhat confused (Cooper 1972, 329).

- 4.5.7 During the First English Civil War (1642-1647) an account in the royalist newspaper *Mercurius Aulicus* (printed in Oxford) reported that Botley Mill was burned down by parliamentary troops from Abingdon on the 7th October 1644 (Porter 1984, 298, Varley 1948, 91 [*Mercurius Aulicus* Week 41, 12 October 1644]).
- 4.5.8 Another fire was reported twelve years later, when in August 1657 Andrew Headley of North Hinksey petitioned for a public collection ('Brief') following a fire in November 1656 that had destroyed his house and mill, worth £900. He had lost one child, another was severely burnt, and having lost his possessions, including his clothes, 30 quarters of malt, 60 of wheat, and all his bonds and other papers, his family was now homeless and destitute; he was granted a collection throughout Oxon, Bucks and Berks (VCH Berks 4, 405ff).<sup>5</sup> It is unknown if there were two different mills which both burnt down during the mid 17th century or if one mill at Botley was burnt in 1644, rebuilt and then burnt down again in 1656.
- 4.5.9 Belsten notes that during the late 19th century a heavy sword and an iron cannon ball were found in the river bed near Botley Mill (Belsten 1970, 10-11).
- 4.5.10 In the 17th century, Botley Mill passed into the ownership of the Earls of Abingdon, after being purchased by Henry Norreys as part of Cumnor Manor in 1594. In 1674, Lord Norreys, who became Earl of Abingdon in 1682, leased the mill to Henry Rankell of Botley, beginning a period of tenancies which saw various people benefit from the property (Belsten 1970, 13). In 1749, the lease of the mill from the Earl of Abingdon to Timothy Gabell is recorded as including an expanse of farmland and waterways relating to the Tithings of Botley and Hillend (*ibid.*, 16).
- 4.5.11 Around 1795, the Hunt family bought the lease to the mill, and several generations of the family, including wives, children and siblings, lived there for a period of about 120 years (*ibid.*, 18-26). Beginning with Edward Hunt of Fawler, the mill passed to his son John (b. 1795) who was also Botley Parish Constable. In turn, his son John (b. 1824) is listed as miller in 1846 at the age of 22. A bakery was established at the mill when John's brother William (b. 1830) joined him around 1876, taking over as miller himself by 1891. William's son Charles (b. 1861) is listed as miller in 1903, and lived at the mill with his sisters, Sarah Elizabeth, Ann and Edith, and his brother William (b. 1875).
- 4.5.12 The mill was operative in April 1900 when Annie King, the infant daughter of the baker Daniel King, fell into the mill race and drowned (Jackson's Oxford Journal 28 April 1900). Evidence was given on that occasion by the miller Charles Hunt, but he had ceased operations by 1913 when there was an auction sale was announced in March 1913 of 'A Baker's and Miller's Stock-in-Trade', including horses and carts, machinery, furniture and effects (Faringdon Advertiser, 23 March 1913).
- 4.5.13 In 1920, Mr F.W. Daniels is listed as the miller at Botley and the keeper of the adjacent George Inn, immediately to the north (Belsten 1970, 27). In 1927, it was decided that Botley Bridge needed to be widened and that the work would require the demolition of the mill. These works included the widening and deepening of the mill stream, while the side streams would be filled. The mill was pulled down, though the adjoining house building was left standing; its gable end was refaced in brick and stone. A photograph of the house, taken in 1924, shows the north side of the mill house where the mill has been pulled down (Figure 43). A stone bridge immediately to the right was also demolished as it is no longer present at the site.

## 4.6 Bridges

- 4.6.1 Several bridges are associated with the historic watercourses surrounding Botley Mill, and the changing routes of the road into Oxford following the 1767 turnpike acts (Munby & Walton 1990). Until the c.1769 bridge was constructed as part of the new turnpike road bypassing the mill and the old Botley crossroads, the main road passed just in front of the mill, the 'old road' being shown on sketch of the pre-enclosure map of 1848. On the old road it is likely that three

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<sup>5</sup> Quoting *Calendar of State Papers Domestic 1657-8* (Vol. XI), 119, 218.

small bridges would have been required to cross the three north-south watercourses associated with the mill. The westerly two bridges, over the western stream and the mill stream can be seen on the OS maps of 1876-1938 (Figures 34-37) and the eastern bridge, over the eastern stream, can be seen on the 1853 enclosure map of St Thomas (Figure 33). All three bridges can be seen on Figure 46. It is possible that these three small bridges may have been medieval in date. The humpback stone mill bridge can be seen to the right of the 1924 photograph, which faces south, of the mill house building and the stone bridge (Figure 44). This historic route, shown on Rocque's map of 1761 (Figure 30) was discontinued as an alternative to the main turnpike road (Botley Road) in 1853 and is noted in the enclosure award:

*I Matthew Hastings Oxford Land Surveyor... declare that I have discontinued and stopped up one public footway Botley Meadow marked A on the said map heading out of the turnpike road from Oxford to Witney in a westward direction to Botley Mill and Botley Village.*

- 4.6.2 In 1924 a new bridge was constructed north of Botley Mill known as Botley Bridge and this involved the demolition of the turnpike bridge of c1769.
- 4.6.3 There may be remains of the abutments from the three small bridges or the c1769 bridge to the north of the mill site.

#### **4.7 Water management features**

- 4.7.1 There were several water management features associated with Botley Mill which include the weir and leat (millrace) to the north of Botley Road, the mill pond to the south of the mill and a cut to the south of the mill. These features are shown on Figure 46 which uses the 1:2500 OS map of 1899 as a base map. These water management features were investigated during the site walkover and remains of the water features to the south of Botley Road could not be seen, but a structure north of Botley Road was photographed (discussed below).
- 4.7.2 LiDAR imagery was created of the mill site and wider environs (Figure 47) and this mostly shows the same waterchannels as on the OS map of 1899 (Figure 35, Figure 46). Unfortunately the bank to the east of the mill building is unclear on the LiDAR and this may have been obscured by dense vegetation.
- 4.7.3 The OS maps of 1876-1938 (Figures 34-37) show a bulge in the watercourse to the east of the mill and this may be the site of a previous second mill, or may have been caused by a weir or by the small bridge over the stream shown on Figure 34. Bulges in watercourses are sometimes the sites of mill ponds and this has been labelled on Figure 46 (Stafford pers comms). Historic map evidence therefore tentatively suggests that there may have been a second mill to the north-east of Botley Mill.
- 4.7.4 The original course of Seacourt Stream may have been the narrower, meandering waterway immediately to the east, suggesting that the straighter course which ran directly to the mill was a leat which may have been constructed during the medieval period or early post-medieval period. Rocque's map of 1761 (Figure 30) shows two main channels, a larger one which appears to be straddled by a building (probably Botley Mill) and a smaller channel to the east. The later 19th century maps (Figures 34 and 35) show the straight leat in more detail with a smaller channels to the east and west. The later 19th century OS maps also show the leat narrowing to the south of Botley Bridge as it enters the mill race, presumably to increase the speed and pressure of the water as it meets the wheel.
- 4.7.5 No evidence was seen on the walkover for stone revetments which defined the leat to the north of Botley Road and the mill pond to the south of the mill. These stone revetments can be seen along the western mill bank in the 1924 photograph (Figure 43) and on the 1885 photograph around the mill pond (Figure 41). It is possible that during the medieval period there may have been wooden revetments defining the watercourses associated with the mill. It is possible that wooden or stone revetments may survive under the ground surface within the wider environs around the mill site.



