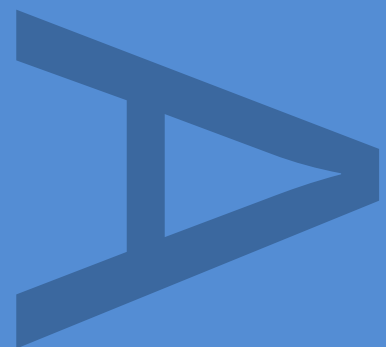


**WIDBURY HILL FARM BARNs,
WIDBURY HILL, WARE,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION VIA 'STRIP, MAP
AND RECORD' AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R 1198B**

Archaeological Evaluation Via 'Strip, Map, and Record' and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Widbury Hill Farm Barns, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire

Site Code: HWHB11

Central NGR TL 37200 14014

Report Number: R11198b

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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUND WORKS	7
3 CONCLUSION.....	15
4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	17
5 REFERENCES	17
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER.....	27
APPENDIX 2: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS	30
APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM.....	36
APPENDIX 4: HERTFORDSHIRE HER FORM.....	41
APPENDIX 5: ATTENDANCE.....	42
Figure 1: Site Location	18
Figure 2: Detailed Site Location	19
Figure 3: Location of Main Barn Foundation Pads	20
Figure 4: Features Exposed in the Main Barn (Building 1).....	21
Figure 5: New Building Extension, Foundation Trenches and Pads.....	22
Figure 6: Projection of Ditch [6] and [67].....	23
Figure 7: Ditch Sections.....	24
Figure 8: Courtyard Building, Foundation Trench and Deposits.....	25
Figure 9: The Piggery (Building 2), Plan and Area Monitored.....	26

ABSTRACT

This document details the results of archaeological monitoring at Widbury Hill Farm Barns, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire. The work comprised the monitoring of ground reduction, foundation pad and underpinning excavation, and the cutting of service runs within existing buildings, along with the excavation of foundations for new building and rebuilding. The work took place between the 1st May and 20th June 2012.

Monitoring of the ground reduction and pad excavation in the Main Barn revealed dwarf walls of the original building, indicating an early extension, and a number of later walls that had been inserted to internally divide the building. These walls were buried by the laying of chalk and subsequently concrete floors. Excavation of footings for a new building and a new west wall for the piggery revealed an east-west ditch aligned parallel to the south side of the Main Barn cut into natural clay. The ditch was interpreted as an external drainage feature associated with runoff from the barn roof. The excavation of footings for the new extension, the replacement courtyard building and the new piggery west wall revealed that the area south of the main barn had been subject to extensive disturbance since the construction of the building and no further archaeological features or deposits were evident above natural clay deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

General

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological investigations was conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. (PCA) on land at Widbury Hill Farm, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire (Figs. 1 & 2) during groundworks associated with the re-development of the site for commercial purposes. The investigations were conducted between 1st May and 20th June 2012, an archaeologist being in attendance during intrusive, below-ground interventions. The work was commissioned by The Morton Partnership on behalf of Nicholas Buxton of the Easneye Estate.

- 1.2 Widbury Hill Farm, centred on NGR: TL 37200 14014, is located to the south-east of Ware and to the south of the road (B1004) between Ware and Wareside. The underlying geology comprises Cretaceous Chalk deposits consisting of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago, locally overlain by superficial Pleistocene sand and gravel deposits of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (BGS 2012). The surface of the site is located at c. 69m OD though there is a noticeable downward slope from east to west, reflecting the broad slope of Widbury Hill itself.

- 1.3 The farm complex includes a large Grade II listed timber-framed barn of mid to late 17th-century origin, in addition to a number of other structures of 19th-century and later date. It was proposed to redevelop a large part of the farm site for non-agricultural, commercial usage, including conversion of the listed building and adjacent piggery, demolition and rebuilding of a structure south of the barn and west of the piggery, and construction of a new extension to the south-west of the barn. Because of the location and sensitivity of the site, an archaeological condition was placed on planning consent, requiring that intrusive groundworks be archaeologically monitored. The

archaeological investigations were thus carried out and are the subject of this report.

Planning Background

- 1.4 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) whose Local Plan 1996-2011 is to be shortly replaced with the Local Development Framework (LDF). Meanwhile, the majority of policies of the Local Plan have been saved, including most of those relating to the historic environment. The most pertinent to the current project are as follows:

POLICY BH1 ARCHAEOLOGY & NEW DEVELOPMENT

I Development will not be permitted where the council considers that it will adversely affect archaeological sites of national importance, whether scheduled or unscheduled, and their setting.

II Permission or consent may be refused where development proposals do not satisfactorily protect archaeological remains of more local importance.

POLICY BH3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, any planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the publication of the results.

- 1.5 Much of the farmyard area of Widbury Hill farm had fallen into disuse and a planning application (Ref. No: 3/11/1365/FP) was submitted for the change of use of three of the buildings to office use, two to storage use and the demolition of a utilitarian covered yard and the erection of a replacement building for office use.
- 1.6 The site of the proposed development is in Area of Archaeological Significance No. 113, as identified in the East Herts District Local Plan and consequently a condition attached to planning consent required a programme of archaeological work to be carried out. The archaeological condition stated that the work should "...comprise the

archaeological investigation via strip, map and record to the archaeological horizon, of the area subject to the construction of the new building together with the full investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed, the archaeological monitoring and recording of all other groundworks associated with the scheme (including internal works within the barns (e.g. removal of existing floors) access, parking, services, landscaping, etc.)..." (Tinniswood 2011).

- 1.7 The investigations were carried out according to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) compiled by PCA (Hinman 2012) and approved by Hertfordshire County Council. The investigations were given the site code HWHB11. The project was advised and monitored by Alison Tinniswood of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, project managed by Mark Hinman and supervised by the authors.

Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.8 Widbury Hill Farm is associated with the medieval manor of Widbury, which is documented from 1308. It also contains extensive evidence of former activity in the form of ditches and a large square enclosure that are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, immediately south of and adjacent to the farmyard. There are also earthworks to the south of the farm and within Widbury Wood, which are possibly the remains of a slight univallate hillfort, though this identification and the date of the earthworks remain uncertain. The site contains a number of farm buildings, including a large Grade II listed timber-framed barn of mid to late 17th-century date, and a single storey piggery of Victorian date. The listing citation of the main barn describes it as:

'Barn at Widbury Hill Farm. Mid to late C17. Timber-framed, weatherboarded, with corrugated asbestos roof. 12 bays, with 2 bay west extension and lean-to. Frame has long posts, without jowls, and primary bracing infilling, with cut studs, including some re-used timber. Tie beam trusses, with ogee braces in first 2 bays from east, arched

or straight bracing in remainder, including re-used moulded timber in 7th bay from east. Peg-jointed queen struts supporting single range of purlins, some bays with added high level collars, slender rafters and thin ridge board, midstreys to 4th; 8th and 11th bays of north side, each with pair of doors, stone flagged floor in 11th bay, concrete floor throughout the remainder of the barn. West extension runs into 12th bay of main barn, and has inserted loft, with ground floor adapted to house livestock, with feed troughs, stall divisions, and hay racking in situ. Projecting from south east corner is long C19 single storey yellow stock brick, Welsh slate roofed, livestock house. Projecting from the main south wall is a steel framed open sided store with corrugated asbestos roof. Neither the livestock house nor the store is of special interest.'