- 4.7.6 During the site walkover a masonry structure was noted to the north of Botley Road and is likely the remains of the weir or sluice (Figure 54) at the entrance to the lasher seen on the OS maps of 1876-1936 (Figures 34-37). These four OS maps show a 'lasher' marked at the northern intersection where the stream and the leat diverge, with a line probably indicating the position of a weir.

#### **4.8 *The Mill Building***

- 4.8.1 The OS 25-inch 1876 1st Edition (Figure 34) and 1899 2nd Edition OS maps (Figure 35) are the first to show the mill and house buildings and their surrounding features in greater detail. The mill house was positioned on the west side of Seacourt Stream, with the mill itself stood astride the stream and on the east bank. Three small buildings are evident immediately to the west of the mill, while the George Inn public house is pictured to the north of the mill, between it and Botley Road. The maps show a crossing over the stream next to the mill on its north side. The 1921 Edition OS (Figure 36) shows some modification to this crossing.
- 4.8.2 The mill, which can still be seen in the 1921 Edition OS map (Figure 36), was demolished in 1923-4 in advance of the widening of Botley Bridge, while the mill house remained standing for a period thereafter. The mill is clearly absent from the 1938 Edition OS map which shows the mill house still standing on the west bank and the now-widened Botley Bridge (Figure 37). The 1938 OS map also shows that very little change to the water channels to the north of Botley Bridge occurred in the years after the mill was demolished. The weir to the north appears to have remained in place, while the two ponds to the south are noticeable, although the eastern pond appears to have reduced in size.
- 4.8.3 The mill house is not evident in the 1958 Edition OS (not illustrated) and but there appears to be a house on a similar footprint. It is possible that this could be the mill house building but it is more likely that the mill house was demolished prior to 1958 as it was in a dilapidated state in 1924 (Figures 43-45). The aerial photographs (discussed in section 4.4.4) dated 1947 and 1968 suggest that the mill house was demolished between these dates.
- 4.8.4 The George Inn public house located north of Botley Mill remains standing and this building is currently used by the home entertainment retailer Richer Sounds.
- 4.8.5 There is general agreement between the historic maps and the key visual sources on the appearance of the mill itself (drawing of the mill by John Natt 1778-1843 (Figure 38), the anonymous engraving of 1799 (Figure 39), the J.A. Shuffrey watercolour of 1907 (Figure 42), and the series of Taunt photographs (Figures 40 and 41).
- 4.8.6 Several photos of the mill exist from the period when the mill was owned and operated by the Hunt family. A photo of 1875 from the Taunt Collection shows the building in a state of some disrepair (Figure 40). The mill stream and a large whetstone can be seen in the foreground, and a wattle and daub structure abutting the building is also evident. Another photo from the Taunt Collection, dating to 1885, suggests that some renovation had occurred from 10 years earlier, as the roof appears to be in a better condition and there is less foliage (Figure 41). Stone revetments can be seen in the foreground on the north side of the mill-pond and water is clearly flowing into the pond from the tail race from an open section between the revetments.
- 4.8.7 The final three historic photographs of the mill, when its east half had been demolished in 1924 (Figures 44-46) show the building without an end wall, and a timber-framed structure of the mill itself that had stood above the mill race (perhaps of 17th-century date). The western part of the building was a stone single-storey building with dormer windows, and this seems to have been left standing at least into the 1930s as it is still shown on the OS map of 1938 (Figure 37).

#### **4.9 *Conclusions***

- 4.9.1 Botley Mill is an historic site that has been used since the 11th century if not before (the large number of mills in Domesday England shows that many date from before the Norman Conquest). The mill survived until c1923/4, but the complexity of the leats and streams across

the site shown on historic mapping suggest that the site of the mill itself may have changed. It is not certain how many of the 'lost' streams remain in culverts on the site. Botley Mill was demolished in 1923/4 and its remains and any associated structures are likely to have been completely removed during the 20th century channel widening. However, there may be some below ground remains surviving below demolition debris and this could be confirmed by trial trenching.

- 4.9.2 There is documentary evidence for a mill that was burnt in the 17th century, and an account of a 14th-century dispute about floods from the millpond suggests that there was a second mill site next to Kings Mead (i.e. south of Oseney Mead, in the vicinity of the bridge on the present footpath to North Hinksey). The configuration of streams at this point looks as if there could have been a mill here. If this were so, the path flanked by ditches leading from North Hinksey could have been the route to the mill, and the northward extension to the Botley Road along what is now Ferry Hinksey Road (on a different alignment, and shown as cutting across the shots in the hay meadow on the 1848 map) could be a later addition, and perhaps related to the documented making of a road in the 15th century.<sup>6</sup> The possible mill site at Kingsmead is currently outside the scheme area and may be difficult to investigate with dense vegetation and waterlogged conditions. If this Kingsmead site does become part of the scheme in the future it would be important to investigate the area around NGR 449863, 205706.
- 4.9.3 Important objectives of any archaeological investigations of Botley Mill and its associated infrastructure would be:
- To investigate the nature of the lasher weir/sluice to the north of the road;
  - To investigate the possibility of any buried (and waterlogged) mill remains in the stream at the Botley Mill site;
  - To investigate the possibility of the remains of the three bridges over the three north-south streams and the late 18th century bridge to the north of the mill if they are likely to be affected by the scheme

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<sup>6</sup> See Appendix 11 Conclusion