- 1.9 The structures of the current farmyard complex were the subject of an earlier building recording programme (Gould 2012), also carried out as a condition of planning consent. In addition to the listed barn, this survey showed that other buildings on the site were of 19th-century and later date. The structures recorded during the survey were given number and letter suffixes, which are re-used in this report (Fig. 2).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUND WORKS

Introduction

- 2.1 A number of aspects of groundworks associated with the development, which required archaeological monitoring, were identified and outlined in the WSI (Hinman 2012). However, the work programme did not go entirely to plan, partly due to inclement weather during the initial phases of the project. Consequently archaeological work could not be carried out in some areas, whereas extra monitoring was required in others.
- 2.2 Demolition of Building 4 and removal of the concrete slab south of the main barn was undertaken prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring. Following excessive rain and tracking over by agricultural machinery (salvaging bricks) the area was heavily disturbed and supported pools of standing water (Plates 1 & 2). Given the ground conditions this area was not subject to a strip and map exercise.
- 2.3 An area of ground south of the site (immediately south of Building B; Fig. 2), which had been stripped prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring was inspected for finds and archaeological features (Plates 3 & 4). Ground reduction did not penetrate beneath the base of the topsoil and no archaeological features were observed.
- 2.4 The other works that were archaeologically monitored comprised: ground reduction, pad excavation, wall footing grubbing out and service trench cutting in the main barn (Building 1); excavation of footings for the new building extension south of the barn; excavation of footings for the rebuilding of the courtyard building (former Building 3); and ground reduction and new foundation trench excavation in the piggery (Building 2).

The Main Barn (Building 1)

- 2.5 It was proposed to convert the main barn into a number of office units spread over two floors, which would require some reduction of the pre-existing ground floor surface. The existing concrete floor exhibited a marked downward slope from east to west so in order to provide an even formation level for the development, ground reduction at the western end was minimal whilst at the eastern end of the barn it was necessary to remove in excess of 1m of material. The concrete floor was initially broken out and then removed under archaeological supervision, thereafter underlying deposits were also removed under archaeological supervision until the required base level was reached. This work was monitored during the period between the 24th and 29th May 2012. Subsequent to this, 26 trenches for foundation pads were excavated to a depth of 300mm below formation level along the northern and southern edges of the barn (Fig. 3). This work was conducted and monitored between the 28th May and 11th June 2012. Grubbing out of shallow wall footings in the northern and southern entrances to the barn was carried out and monitored concurrently with the ground reduction and pad excavation. The excavation of a shallow (BT) service run at the western end of the barn was also monitored on the 12th June 2012, though this only cut into deposits previously recorded. Other service cuts within the building were excavated either through areas already reduced below the surface of natural deposits or along the line of a deep modern truncation and revealed no archaeological horizons.
- 2.6 The earliest deposit recorded during the works in the main barn was a light yellowish brown silty clay [15] containing frequent chalk fragments and derived from the weathering of the underlying Cretaceous bedrock. This was recorded throughout the barn (during ground reduction at the eastern end and in pad excavations to the west) at upper elevations varying between 68.56m OD to the east and 68.15m OD to the west, and was the name natural unit recorded in other monitored areas (see

below). Lying above the natural clay was a variable deposit of clayey silt or silty clay, again recorded throughout the length of the barn. This varied in colour from dark greyish brown [19] at the western end, where it was recorded at a surface elevation of 68.34m OD, to mid, slightly yellowish brown at the east, where the surface was recorded at 68.75m OD. Occasional charcoal flecks and fragments along with very occasional pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) fragments were recorded in the top of the deposit towards the western end of the barn, and it was interpreted as a subsoil deposit.

- 2.7 The footings of the barn structure had been cut into the subsoil, as was demonstrated when they were partly grubbed out in the northern and southern entrances and when the southern and fragmentary western walls of the barn were exposed in foundation pad 2. The foundation of a north-south aligned internal partition wall [11], contemporary with the original 17th-century barn dwarf walls, also cut the deposit. Wall [11] was keyed into the north and south walls of the barn (Fig. 4) and probably marked an original eastern end of the building prior to its extension further to the east. The wall was constructed from unfrogged red and occasional yellow bricks, bonded with light yellowish grey lime mortar and irregularly coursed. It was 0.36m wide and stood up to 0.49m (seven courses) high.
- 2.8 No further internal elements contemporary with the original construction of the barn were evident, but also cut into the subsoil were the footings of a number of later, north-south aligned, internal division walls. These walls ([18], [12], [20], [23], [34] and [10], Fig. 4; Plate 5) were constructed from shallow frogged, mostly yellow but occasionally red bricks, bonded with a variable, light yellowish brown sandy mortar. The coursing of the bricks was variable though each wall was 0.24m (two mortared bricks' width) wide. The walls survived to between 0.54m (seven courses) and 0.31m (four courses high) and appeared to have been 19th century in date, possibly contemporary with the construction of the piggery (Building 2) to the south.

- 2.9 All of the internal partition walls, including earlier structure [11], but excluding the westernmost wall [18], were overlain by a deposit of compacted crushed chalk [8], up to 0.38m thick. This material was thickest between the walls, where it lay directly over the subsoil and it formed a continuous, albeit sloping floor that extended for almost 34m westwards from the eastern end of the barn. Its surface elevation was recorded at 69.10m OD to the east and 68.73m OD to the west. No dateable materials were recovered from the floor but it appears to have dated to the later 19th or 20th century. It was overlain by the modern concrete surface [7], which extended for almost 27m from the eastern end of the barn.
- 2.10 Westernmost wall [18] was overlain by a 0.25m thick mixed deposit of recent origin [17], which in turn was overlain by 0.20m of redeposited gravel [16]. This was sealed by a layer of modern asphalt that extended for more than 28m eastwards from the western end of the barn, forming a surface layer to the south of the western midstrey but being covered by the concrete floor further to the east.
- 2.11 Removal of loose surface deposits in the central midstrey revealed a large concrete hopper [24] (Fig. 4; Plate 6), located within the northern end of an extensive modern cut [22] that extended the full width of the midstrey to the southern edge of the barn and was up to 1.9m deep. It had been backfilled with variable waste materials [21] including abundant CBM fragments along with wood, plastics and baler twine. The function of the hopper and the large pit were unclear but were possibly associated with the storage of animal feed. A date of 1965 scratched into concrete forming a rough repair to the barn southern wall maybe an indication of the date of excavation of the large pit and instillation of the concrete hopper.

New Building Extension

- 2.12 The ground works for the new build extension (Fig. 5) were monitored between the 1st and 4th May 2012. The works involved the excavation of approximately 45 metres of 1.10m deep, 0.60m wide trenches for concrete foundations of the new building. Three footings for concrete pads were also excavated (Plate 7); two of these measured 1.4m by 1.4m and were 1.3m deep, whilst a third, abutting the main barn measured 1.6m east-west by 0.72m north-south and was 1.4m deep.
- 2.13 The earliest deposit [3] was a stiff, iron-stained natural yellow brown clay with chalk pebble inclusions, the surface of which was recorded at 68.02m OD.
- 2.14 A ditch [6] was observed in two sections of the foundation trenches running parallel to the main barn. The feature was approximately 2m wide and 0.8m deep, and truncated the natural clay [3] (Figs. 6 & 7; Plate 8). The lower fill of the ditch [5] was a dark grey organic silt with occasional wood fragments. This was overlain by stiff clay [4] which appeared to represent deliberate capping or infilling of the feature. The ditch was probably associated with the main barn building, though its fills contained no dating evidence.
- 2.15 Overlying the infilled ditch was a 0.20m thick layer of chalk and flint rubble [2] with occasional post-medieval CBM inclusions, which elsewhere directly overlay the natural clay (Plate 9). The chalk rubble was in turn overlain by orange-gravel make up for the concrete yard surface [1].
- 2.16 The only significant archaeology observed during the excavation of these footings, south of the eastern end of the main barn, therefore, was the east-west aligned drain, which appeared to have collected rainwater run-off from the barn roof. It was almost certainly contemporary with the original construction of the barn, though at a later date was considered unnecessary and was backfilled, possibly

because guttering had been added to the roof. The crushed chalk deposit was similar to that observed elsewhere on the site (see above and below) and appears to have provided a broad surface over much of the area, both within buildings, in yard areas and the area covered by the former Building 4.

Courtyard Building

- 2.17 The courtyard building located to the south of the main barn between the new extension and the piggery was to be constructed on the same footprint as the former pig sty (Building 3), which had been located here but was demolished as part of the ground preparation. The excavation of the footings for the rebuild was carried out and archaeologically monitored on the 14th June 2012. Trenches 0.65m wide and up to 1.50m deep were excavated along the line of the former footings to provide a continuous foundation trench measuring 9.75m east-west by 4.70m north-south (Fig. 8; Plate 10).
- 2.18 The earliest deposit recorded was firm natural clay [62], which was light yellowish brown in colour with extensive grey mottling, and contained abundant chalk fragments. It was recorded at an upper elevation of 68.75m OD and was directly overlain by an extensively reworked and variable deposit of recent made ground [61], recorded at an upper elevation of 68.88m OD. Cut through this and into the underlying natural clay was the foundation cut [59] for the earlier pig sty building. Within the cut were the remains of the wall foundations [58] (Plate 11) of the building, which extended to a depth of up to 0.68m, the footings having been more extensive on the northern and southern sides of the building than on the eastern and western ends. The construction cut had been backfilled with a deposit of mid reddish brown sandy silt [60]. Partly overlying this and abutting the wall internal to the building was a layer of crushed and compacted chalk [64] up to 0.45m thick, laid on the surface of which were the remains of the internal brick floor [63] recorded during the building recording programme (Gould 2012). A

further layer of crushed and compacted chalk [65] abutted the outside of the walls to the south and east. This was up to 0.45m thick and overlain by the modern concrete yard surface [57].

- 2.19 Apart from the remains of the wall footing, the stratigraphic sequence was therefore similar to the broad sequence in the new building foundation trench to the west and no significant archaeological remains were present.

The Piggery (Building 2)

- 2.20 It was originally intended that the only work requiring archaeological monitoring within the piggery was the ground reduction following removal of the concrete floor, and the cutting of internal service trenches. However, it became clear during the breaking out of the floor that the external walls facing into the courtyard area were without foundation. It was therefore necessary to remove these walls and excavate a 1m deep foundation trench for new walls along their footprint, which was archaeologically monitored (Fig. 9).
- 2.21 Following the breaking out of the concrete floor, ground reduction within the piggery was archaeologically monitored between the 12th and 14th May. Excavation of the north-south foundation trench was monitored on the 20th June 2012. The formation level within the piggery was only 300mm below the base of the concrete floor and consequently ground reduction did not fully penetrate recent deposits (Plate 12). However the excavation of the foundation trench (Plate 13) revealed the complete stratigraphic sequence.
- 2.22 The earliest deposit was a light yellowish brown, stiff, natural chalky clay [68], similar to that recorded in other sequences across the site and recorded at an upper elevation of 68.73m OD. Cut into the clay was an east-west aligned ditch [67], which lay 1.48m south of the main barn and appeared to run parallel to it (Figs. 6 & 7; Plate 14). The ditch

was 1.14m wide and 0.31m deep and appeared to be the eastern continuation of drainage ditch [6] recorded in the foundation trench for the new extension to the west, though it was narrower and shallower in the piggery excavation, reflecting its downwards slope from east to west. It was backfilled with a single deposit of mid brownish grey clayey silt [66] and overlain by a variable deposit of mixed silty clay [56] incorporating some redeposited natural clay but also more recent materials such as CBM and bean cane fragments. Overlying this made ground was a layer of crushed and compacted chalk [55], up to 0.25m thick, which covered an area 1.55m wide along the western side of the north-south range of the piggery and along the northern side of the east-west range. Finally, the entire internal area of the piggery was capped with a 0.15m thick layer of modern concrete and bedding [54].

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The earliest deposit recorded across the site was natural chalky clay, which varied little from location to location. It was derived from weathering of the underling Cretaceous chalk bedrock and was recorded at a maximum surface elevation of 68.75m OD and a lowest surface elevation of 68.02m. The surface of the deposit generally sloped downwards from east to west, a slope reflected in the current surface topography of the site and the surrounding area. Only within the main barn was there a deposit overlying the natural clay that pre-dated construction of the barn. This has been interpreted as a natural subsoil and although a small amount of artefactual material was recovered from its surface towards the western end of the barn, this is likely to have derived from overlying deposits. The subsoil therefore remains undated. Although the Manor of Widbury, of which Widbury Hill Farm was a part, was documented as early as 1308, no evidence of medieval or any other activity pre-dating the construction of the barn in the 17th century was recorded during the course of the excavations.
- 3.2 The history and structure of the main barn has previously been recorded in the HHER and earlier building survey (Gould 2012). However, monitoring within and immediately outside the barn has added further information. The most important aspect of this is probably the discovery that the original barn building was much smaller than that currently standing. The original building would have comprised just two midstreys (the current central and western examples), would have exhibited a more symmetrical layout, and would have measured just 23.5m in length, compared to the current length in excess of 42m (Fig. 4). The eastern extension was probably added shortly after the original construction, however, as the materials used and the nature of the structure were almost identical. Apparently contemporary with the early builds (both original and extension) was the excavation of a ditch alongside the southern wall of the barn. This sloped down from east to west and is likely to have served as a drain to channel rainwater runoff,

possibly from an original thatched roof. The drain probably became redundant and was filled in when the thatched roof was replaced with peg tiles and guttering added. Quantities of peg tiles found in more recent deposits both inside and beyond the barn probably attest to a former peg tile roof.

3.3 Further significant changes were made to the internal layout of the barn when a series of north-south aligned, brick partition walls were added in the 19th century. These were probably dwarf walls which supported wooden structures that would have divided the barn into seven compartments. It is likely that the construction of these partitions was contemporary with building of the piggery (sometime between 1845 and 1868) as the same yellow, shallow-frogged bricks were used for the construction of each. The partitions were dismantled some time during the 19th or 20th century and a thick layer of crushed chalk was laid over much of the barn (including the partition walls) to form a firm surface. This surface was later covered, probably during the 1960s, with an asphalt and then concrete surface. Broadly contemporary with this was the excavation of a large pit in the centre of the barn and the insertion of a concrete hopper. A number of minor repairs were probably also carried out at about the same time.

3.4 To the south of the main barn the yard area mostly covered by the former Building 4 contained little evidence of activity pre-dating the modern era. With the exception of the drainage ditch recorded in the new extension and piggery western foundation cuts, natural clay was overlain by areas of compacted chalk surfacing, probably of 20th-century date and mixed made ground materials, indicating a great deal of disturbance and re-working of deposits in this area prior to it being covered with concrete in the later 20th century.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

4.1 PCA would like attendance to thank The Morton Partnership for commissioning this work on behalf of Nicholas Buxton of the Easneye Estate. Alison Tinniswood of the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council is thanked for providing advice and monitoring the project. Thanks are also extended to the staff of G I Hutton (Builders) Ltd., particularly Jim and Paul, for their co-operation and assistance during the course of the groundworks.