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VCH Berks IV 1924

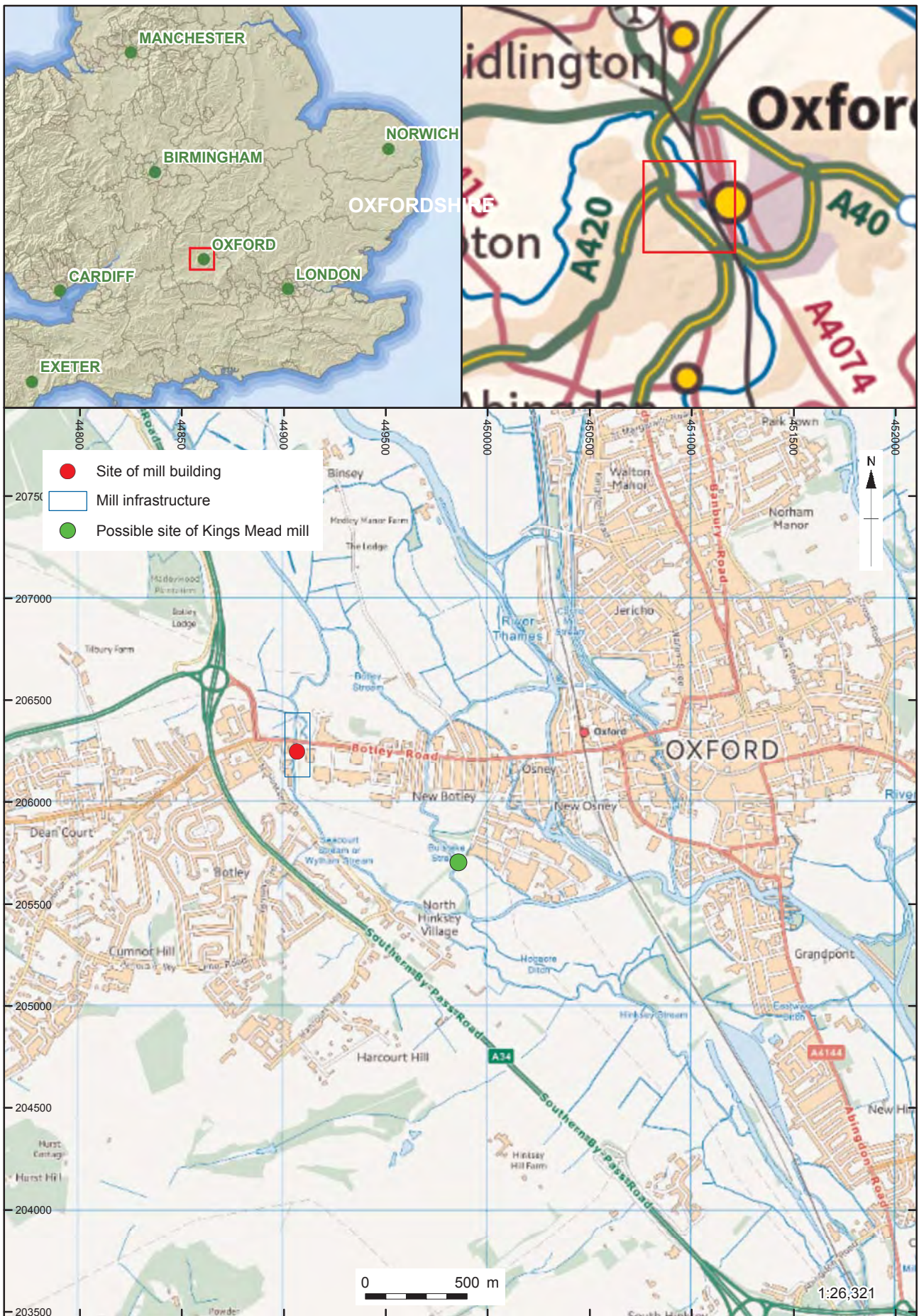
VCH Oxon IV 1979

### *Personal Communication*

Discussion with Liz Stafford Head of Geoarchaeology at Oxford Archaeology 07/04/17

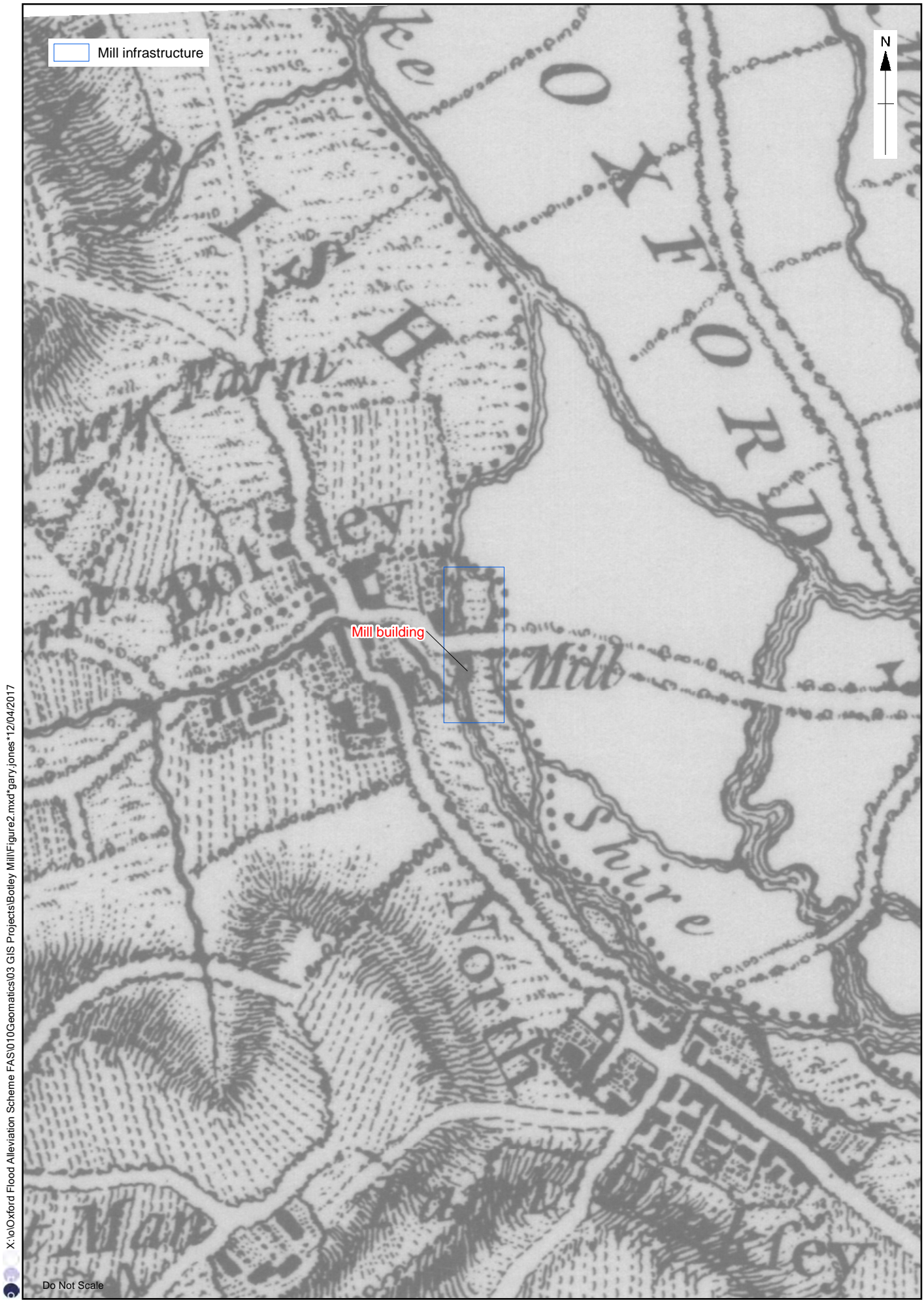
## Maps

- 1761 John Rocque's *Map of Berkshire* (printed; numerous copies)
- 1777 North Hinksey Enclosure map of North Hinksey (catalogued as Cumnor and North Hinksey); the *award* for the 1777 Enclosure map of North Hinksey is in the Oxfordshire History Centre and the *map* is in the Berkshire Record Office (QSD/A F14). It has been digitised on the *Berkshire Enclosures* website but cannot be viewed online; a low resolution copy of the map suggests that Botley Mill is located on the eastern edge of the map.
- 1811 Ordnance Survey Drawing, 2 ins to a mile (OSD 157, Wallingford, British Library)
- 1814 Cumnor enclosure map of 1814 (award 1820 reputedly in Oxford City Archives but not found in the current catalogues at the Oxfordshire History Centre. The originals are in the Berkshire Record Office: Map (Q/RDC/55B), and award (Q/RDC/55A), and the map includes Botley village, but does not map the mill area.
- 1830 OS First Edition one-inch map (printed; numerous copies)
- 1839 Estate map of Botley Mead in the Bodleian Library (MS Top.Oxon a.24 (13) [*not seen*])
- 1842 Harcourt estate map in private hands (Hanson 1996, 235 printed the schedule and a tracing of the map)
- 1848 Meadows west of Oxford (pre-enclosure survey), Christ Church Library and Archives, Oxford; reproduced from tracing by Salter in *Oseney Cartulary* Vol. II, 633 as map of 'Botley Mead'.
- 1853 Botley Meadow, Oatlands, and Osney Meadow in the Parish of Saint Thomas, 1853. Enclosure map, Oxfordshire History Centre (QS/D/A/Book 11)
- 1853 Oxford, St Thomas, Tithe map 1853, Oxfordshire History Centre (Tithe map 300/A and 300/M)
- 1876 OS 1:2500, First edn 25-inch and 6-inch map, Berkshire Sheet II.14
- 1899 OS 1:2500, Second edn 25-inch map, Berkshire Sheet II.14
- 1921 OS 1:2500, 1921 revision, Berkshire Sheet II.14
- 1938 OS 1:2500, 1938 revision, Berkshire Sheet II.14
- 1958 OS 1:1250 50-inch map
- 1968-70 OS 1:2500 25inch-maps.



X:\o\Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme FAS\01\03\GIS\Projects\Botley Mill\Figure 1.mxd\*charles.rousseauux\*13/04/2017

Figure 29: The site of Botley Mill and environs



X:\Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme FAS\010\Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Berkley Mill\Figure2.mxd\gary.jones\*12/04/2017