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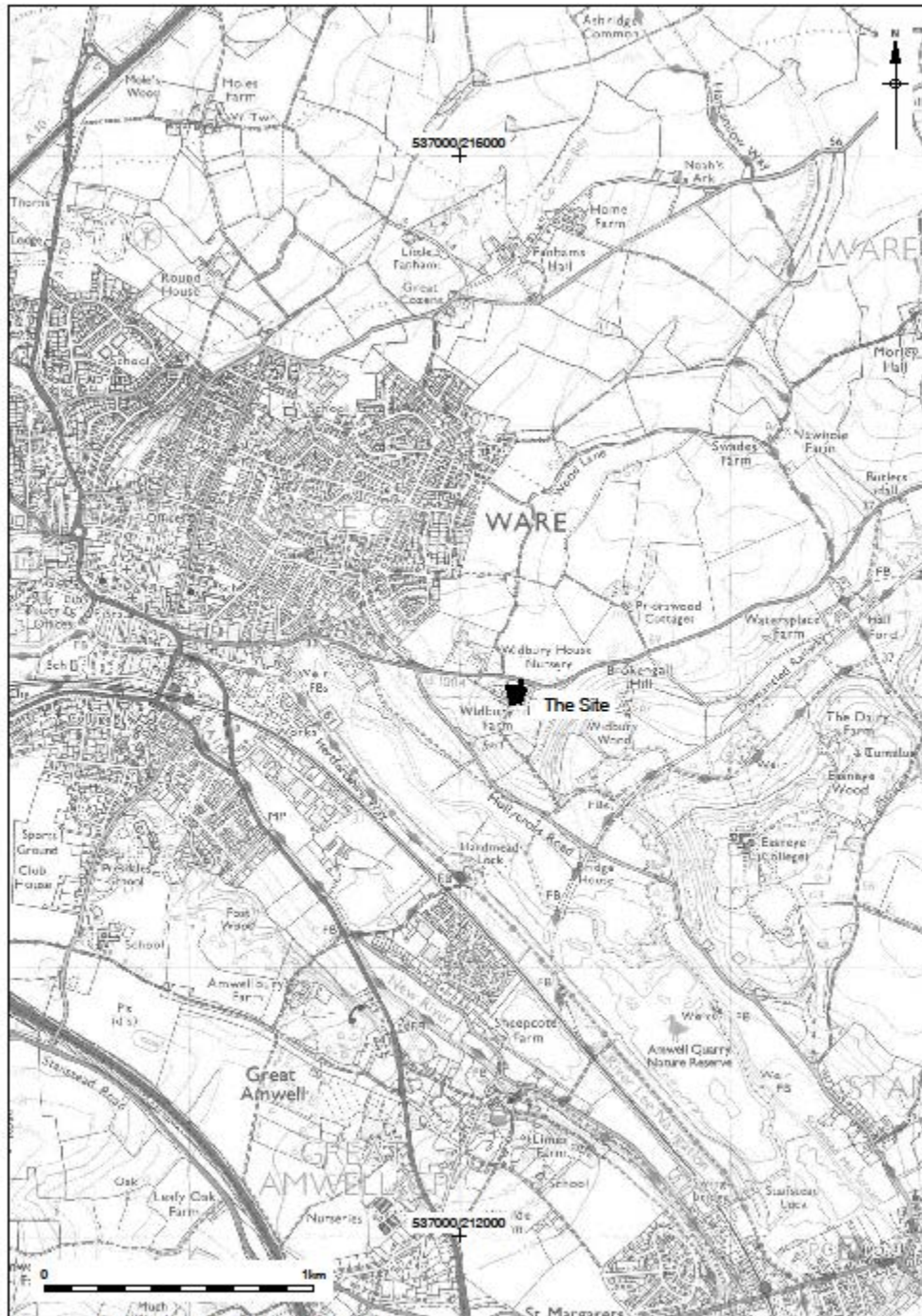
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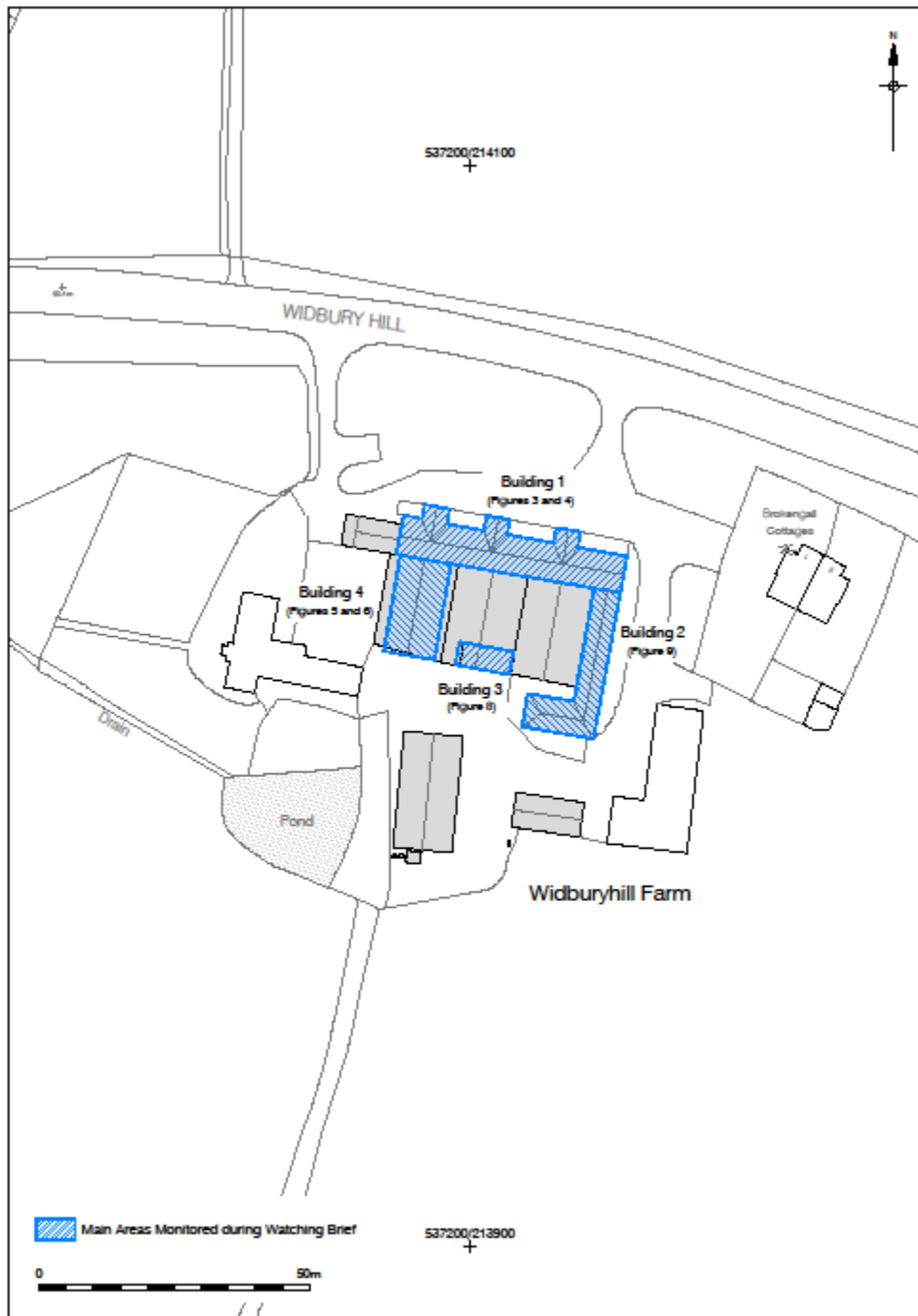
Figure 1: Site Location



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:20,000 at A4

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

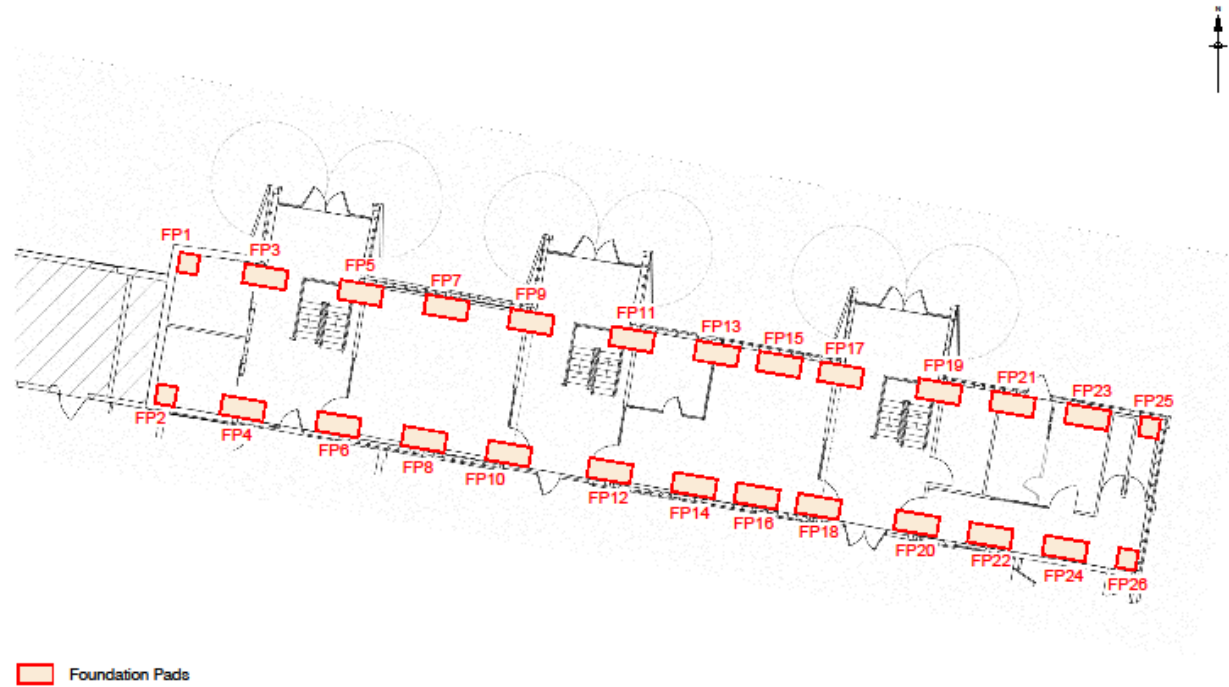


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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,000 at A4

Figure 3: Location of Main Barn Foundation Pads

Base plan reproduced from drawings by The Morton Partnership (September 2011)



0 10m
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Figure 3
Location of Main Barn Foundation Pads (Building 1)
1:200 at A4

Figure 4: Features Exposed in the Main Barn (Building 1)

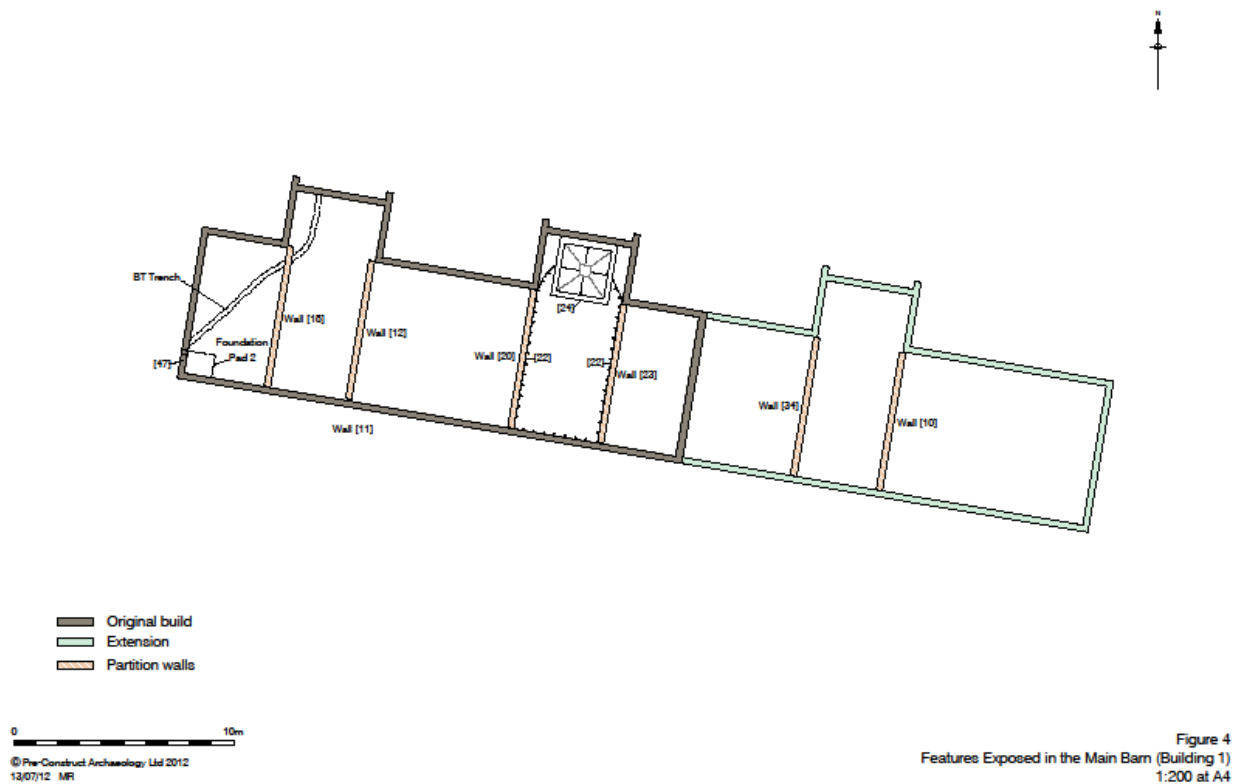
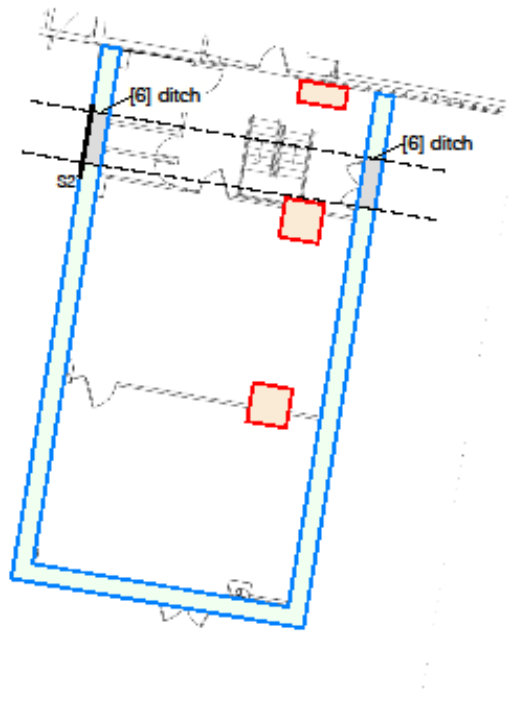