Do Not Scale

Figure 30: Rocque's map of Berkshire 1761



Figure 31: OS First Edition One-inch map 1830

### North Hinksey Parish: 1842

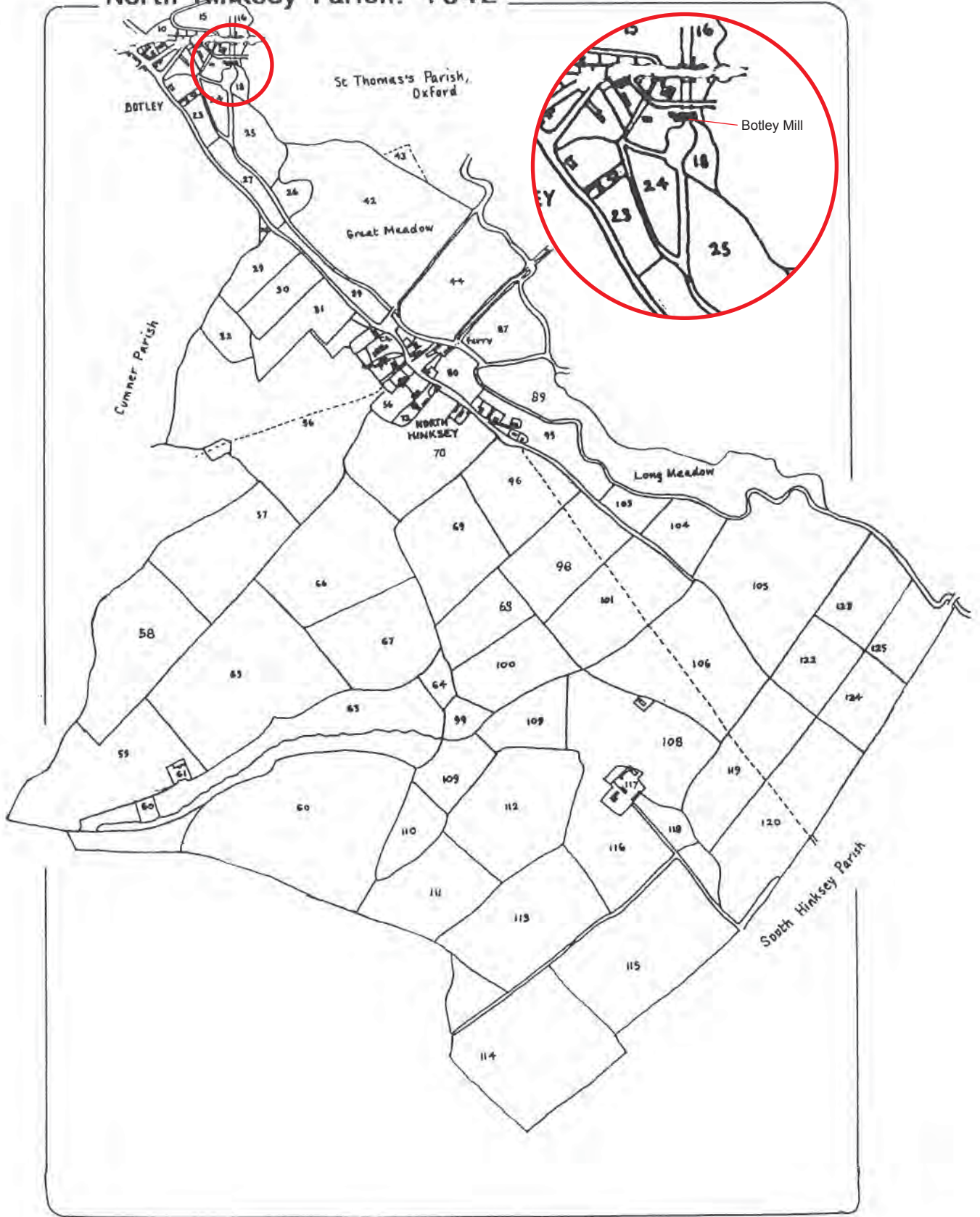


Figure 32: The 1842 Harcourt estate map (Hanson 1996, 235)