Figure 5: New Building Extension, Foundation Trenches and Pads

Base plan reproduced from drawings by The Morton Partnership (September 2011)



-  Foundation Pads
-  Foundation Trenches

0  10m

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Figure 5
New Building Extension, Foundation Trenches and Pads
1:200 at A4

Figure 6: Projection of Ditch [6] and [67]

Base plan reproduced from drawings by The Morton Partnership (September 2011)

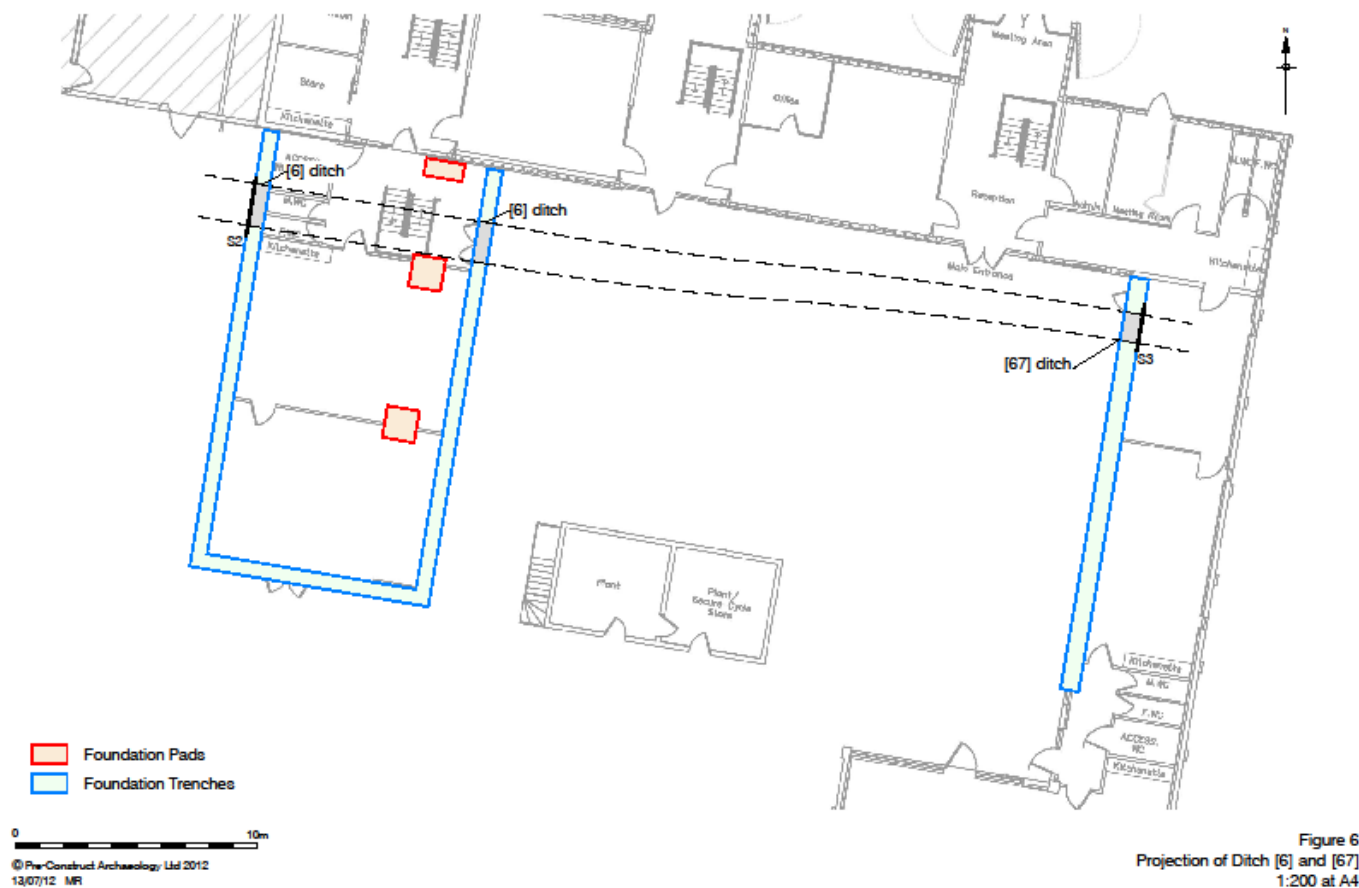
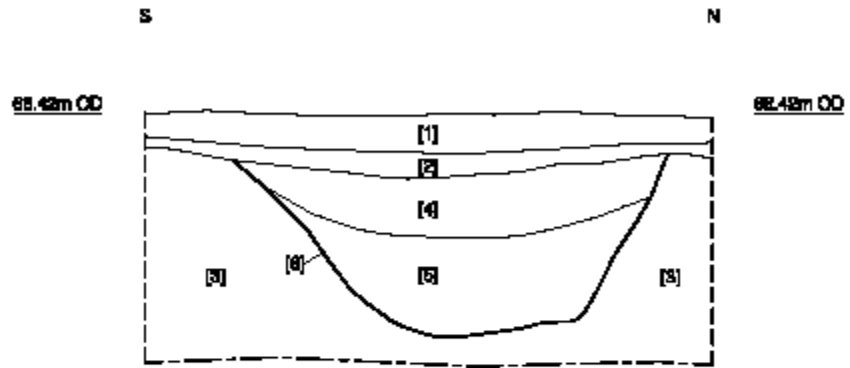
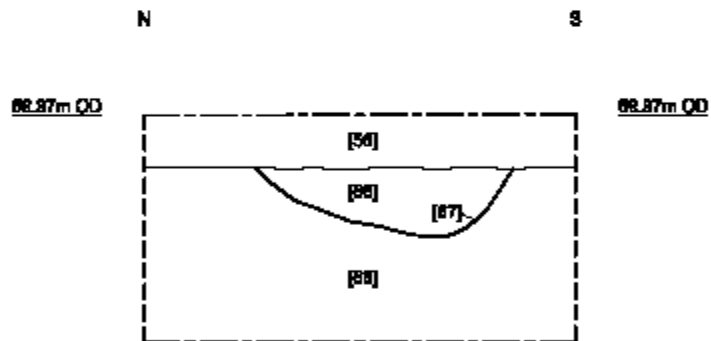


Figure 6
Projection of Ditch [6] and [67]
1:200 at A4

Figure 7: Ditch Sections



Section 2
East facing
Footings for New Building Extension



Section 3
West facing
Footings for The Piggery (Building 2)

Figure 8: Courtyard Building, Foundation Trench and Deposits

Base plan reproduced from drawings by The Morton Partnership (September 2011)