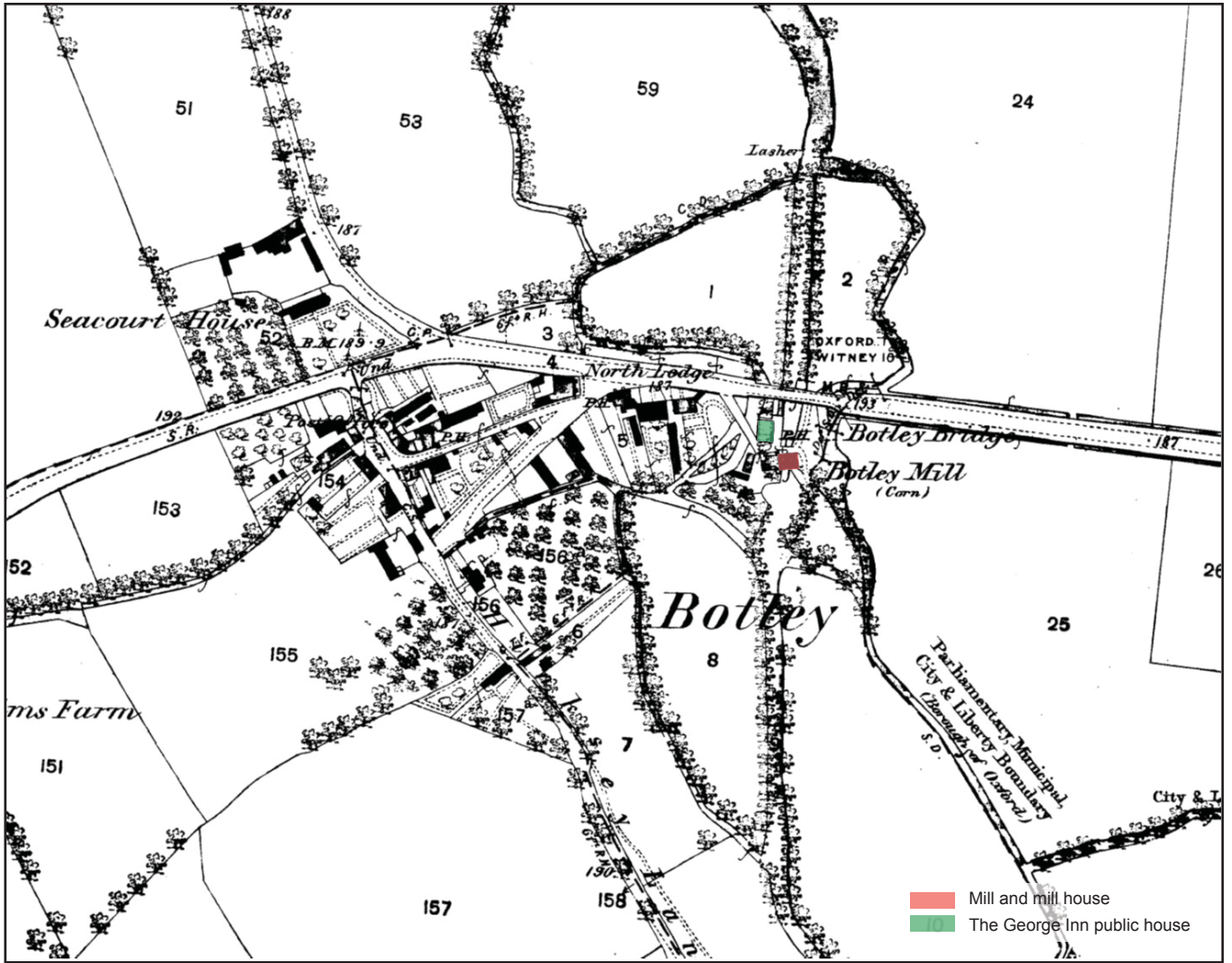


Figure 33: OS 1:2500, 1876, Berkshire Sheet II.14

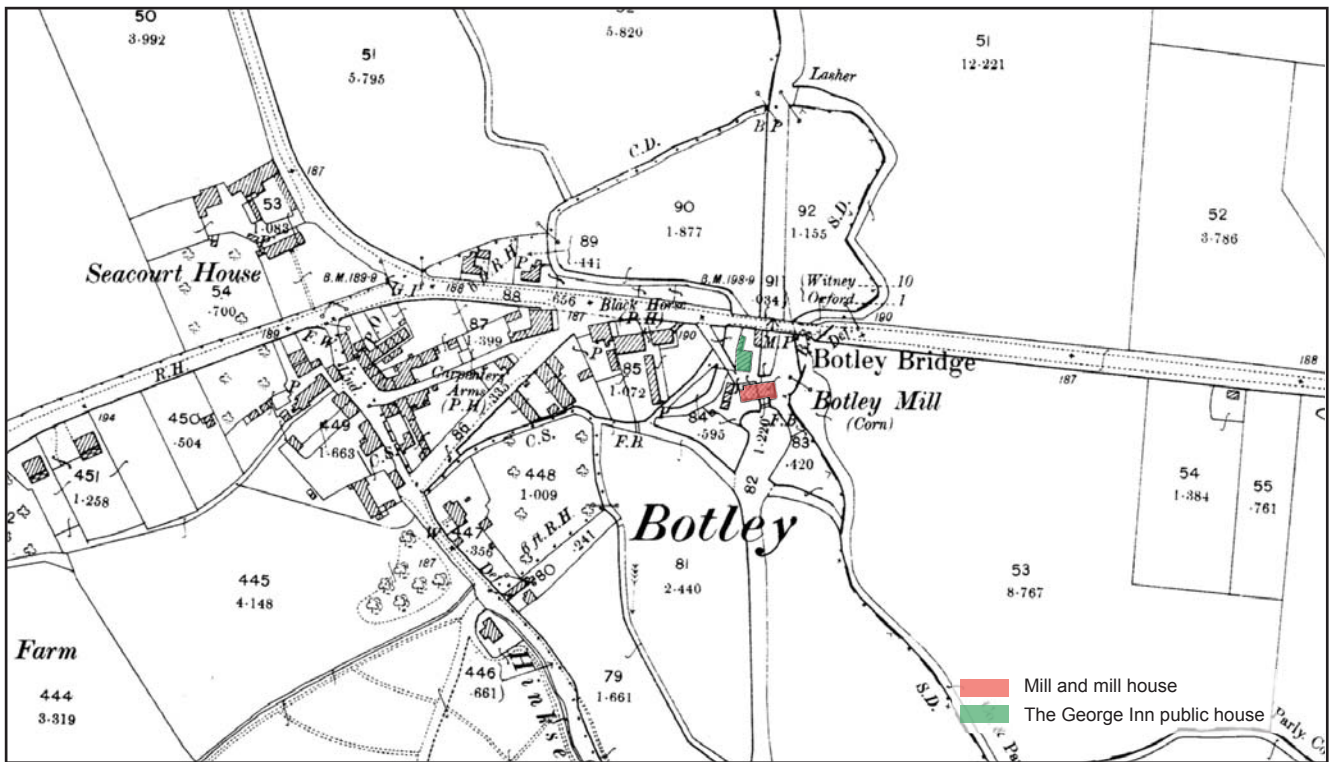


Figure 34: OS 1:2500, 1899, Berkshire Sheet II.14

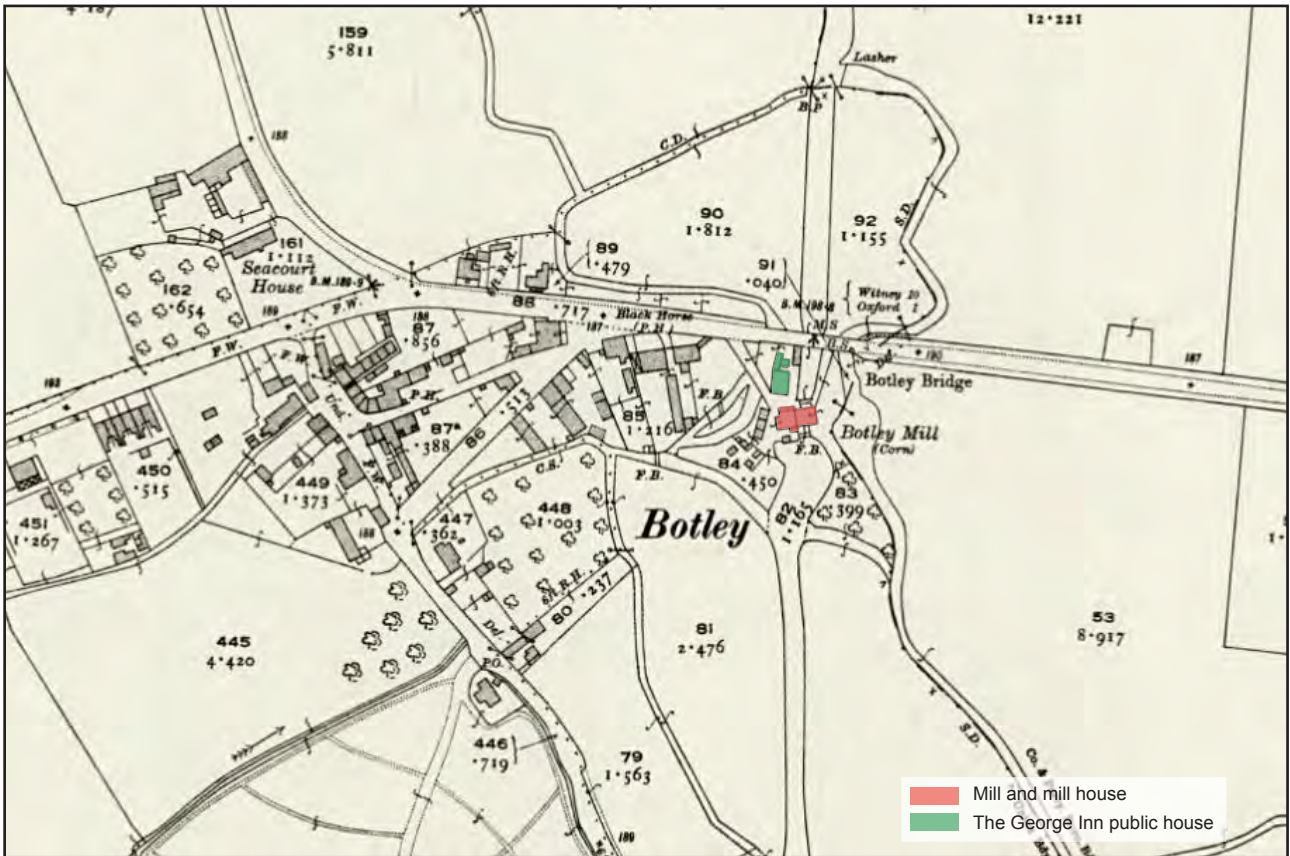


Figure 35: OS 1:2500, 1921, Berkshire Sheet II.14



Figure 36: OS 1:2500, 1938, Berkshire Sheet II.14

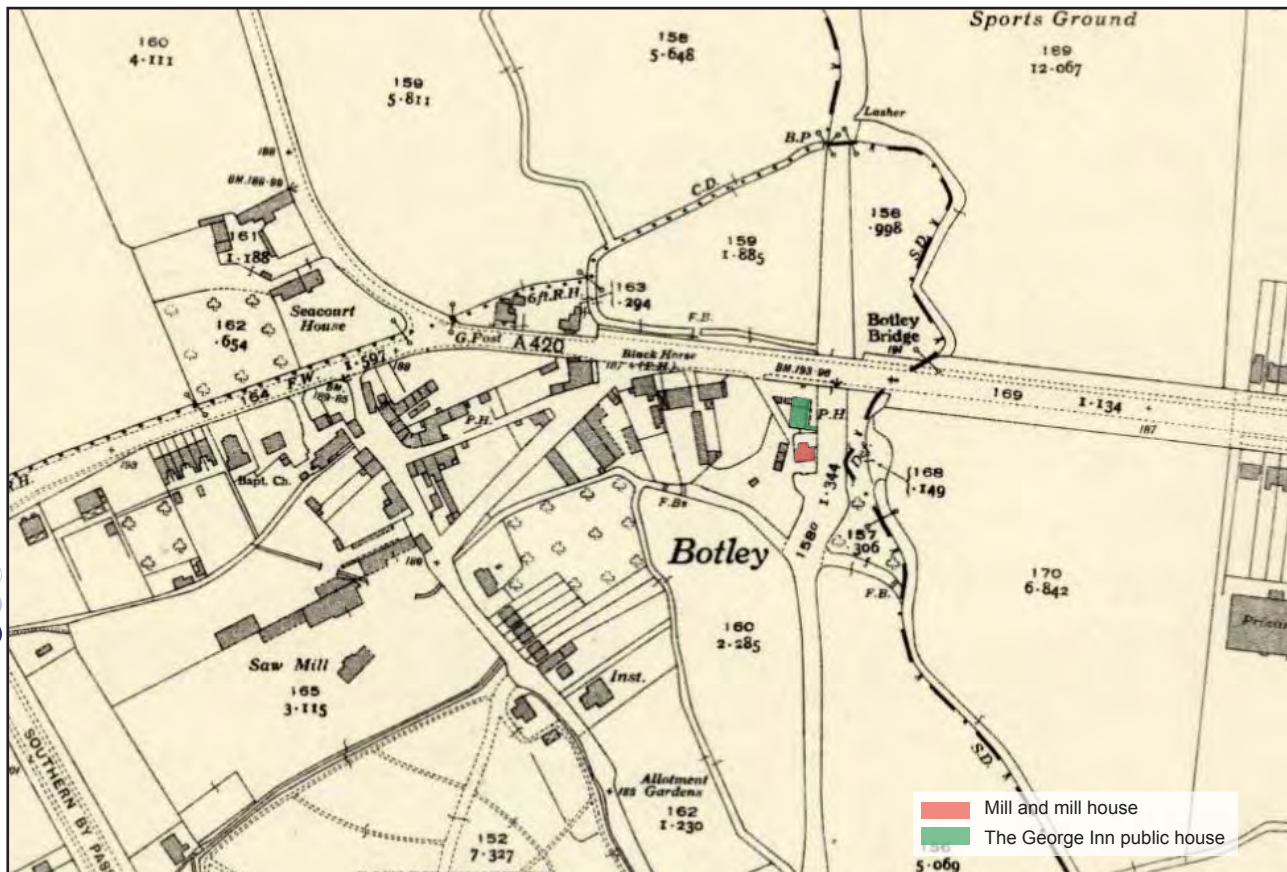


Figure 37: OS 1:2500, 1938, Berkshire Sheet II.14



Figure 38: Drawing of Botley Mill by John Natt (1778-1843)



Figure 39: Anonymous engraving of the mill (1799)



Figure 40: Botley Mill in a state of some disrepair, showing the mill stream and a large whetstone in the foreground, 1875 (Ref. HT1815)



Figure 41: South side of Botley Mill from the pond with three mill-workers, 1885 (Ref. HT1885)



Figure 42: Watercolour of Botley Mill, Oxford, by J. Allen Shuffrey, 1907



Figure 43: Botley Mill partly demolished during Botley Road widening, 1924 (D262792a)



Figure 44: Botley Mill house on the right and the humpback bridge on the left c1924 (Hanson, 1995, 17)



Figure 45: Botley Mill house on the left and the humpback bridge on the right c1924 (Hanson, 1995, 17)