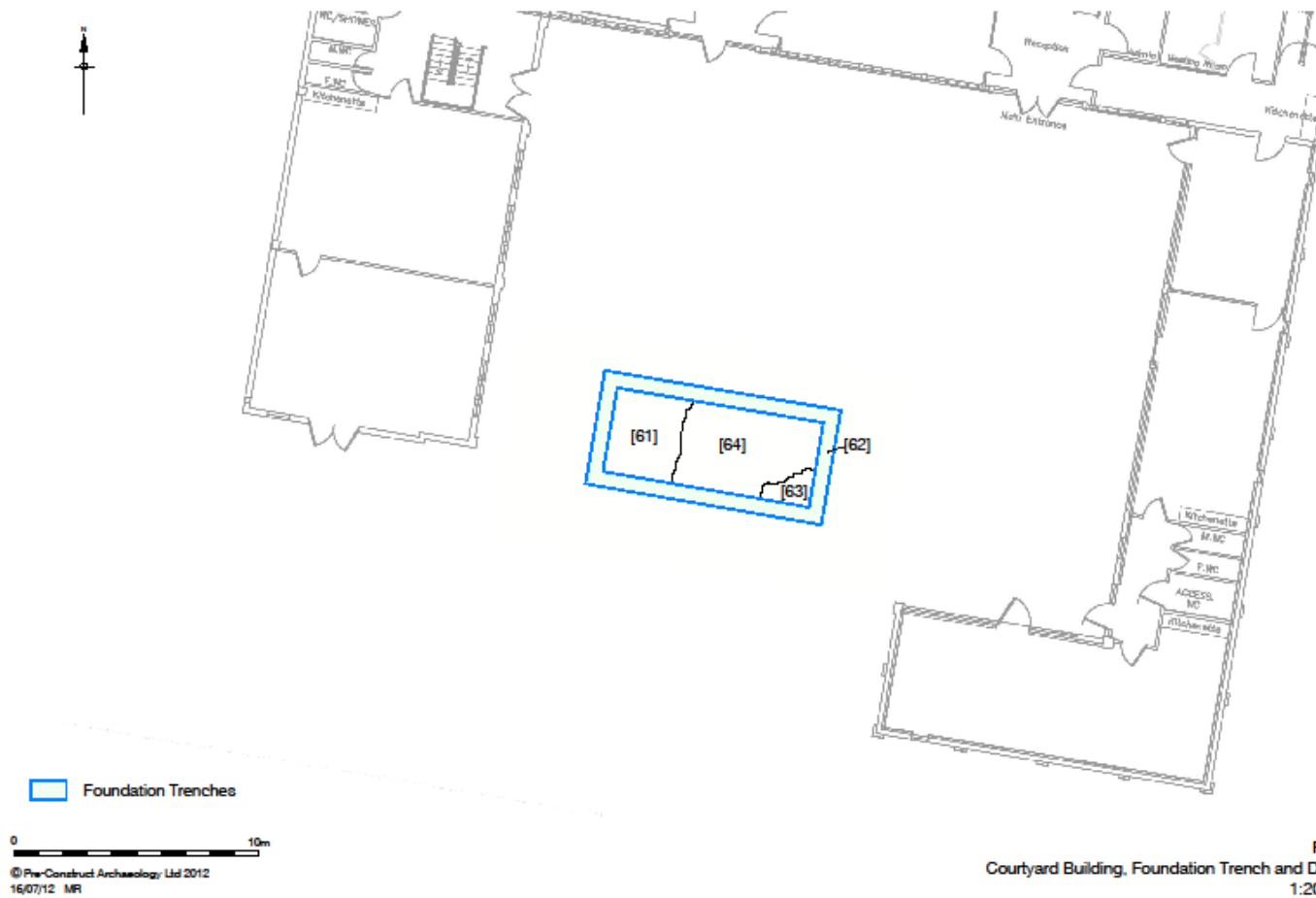


Figure 9: The Piggery (Building 2), Plan and Area Monitored

Base plan reproduced from drawings by The Morton Partnership (September 2011)



0 10m
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13/07/12 MR

Figure 9
The Piggery (Building 2), Plan and Area Monitored
1:200 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut	Type	Ground Work	Description
1	-	L	Footings New Build Extension	Orange sandy-gravel, made ground (modern)
2	-	L	Footings New Build Extension	Chalk rubble with brick frags (post-med)
3	-	L	Footings New Build Extension	Natural clay with chalk pebble inclusions
4	6	F	Footings New Build Extension	Fill of ditch [6]. Yellow-brown clay (post med)
5	6	F	Footings New Build Extension	Fill of ditch [6]. Dark-grey organic clay silt.
6	6	C	Footings New Build Extension	Fill of ditch [6].
7	-	L	Concrete Removal Main Barn	Modern concrete
8	-	L	Concrete Removal Main Barn	Beaten chalk floor
9	-	L	Concrete Removal Main Barn	Asphalt surface
10	-	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	19 th C N-S internal wall
11	-	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	17 th C N-S internal wall
12	-	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	19 th C N-S internal wall
13	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Made ground or possible buried surface
14	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil
15	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Light yellowish brown natural clay
16	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Recent gravel deposit
17	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Recent dumped deposit
18	-	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	19 th C N-S internal wall
19	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Dark greyish brown silty clay subsoil
20	-	L	Ground Reduction Main Barn	19 th C N-S internal wall
21	22	F	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Mixed modern fill of [22]
22	22	C	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Deep modern pit
23	-	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	19 th C N-S internal wall

24	22	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	Modern concrete hopper
25	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 5
26	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 7
27	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 9
28	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 11
29	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Dark organic clay below [28]
30	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 13
31	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 6
32	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 8
33	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 10
34	-	M	Ground Reduction Main Barn	19 th C N-S internal wall
35	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 12
36	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 14
37	38	F	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Backfill of construction cut [38]
38	38	C	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Construction cut for barn south wall
39	38	M	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Barn south wall
40	42	F	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Backfill of construction cut [42]
41	42	M	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	North wall in central midstrete
42	42	C	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Construction cut for wall [41]
43	45	F	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Backfill of construction cut [45]
44	45	M	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	North wall of west midstrete
45	45	C	Entrance Footing Removal Main Barn	Construction cut for wall [44]
46	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Modern concrete and bedding, west end of barn
47	48	M	Pad excavation Main Barn	West wall of barn
48	48	C	Pad excavation Main Barn	Construction cut for wall [47]

49	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 2
50	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 4
51	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Modern organic material, NW corner of barn
52	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 1
53	-	L	Pad excavation Main Barn	Lower spit of [19], Pad 3
54	-	L	Ground Reduction Piggery	Modern concrete floor
55	-	L	Ground Reduction Piggery	Crushed chalk floor
56	-	L	Ground Reduction Piggery	Made ground
57	-	L	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Modern concrete yard
58	59	M	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Pig sty foundation
59	59	C	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Construction cut for [58]
60	59	F	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Backfill of construction cut [59]
61	-	L	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Made ground
62	-	L	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Natural clay
63	-	M	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Brick floor of former pig sty
64	-	L	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Crushed chalk below floor [63]
65	-	L	Foundation Excavation Courtyard Building	Crushed chalk layer external to pig sty
66	67	F	Piggery Foundation Excavation	Fill of E-W ditch [67]
67	67	C	Piggery Foundation Excavation	E-W drainage ditch, possibly same as [6]
68	-	L	Piggery Foundation Excavation	Natural chalky clay

APPENDIX 2: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Plate 1: Farmyard following slab removal, looking north-east



Plate 2: Farmyard following slab removal, looking north



Plate 3: View north-east towards topsoil stripping behind Building B



Plate 4: Topsoil stripping behind Building B, looking west



Plate 5: Internal partition wall [12], looking south



Plate 6: Concrete hopper [24] *in situ*, looking west



Plate 7: Eastern foundation trench and pad footings, new build extension, looking north