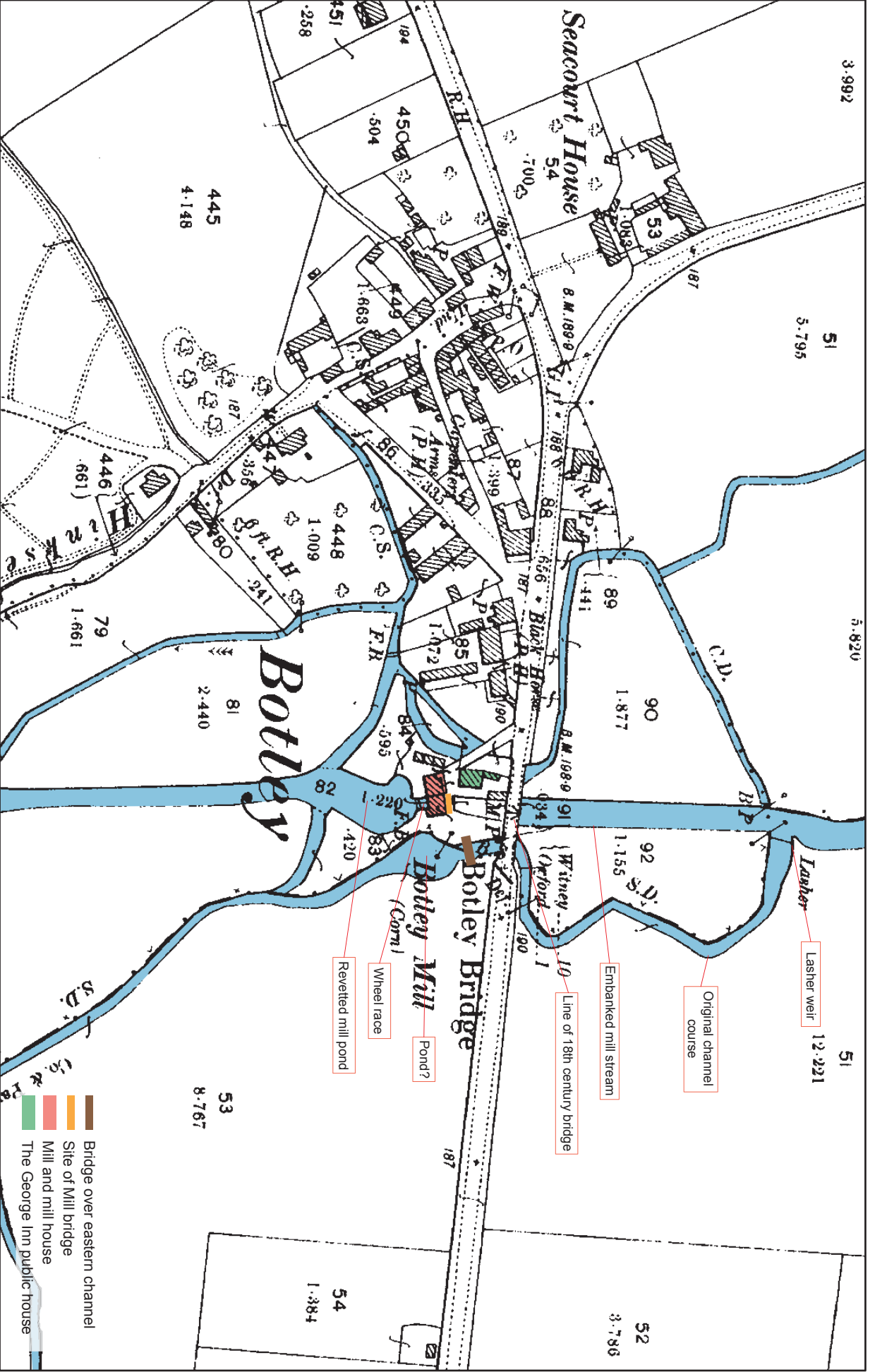


Figure 46: Water management features associated with Botley Mill shown overlain on the OS map of 1899



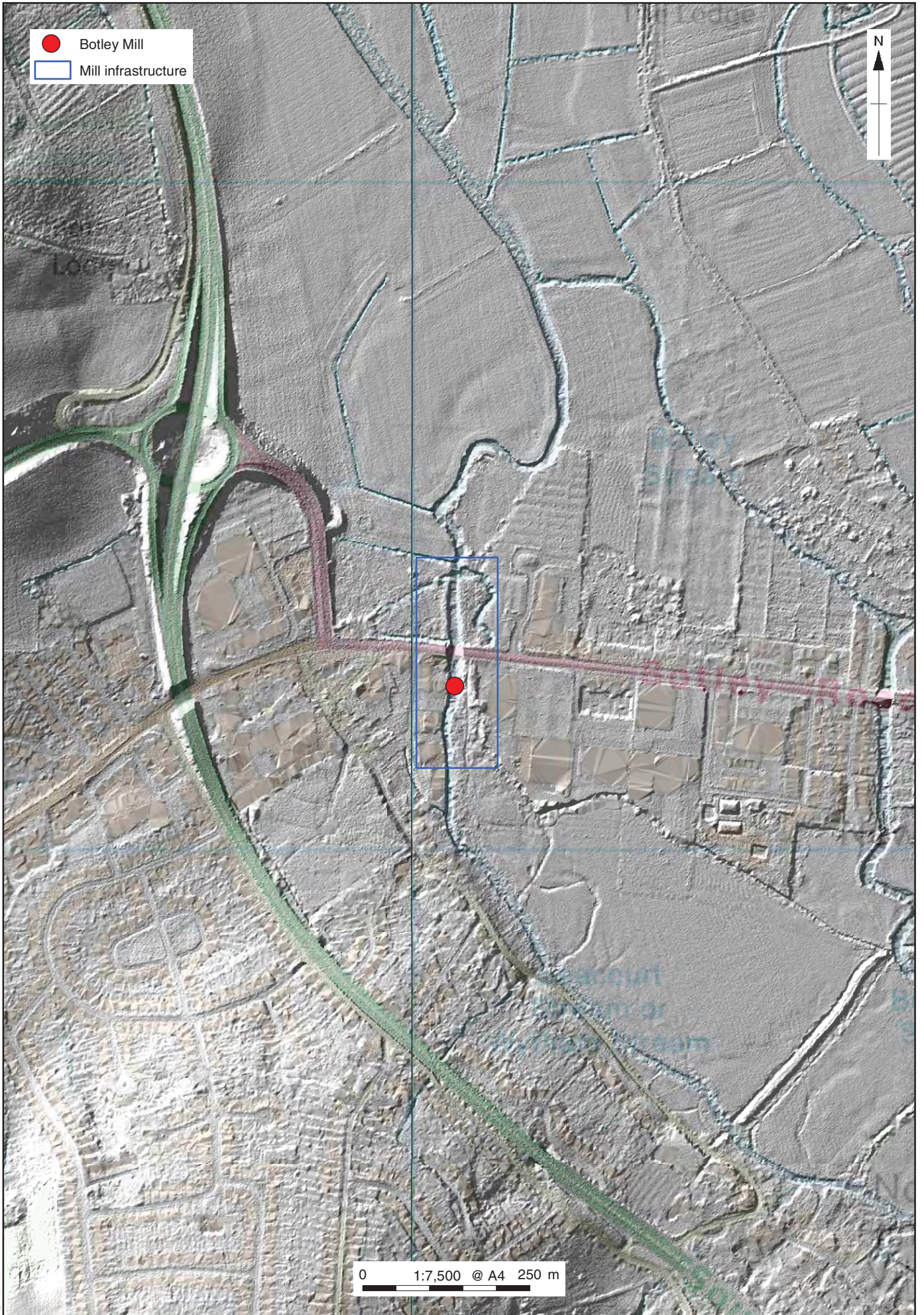


Figure 47: LiDAR imagery of historic watercourses associated with Botley Mill



Figure 48: View of footpath leading north to Botley Road



Figure 49: View of rough ground on east bank of Seacourt Stream and modern building on the west bank



Figure 50: View of Seacourt Stream looking south from Botley Bridge



Figure 51: View from east bank of Seacourt Stream overlooking the west bank and Botley Bridge



Figure 52: View from east bank of Seacourt Stream overlooking the west bank and footpath crossing



Figure 53: View of Seacourt Stream looking north from Botley Bridge



Figure 54: View of the lasher sluice to the north of Botley Road



Figure 55: View of pollarded willow to the east of the site of Botley Mill