Plate 8: Ditch [6], looking west



Plate 9: Layers [1] and [2] overlying natural clay [3], new building foundation, looking east



Plate 10: Courtyard building foundation trench, looking east



Plate 11: Wall footing [58] in courtyard building south foundation trench, looking east



Plate 12: Ground reduction in the piggery, looking south



Plate 13: Piggery foundation trench, looking north



Plate 14: Ditch [67], looking east



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-128811

Project details

Project name Widbury Hill Farm Barns

Short description of the project Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Widbury Hill Farm Barns, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire. The work comprised the monitoring of ground reduction and foundation pad excavation, and the cutting of service runs within existing buildings, and the excavation of foundations for new buildings and re-builds. Monitoring of the ground reduction and pad excavation in the Main Barn revealed dwarf walls of the original building (along with evidence that the initial structure was smaller than that currently standing) and a number of later walls that had been inserted to internally divide the building. These walls were buried by the laying of chalk and subsequently concrete floors. Excavation for underpinning of the walls revealed that the made ground lay directly over natural clay and that no archaeological features were present. Excavation of footings for a new building and a new west wall for the piggery revealed an east-west ditch running parallel to the south side of the Main Barn cut into natural clay, which was interpreted as a drainage feature associated with the building. The excavation of footings for the new extension, the replacement courtyard building and the new piggery west wall revealed that the area south of the main barn had been subject to extensive disturbance since the construction of the building and no further archaeological features or deposits were evident above natural clay deposits.

Project dates Start: 01-05-2012 End: 20-06-2012

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes preconst1-122747 - OASIS form ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WARE RURAL Widbury Hill Farm Barns
Postcode	SG12 7QE
Study area	3700.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 37200 14014 51 0 51 48 26 N 000 00 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 68.00m Max: 69.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Alison Tinniswood
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman

Project supervisor	Peter Boyer
Project supervisor	Alexander Pullen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Nicholas Buxton of the Easneye Estate

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Via 'Strip, Map, and Record' and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Widbury Hill Farm Barns, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Boyer, P.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pullen, A.
Date	2012

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

Place of issue or
publication Stapleford

Description MAP2 Report

Entered by Peter Boyer (pboyer@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 10 July 2012

APPENDIX 4: HERTFORDSHIRE HER FORM

Site name and address: Widbury Hill Farm, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Ware	Parish: Ware Rural	
Planning application reference: 3/11/1365/FP		
HER Enquiry reference: tbc		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Nicholas Buxton, The Easneye Estate		
Nature of application: Change of use to office use and new building for office use		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: 0.37ha	Size of area investigated: c. 0.09ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3720 1401		
Site code (if applicable):HWHB11		
Site director/Organisation: Peter Boyer/Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start:01/05/12	Finish:20/06/12
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Ware Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Post-Medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Gould, M. 2012 Historic Building Recording of Widbury Hill Farm Barns, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire. SG12 7QE		
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Widbury Hill Farm Barns, Widbury Hill, Ware, Hertfordshire. The work comprised the monitoring of ground reduction and foundation pad excavation, and the cutting of service runs within existing buildings, and the excavation of foundations for new buildings and re-builds. Monitoring of the ground reduction and pad excavation in the Main Barn revealed dwarf walls of the original building (including evidence that the initial structure was less extensive than that currently standing) and a number of later walls that had been inserted to internally divide the building. These walls were buried by the laying of chalk and subsequently concrete floors. Excavation for underpinning of the walls revealed that the made ground lay directly over natural clay and that no archaeological features were present. Excavation of footings for a new building and a new west wall for the piggery revealed an east-west ditch running parallel to the south side of the Main Barn cut into natural clay, which was interpreted as a drainage feature associated with the building. The excavation of footings for the new extension, the replacement courtyard building and the new piggery west wall revealed that the area south of the main barn had been subject to extensive disturbance since the construction of the building and no further archaeological features or deposits were evident above natural clay deposits.		
Author of summary: P. Boyer	Date of summary:10/07/12	

APPENDIX 5: ATTENDANCE

DAY TOTAL	DATE	WORKS	OPERATIVE	COMMENTS
1	01/05/12	NEW BUILD EXTENSION FOUNDATIONS & FOOTING FOR CONCRETE PADS	AGP	MAJORITY OF WEST FOOTING TRENCH EXCAVATED.
2	02/05/12	NEW BUILD EXTENSION FOUNDATIONS & FOOTING FOR CONCRETE PADS	AGP	TRENCH FLOODED. PUMPED. DIGGING PROCEEDED TO MIDDLE OF SOUTHERN FOUNDATION.
3	03/05/12		AGP	ON SITE P.M. MAJORITY OF REMAINING FOUNDATION EXCAVATED PLUS FOOTINGS FOR CONCRETE PADS.
4	04/05/12	NEW BUILD EXTENSION FOUNDATIONS & FOOTING FOR CONCRETE PADS	AGP	FOOTINGS/FOUNDATIONS COMPLETED A.M. REPORT TO OFFICE P.M.
5	24/05/12	REMOVAL OF CONCRETE FLOOR IN MAIN BARN	PB	AGP HANDED OVER TO PB, REMOVAL OF CONCRETE FLOOR MONITORED, CHALK FLOOR EXPOSED BELOW
6	25/05/12	GROUND REDUCTION, MAIN BARN	PB	MONITORED GROUND REDUCTION, SEQUENCE EXPOSED DOWN TO NATURAL AT EAST AND WEST ENDS OF BARN
7	28/05/12	GROUND REDUCTION AND PAD EXCAVATION MAIN BARN	PB	MONITORED GROUND REDUCTION AND EXCAVATION OF INITIAL PADS IN WEST END OF BARN
8	29/05/12	GROUND REDUCTION AND REMOVAL OF ENTRANCE WALL FOOTINGS, MAIN BARN	PB	MONITORED FINAL GROUND REDUCTION AND GRUBBING OUT FOUNDATIONS
9	30/05/12	REMOVAL OF ENTRANCE WALL FOOTINGS AND PAD EXCAVATION, MAIN BARN	PB	MONITORED REMOVAL AND EXCAVATION. PADS SHOWING LITTLE MORE THAN GROUND REDUCTION
9.5	31/05/12	REMOVAL OF ENTRANCE WALL FOOTINGS, MAIN BARN	PB	MONITORED REMOVAL OF FINAL TWO FOOTINGS, NO ARCHAEOLOGY EXPOSED BEHIND
10	11/06/12	PAD EXCAVATION, MAIN BARN	PB	MONITORED FINAL 4 PADS AT WEST END OF BARN. NOTHING TO ADD EXCEPT WEST WALL OF BARN EXPOSED
10.5	12/06/12	GROUND REDUCTION, PIGGERY	PB	MONITORED REDUCTION IN PIGGERY, MODERN MADE GROUND NOT PENETRATED

11	14/06/12	FOOTING EXCAVATION, COURTYARD BUILDING & GROUND REDUCTION, PIGGERY	PB	NO ARCHAEOLOGY IN TRENCHES EXCEPT PIG STY FOOTINGS, MADE GROUND NOT PENETRATED IN PIGGERY
11.5	20/06/12	EXCAVATION OF WESTERN N-S FOOTING FOR PIGGERY	PB	N-S DITCH EXPOSED TO SOUTH OF MAIN BARN, PROBABLY SAME AS THAT EXPOSED TO WEST

PCA

PCA SOUTHERN

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